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DATE: 23 June 2014

To: Members of the
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Councillors: Kevin Brooks, David Jefferys, Keith Onslow, Sarah Phillips
and Stephen Wells

Church of England: Reverend R Bristow (Chairman), Mrs V Corbyn,
Mr C Town and Reverend S Varney

Teachers: Ms A Fane, Mrs F Hawkes, Mrs E Honey, Mr J Stone
and Mrs J Tranchina

Other Faiths: Mrs S Barnett, Mrs P Colling, Mr S Gupta, Mr R Hagley,
Mr S Mahmood, Mr S Riat and Mrs E Whitman

Co-optee: Mrs S Polydorou

A meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education will be held at
Bromley Civic Centre on **TUESDAY 1 JULY 2014 AT 6.30 PM**

MARK BOWEN
Director of Corporate Services

Copies of the documents referred to below can be obtained from
www.bromley.gov.uk/meetings

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Wednesday 8th October 2014
Wednesday 11th February 2015

(Meetings to start at 6.30pm)

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.30 pm on 12 March 2014

Present:

Councillor Mrs Anne Manning (Chairman)
Rev Roger Bristow (Vice- Chairman)
Councillors Reg Adams, Roger Charsley, David Jefferys
and Kate Lymer.
Christopher Town and Rev Steve Varney
Rachel Archer, Fiona Hawkes, Jed Stone
and Jackie Tranchina.
Samantha Barnett, Patricia Colling, Saiyed Mahmood,
Sue Polydorou and Edlene Whitman

Also Present:

Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Nina Newell, Head of Schools and Early Years
Commissioning and Quality Assurance
Jessica Toogood, Marketing and Research Assistant,
True Tube
John Gibson, School Pastor, Youth for Christ in
Chislehurst
Christine Reeks, Clerk to SACRE

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Carr, Councillor Gordon Norrie, Councillor Stephen Wells, Virginia Corbyn, Ray Hagley and Swarn Riat. Councillor Adams and Councillor Jefferys needed to leave the meeting at 7.30pm to attend other meetings. The Chairman noted that this would be Rachel Archer's last SACRE meeting and thanked her for the contribution which she had made.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

See Minute Number 16.

14 A) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 6th November 2013 be confirmed subject to the following amendment to those present:

Councillor Mrs Anne Manning should read “Chairman” not “Vice-Chairman”.

B) MATTERS ARISING:

Any matters arising from the last meeting were discussed under other relevant items on this agenda.

15 ORAL UPDATE AND PUBLICATIONS

a) Presentation on ‘True Tube’

The Chairman welcomed Jessica Toogood, Marketing and Research Assistant for TrueTube; a free internet resource which can be used by schools. Jessica gave a presentation on the website www.truetube.co.uk which provides videos, lesson plans and assembly scripts for RE, PSHE and Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4. TrueTube was launched in 2007 by CTVC Ltd an independent British media company which is a registered charity and part of the Rank Foundation. Schools and youth groups are encouraged to upload films and post comments but everything is moderated before it appears on the site to ensure it is appropriate for school use. Students and teachers can register with the site and are given a password to use.

Jessica answered questions raised by SACRE Members, and advised that the TrueTube website aimed to be up to date and to identify areas of the RE curriculum which most need support. If any SACRE members had ideas about what further RE resources are needed they were invited to email Jessica at the following address: jessica@truetube.co.uk

The RE Adviser remarked that TrueTube had been mentioned as a resources in the new Bromley RE Syllabus. The Chairman thanked Jessica for her presentation and she was invited to stay for the rest of the meeting.

b) Youth SACRE

It had been hoped that the virtual film of St. Nicholas Church made by the Youth SACRE could be shown at the meeting; however this would not now be possible. Fiona Hawkes, the teacher involved with Youth SACRE, said she hoped that Youth SACRE would be able to continue, however the RE Adviser advised that she might not be able to support this in future due to the financial cutbacks and the reduction in the number of working days allocated to her post. She would discuss this further with Fiona Hawkes outside of the meeting.

c) SACRE Annual Report 2012-2013

The annual report had been distributed to SACRE Members, the Director and Assistant Director of Education, the Portfolio Holder for Education, Members of the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, libraries, Bromley schools and NASACRE. The Chairman had also written to Michael Gove MP, enclosing a copy of the SACRE Annual Report 2012-2013, (together with a CD of the new RE Syllabus). A reply from the Department for Education had been received confirming that these had been passed to the relevant team at the DfE.

With regard to the RE examination results included in the Annual Report, SACRE Members were pleased to note the increase in the number of students taking the full course in RE. There had been no movement in the number of candidates taking the short course and the RE Adviser said that this was being phased out. Two teacher representatives, Fiona Hawkes and Jed Stone, commented that one of the key issues was that the short course in RE was not a performance measure. In answer to a question from Councillor Adams, Jed Stone confirmed that it was possible for students to take both the short and full RE course and often students took the short RE course before entering year 11.

d) Agreed Syllabus Launch

The agreed syllabus launch had taken place at the Civic Centre in Bromley on 20th November 2013. The event had been very successful and was attended by the Mayor of Bromley, together with Martin Sweet the previous Chairman of SACRE who spoke on the importance of RE in the 21st Century. A CD of the new syllabus was given to representatives from the Bromley schools (including academies) who attended the event.

A copy of the CD was subsequently sent to the schools which were unable to attend the event. The new syllabus was also put on the Bromley Council website. It was suggested that a letter about the new syllabus should be emailed to the independent schools in the borough, incorporating a link to the RE syllabus on the website. The RE Adviser agreed to draft a letter for the SACRE clerk to send. **(Action - PSO)**

The RE Adviser said that since the launch of the new syllabus there had been one network meeting at which discussion had taken place on how the new syllabus was progressing. She advised that on 12th June 2014 there would be a training course on the new syllabus for RE co-ordinators.

SACRE Members thanked the RE Adviser for the considerable work she had undertaken in the production of the new RE syllabus.

e) NASACRE AGM

This was due to take place in London on 22nd May 2014. It was hoped that the RE Adviser and Rev Roger Bristow would be able to attend, subject to funds in the SACRE budget being available.

f) Islamic Competition

SACRE Members received a report from Mr Mahmood on this very successful event. The prize giving had taken place at Darul Uloom on Thursday 7th November 2013. The RE Adviser said that it had been a very encompassing event and Jed Stone, one of the teacher representatives on SACRE, remarked that it had been a wonderful evening. Those who attended were warmly welcomed and the parents and students who attended had been very complimentary. The Islamic Competition helped to build up good relationships and the Chairman thanked Mr Mahmood for organising the event.

The next Prize Giving Event of the Islamic Competition would be held at Darul Uloom on 13th November 2014. Further details would be circulated at a later date.

g) Multi Faith Partnership Event

SACRE Members had been invited to this event which took place at the Civic Centre on 10th March 2014. The event was publicised as a “Multifaith Partnership Approach to Major Incidents in Bromley” and was designed to be a workshop for representatives of the faith communities in LB Bromley. The Chairman, RE Adviser and Mr Mahmood attended the event which had been organised by LB Bromley, the Safer Bromley Partnership, Bromley Community Engagement Forum and the Ethnic Communities Programme.

Mr Mahmood commented on the powerful speech and excellent presentation which had been given by Dr Anne Eyre. However, he had been disappointed as he felt the event had concentrated more on businesses in the community rather than faith involvement. Mr Mahmood felt that there should be clear communication in case of major incidents/disasters as to who had a role to play in respect of the different faith groups. Councillor Jefferys remarked that as part of emergency planning for major incidents it was a requirement that there should be faith involvement. The Chairman said she would take Mr Mahmood’s comments back to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety.

16 SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BUDGET
Item ED14038

(The RE Adviser had an interest in this item in respect of the retendering of her current post. SACRE members were in agreement with her remaining in the meeting during the relevant discussion to answer queries which were raised.)

SACRE Members considered a revised draft development plan for April 2014 - March 2015. This had been produced following a meeting of the SACRE Working Party which had been set up following the last SACRE meeting. The plan had been drawn up with due consideration to the statutory duties of SACRE, and had taken into account the reduction in the budget allocated to

SACRE for the coming financial year. This would necessitate the number of RE Consultant days being reduced from 35 to 20 per year.

Nina Newell, The Head of Schools and Early Years Commissioning and Quality Assurance, introduced herself and her role as lead officer for SACRE. She had been in post since June 2013 and pointed out that prior to this time the Assistant Director for Education had looked at all contracts and some decisions had already been made. Mrs Newell commented that the Council had to look very closely at what they had to deliver across all services and all commissioned services were being reviewed. As a public sector organisation the Council had to be transparent, and in order to fulfil the requirement of value for money, the post of RE Consultant would be recommissioned. In the past there had been competitive tendering but a new Dynamic Purchasing System was now being used. The current RE Adviser was aware of this and had completed the first stage of the process. Mrs Newell advised that they were not yet at the stage of the service specification, which would detail the skills and abilities required for the post.

Mrs Newell advised that the maximum budget available for SACRE for the next financial year was £7,000 which would mainly cover the cost of the RE Adviser.

Rachel Archer asked if the Authority would make a decision based on the cheapest bid and Mrs Newell confirmed that they would. She stressed however that there were a lot of quality checks at the outset and several stages to ensure that the service specification was met. In response to a query, the RE Adviser stressed the necessity of employing someone with an RE background and cited the case of one local authority which had chosen the cheapest quote with adverse consequences, as the person appointed had no RE background or relevant experience. Mrs Newell said that she would ensure the specification would be robust enough to ensure that quality was maintained.

Rev Bristow asked about the timescale for the new process of appointing the RE Adviser. Mrs Newell explained that this could take place very quickly and she was confident that someone would be in post by the beginning of April 2014.

Mr Mahmood asked about the administrative cost of this exercise and if it was going to be carried out every year. He was particularly concerned about the lack of continuity in respect of work undertaken by the RE Adviser, if a different RE Adviser were appointed. Mrs Newell said that she did not know the specific cost but that this would not come out of the SACRE budget. Whilst consideration could be given to an appointment for a longer period, it was difficult to know what the future requirements would be, particularly having regard to the financial position.

Edlene Whitman asked how the budget of £7,000 had been calculated. Mrs Newell said that this figure had already been determined prior to her appointment but she had been assured that the statutory duties of SACRE

had been taken into account. Rev Bristow was concerned that this figure had been agreed without any prior discussion with SACRE. Mrs Newell was unable to comment on this but assured SACRE Members that any further reductions would be done with consultation.

The Chairman commented that a 45% cut in the SACRE budget was a substantial reduction. Rev Varney did not feel that this was acceptable and considered there had not been proper dialogue and transparency. He did not understand how the figure of £7,000 had been determined and expressed the view that this amount should be reappraised. Mrs Newell said that she could not comment on what had happened prior to her appointment and the officer who had made the decision was no longer employed by the Council. She agreed to make enquiries with the finance officers to see if she could obtain any further information in this regard. **(Action - NN)**

Sue Polydorou noted that no costings had been included in the draft Development Plan submitted to them and asked if the number of days allocated to the RE Adviser equated to the £7,000 budget. The Chairman confirmed that it did.

Mrs Newell went on to explain in detail the appointment process for the RE Adviser. The service specification would be written robustly and references would be taken up. Advice from NASACRE on the tasks of professional specialists would be taken into account. It was important to ensure that the right calibre of person was appointed.

Rev Varney asked how a reduction in the number of days worked by the RE Adviser would affect SACRE. The RE Adviser commented that she also worked for Croydon and Southwark SACREs. She was employed by Southwark SACRE for only 12 – 15 days a year and was unable have agenda planning meetings, to carry out school visits and there was no effective monitoring of RE. Rev Varney expressed concern that a reduction in the budget might mean that future SACRE meetings would not be properly structured and planned. Mrs Newell remarked that all council services had to be addressed in terms of budget reductions. She was unable to change the SACRE budget but would try to mitigate future effects and would attend future SACRE meetings. The Chairman commented that it was up to SACRE members to be as effective as possible.

Rev Bristow asked if the appointment process would happen earlier next year. Mrs Newell advised that the new system was supposed to go live at the beginning of January but this did not happen until the beginning of March. The service specification would be finalised as soon as possible and would be sent to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for comment.

RESOLVED that the person specification for the RE Consultant be sent to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for comment.

17 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RE
Item ED14039

An inquiry was carried out by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on RE, to investigate the supply of and support for teachers of RE. Teachers in Bromley were asked to be part of the survey. The report "Religious Education the Truth Unmasked" concluded that serious issues needed to be addressed if schools were to provide high quality Religious Education for every young person. SACRE Members noted that arising from the APPG report, the RE Council had issued guidance for Governing Bodies of Primary and Secondary Schools, outlining Governor's legal responsibilities for RE and the recommendations made by the APPG.

Following discussion it was agreed that this information should be circulated to the Chairs and Clerks of School Governors of Primary and Secondary schools in Bromley. The Head of Schools and Early Years Commissioning and Quality Assurance advised that their details could be obtained from the Interim Head of Governance at LB Bromley. The RE Adviser would prepare a covering letter to be sent with the guidance.

RESOLVED that the guidance produced by the RE Council on the Provision and Training of RE Teachers be circulated to the Chairs and Clerks of Governors of Primary and Secondary Schools in Bromley.

18 SCHOOL VISITS
Item ED14040

SACRE members visit local schools in order to observe the teaching of RE and to offer support to the RE Co-ordinator of the school. On 11th November 2013 the Chairman and RE Adviser visited Darrick Wood School and on 22nd November 2013 four Members of SACRE visited Valley Primary School. Reports of the visits were submitted to SACRE Members for consideration.

The RE Adviser informed SACRE Members that she had visited Cudham CE Primary School with Rev Roger Bristow that morning and a report would be submitted to their next meeting. In addition arrangements had been made for visits to Clare House Primary School on 19th May 2014 (am) and Keston Primary School on 4th June 2014 (pm). Mr Mahmood and Edlene Whitman would be able to accompany the RE Adviser to Clare House School and Samantha Barnett and Rev Steve Varney would be able to accompany her on the visit to Keston Primary School.

It had been suggested by the SACRE Working Party, (which met in December 2013 to consider the Development Plan) that it would be helpful for SACRE Members to have a tick list/sheet for making comments when visiting schools. Arising from this the RE Adviser had prepared suggested draft guidelines for consideration and discussion by SACRE Members.

Whilst SACRE Members generally felt it would be useful to have an "Aide Memoire" when visiting schools, it was important to make it clear that the visit was not an inspection. In particular, the teacher representatives on SACRE expressed concern on the suggested classifications of "Outstanding" "Satisfactory" and "Poor" on the form relating to "Commentary on an RE Lesson" (as this terminology was used for inspections), and it was agreed that these headings should be deleted. It was suggested that perhaps the best way forward would be for SACRE Members, (in particular the teacher representatives) to email their comments and suggestions on the guidance to the RE Adviser.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the reports of the school visits be noted,**
- (ii) arrangements for the visits to Clare House Primary School and Keston Primary School be noted,**
- (iii) representatives on SACRE to let the RE Adviser have their comments on the draft guidelines for Bromley SACRE Members when visiting schools.**

19 FORWARD ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME (Oral Report)

Items to be discussed at the next meeting in the summer term would include a review of the SACRE budget and reports of the school visits.

20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

21 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting was due to be held on 14th May 2014, however Members considered that it would be more appropriate if the meeting could be held later in the summer term. A revised date of Tuesday 1st July 2014 was agreed. The autumn term meeting would be held on 8th October 2014 and the spring term meeting on Wednesday 11th February 2015, (all meetings to start at 6.30pm).

As the date of the next meeting had been changed, the Chairman pointed out that this would be her last SACRE meeting and the Vice-Chairman would become Chairman for the remaining part of the academic year 2013-14, as had been agreed at the SACRE meeting held on 6th November 2013. *(Councillor Mrs Manning would not be standing for re-election at the Local Elections on 22nd May 2014.)* Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 2014-15 academic year would be made at the SACRE meeting in the autumn term.

The Chairman thanked everyone who had given their services to SACRE over the many years she had been a Member. She had enjoyed her time working with all concerned and wished SACRE well for the future. Mr Mahmood asked for thanks to be recorded on behalf of SACRE Members for Councillor Mrs Manning's service to SACRE as a Member, Vice-Chairman and Chairman. The Vice-Chairman added that the previous SACRE Chairman Martin Sweet had remarked on how very much he valued Councillor Mrs Manning's commitment and contribution to the work of SACRE.

The Meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Chairman

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Report No.
ED15078

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 1st July 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: SACRE TRAINING (DISCUSSION OF A “GOOD” RE LESSON)

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 E-mail: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Terry Parkin, Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Members to attend this training session as part of the SACRE meeting in order to gain confidence when discussing religious education in the borough.

3. COMMENTARY

SACRE Training; What is a Good RE lesson?

The SACRE committee have not taken part in any training sessions for last few meetings and we have new members who have not undergone any training.

As the committee have decided that visits to schools by members are a vital part of our monitoring role it is necessary to discuss the concept of good RE .

During this part of our meeting we will look at an example of good RE in action and discuss what we have seen and why it is 'good'.

It Is hoped that the teacher members of the committee will be able to contribute to this item.

Report No.
ED15079

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 1st July 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: NASACRE AGM

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 E-mail: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

To report on the NASACRE AGM and show members the presentation that Mr Mahmmod gave on the Islam Competition.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To accept the report and agree to subscribe to NASACRE for the next year.

3. COMMENTARY

NASACRE AGM 22nd May 2014

This was held in London and attended from Bromley SACRE by the RE consultant, Mr Mahmood and Reverend Bristow, the new Chair.

The key note speaker was MP Stephen Lloyd who is the convenor of the All Party Parliamentary group on RE. He made a passionate speech about the importance of religious education in all schools and talked about the two reports that the APPG has produced so far. Teachers from Bromley schools had contributed to the first on who is teaching RE, confidence and training issues. The second report was on RE and Community relations and had advice for Governors which has been sent to all schools in Bromley.

His speech was well received although the audience did not really need to be told of the importance of RE. A question and answer session was more focussed on the needs of SACREs and how they can be as productive as possible.

In the afternoon a number of representatives from different SACREs had volunteered to do a presentation on projects they had undertaken. Mr Mahmood did a presentation on the Islam competition in Bromley which was well received during the two sessions and engendered many questions. The members of Bromley SACRE will have the opportunity to see this presentation at our meeting.

During the day we also heard thoughts on the RE review and RE Council sent in from John Keast and also the reports from the officers of NASACRE and their plans for the coming year..

Report No.
ED15080

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 1st July 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: School Visits - Guidelines

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 E-mail: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

To discuss guidelines for members use on school visits.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To discuss the attached guidelines which have been altered in light of discussions at the last meeting and accept these as the finished document

3. COMMENTARY

Guidelines for Bromley SACRE members when visiting schools

The reason for these visits is to give the members of SACRE on going information about religious education and collective worship in the Borough's schools. This is important so that SACRE members understand what happens in schools and since the new Ofsted reports do not give specific subject reports it will give SACRE members a chance to see how schools manage RE and collective worship.

The other reason for the visits is for SACRE to have an opportunity to show support for schools in the organisation and delivery of RE and Collective worship. This support might be practical or may take the form of listening to concerns and bringing these back to SACRE for discussion.

During a visit the SACRE members would generally;

- Discuss the school's RE and collective worship policies and provision with the Head Teacher.
- Talk to the RE co-ordinator about the use of the syllabus and the scheme of work
- Visit some RE lessons as observers
- See some examples of the pupils RE work and notice any evidence of RE displays in the classrooms and corridors
- Attend an act of collective worship.

While the visit is in no way an inspection the following questions are provided as a useful guide for SACRE members taking part in the visit. The answers to these questions will be used to provide a short report to the rest of the SACRE committee.

Religious Education;

1. Is it clear in the school brochure that pupils may be withdrawn from RE lessons?
2. How many pupils are withdrawn from RE lessons?
3. Is RE well resourced in terms of artefacts/ books, timetabling and budget?
4. How long has the co-ordinator been in post?
5. Are they given time to monitor RE and is there a development plan for RE?
6. Are they allowed/encouraged to attend inset and co-ordinator meetings to keep up to date?
7. Is there a programme of RE visits and visitors?

Collective worship should be planned in the same way that schools plan other areas of learning. Each school will have its own planning sheets and methods.

Theme:

Led by;

Date:

Age of pupils:

Music: (live/recorded/singing)

Organisation:

Resources:

Comments on;

Atmosphere

Effectiveness

Engagement

Age Appropriate Content

Commentary on an RE lesson

Visit to.....

Class/Year group.....

Name of Visitor.....

Are Pupils..	COMMENTS
engaged with the lesson?	
enthusiastic, taking a pride in their work?	
using religious vocabulary properly	
given time to reflect on what they have learnt	
questions and ideas valued?	
Is the lesson well planned	
Are there different learning strategies in place and is ICT used	

Report No.
ED15081

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 1st July 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: School Visits

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser
Tel: 020 8653 8606 E-mail: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

Reports of the visits to three schools in Bromley by members of the committee

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Members to read and discuss these reports and make themselves available for future school visits

3. COMMENTARY

Visit to Cudham Church of England primary School March 12th 2014

This visit was undertaken by Mrs Penny Smith-Orr, RE Consultant, and Revd. Roger Bristow. The school is a small stone built Primary school with a modern classroom in the playground. Every bit of space within the school is utilised in a creative way and provides a good learning environment for the pupils. There are 103 pupils in three classes each containing two year groups and a separate reception class. There are several special needs pupils including those with physical disabilities. The school has good links with Cudham church and everyone attends the church for worship twice a term.

Firstly we attended the Collective Worship. The hall is small but had displays by the classes and a Christian Values tree. The top class conducted the proceedings and several of their parents were also there to watch. The whole school were having a story telling week and the presentation followed this theme. The class had been looking at Christian parables and in groups acted several well know stories but with a modern twist and concluded each one with the moral that was to be gained from it. A lot of research and thinking had gone into the preparation and it was well received by the rest of the school and the parents.

After the collective worship the classes were taking turns to work with an African story teller and much fun was had using drums and instruments to accompany the story.

We were able to observe Willow class, which is made up of Year 1 and 2 pupils who were learning about the preparations that Christians make for Easter. Pupils joined in with a power point presentation of the activities of Christians during Holy Week and were able to talk about the season of Lent and what they had given up and why Christians give up something at this time. They had a discussion about what Christians generally do and what they specifically did to prepare.

The activity was divided between the age groups, Year 1 pupils thinking about what activities Christians do and why and Year 2 deciding what are the most important preparations. Later answers to 9 questions on a sheet were put onto egg shaped jigsaw pieces ready to be made in to a class display. Pupils had to put a green, red or orange sticker on their work to show their understanding of the lesson.

Finally we had a chat with the Head Teacher, who is also the RE coordinator. Cudham is a voluntary controlled school and uses the Bromley syllabus supplemented by the Diocesan syllabus. They take part in the annual Rochester festival and the HT is helping to organise this event. Pupils are not all Christian in faith but all take part in all the activities. Trips out to the Bromley Synagogue are made and we were asked about speakers from other faiths which we were able to help with.

Bromley SACRE Visit to Clare House Primary School 19th May 2014

This visit was undertaken by the RE consultant, Mr Mahmood and Reverend Roger Bristow. We were met by the RE coordinator, Mrs Cleaves, who has worked in the school for many years.

We had a discussion on the way that RE is taught throughout the school and looked at some examples of pupils work. We also discussed the new scheme of work A question regarding whether the themed units could be taught through collective worship and linked with SEAL was discussed, although there is a strong link between collective worship and religious education it is not possible to cover the topics in sufficient depth in collective worship. Mrs cleaves gave a copy of the draft proposals for the scheme of work to the RE Consultant who will be giving advice on it in due course. The local church, St Barnabus, is used for a year 1 visit and Y5/6 lead a Christmas service in the church. Year 4 visit Neasden Hindu temple. There are children of different faiths in the school and pupils are used as a resource, for example a Muslim girl in Year 6 had made a power point demonstration and helped to lead a lesson on Islam.

We observed the whole school collective worship led by the head teacher. The pupils were thoroughly engaged and the theme was one of the Christian values, perseverance. Collective worship is carried out every day and on Wednesdays P4C (Philosophy for Children) is the theme done in classrooms. It was requested by the head teacher that a copy of the Collective worship guidance for Bromley schools would be sent to him as he had not seen it.

Two visitors went to Year 1 to see an RE lesson that was linked with literacy and reported that they enjoyed the lesson on special places which was very inspiring and that the pupils were encouraged to have a sense of awe and wonder. The RE Consultant went to Year 3 and saw a lesson introducing Buddhism. The teacher used a mixture of strategies and the pupils were encouraged to ask and answer questions which they did in a very positive way. The classes are open plan but the pupils are very calm and not distracted by other activities.

The RE coordinator and the head teacher were both very positive about the role of RE in the school and we were very much welcomed.

Bromley SACRE Visit to Keston C of E Primary School 4th June 2014

This visit was undertaken by the RE Consultant, Mrs Whitman, Mrs Barnett and Reverend Varney.

We were greeted by the RE coordinator, Mrs Ross and the Head teacher Mrs Evison. The school is very small and has 8 classes as they had taken a 'bulge' class in the expectation that they would be able to expand but so far the building work has not taken place. One class is being taught in what was previously the library. However there is a very good sense of community and a happy atmosphere. The houses are named after famous people who have come from Keston and we were invited to leave a comment on a Christian values 'tree' in the entrance.

There are strong links with the local church, the school band plays at services, pupils took part in a Remembrance day event, a carol service and Leavers service is held there and Years 2,4 and 6 visit the church for RE. The Vicar generally leads a collective worship in the form of an Anglican service once a week. On the day of the visit she was on a course so the RE Coordinator lead this with the help of pupils. The atmosphere was very calm and pupils did readings and led the prayers. The theme was Ascension. Illustrated with the use of a golden helium balloon. A visitor played the piano for three hymns. A pupil had brought a Crucifix to show and this was treated reverently and put onto an Altar for the duration.

During the rest of the visit we were first given a tour of the school and then left to go in and out of lessons as we wanted. In Y4 we saw a display of their work on the Lord's prayer and observed them using Bibles to discuss types of prayers that people use, which led to work on worship. Year 1 were thinking about Islam, the Foundation stage were working on Special places and making different interpretations using a variety of material, they had pictures and a soft play church to help inspire them. Year 3 were looking at the story of Pentecost and the Spirit. In Y6 the pupils were

Remembering the Spirit and making up prayers for the World. In groups they worked with the teacher to make an individual cocktail of 3 of the Fruits of the Spirit with reasons why they had chosen those three. We all agreed that this was a very memorable experience.

It was really lovely to be able to wander around the school and see how the different lessons were progressing during the afternoon and we all appreciated the way we were welcomed by every teacher. We were also able to see the many displays stemming from previous RE work that decorated the corridors and classrooms.

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