

PART 1 - PUBLIC

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Decision Maker: **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

Date: **19 October 2011**

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

**TITLE: SCHOOL VISITS**

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser  
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Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 Members of Bromley SACRE visited Princes Plain Primary School during the Summer Term 2011. Report of the visit is attached.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **Members to read the report and comment as appropriate.**

2.2 **Members to volunteer to attend visits this term.**

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil.
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## Visit to Princes Plain Primary School 17 May 2011

This visit was undertaken by the RE adviser, Mrs Penny Smith-Orr, the chair of SACRE, Mr Martin Sweet, Cllr Anne Manning and Reverend Steve Varney.

We were met by the RE co-ordinator, Mrs Lucy Arlford, who had kindly invited us after attending an RE course at the EDC.

Firstly, we attended a whole school collective worship. This was led by the Head Teacher, Mrs King and prayers were led by Reverend Roger Bristow, who is the vicar of Holy Trinity and is closely involved with the school.

The assembly was very interesting with reference made to the Celebrating RE month in March. A poem on Respect written by a pupil was read out and a power point presentation made by children was also shown. One of the teaching assistants did a beautiful Hindu dance which was very well received by the pupils. This school has a tradition of using music and singing to celebrate and two hymns were sung with evident enjoyment.

We were able to have a brief discussion with the RE co-ordinator. She, like previous teachers we have spoken to is interested in the idea of a Faith Directory being set up for schools to access speakers. She has done a lot of very good work in the school and had a comprehensive folder of schemes of work and activities. The head teacher also feels that the religious education curriculum is very important to the ethos of the school and is a great support to the co-ordinator.

The class visit was to a Year 1 class room, led by Mrs Barr, and a lesson on 'special people'. They started with short discussion with the Reverend Bristow on the sort of things a vicar does, including looking at his 'uniform' and why it is worn and after a recap on previous lessons the children were put into groups. Some went to another room with the Reverend Bristow and worked on role play activities relating to a Vicars work.

Others looked at various books with different Bible stories in them and had to write a review of the story. The pupils' knowledge and ability to read the stories and write their reviews was exceptional and it was hard to believe that they were only in Year 1. They were very articulate and happy to discuss what they were doing with the visitors.

After a short tour of the school and a look at the RE resources the visit finished. This school visit showed excellent practice in RE and would be a good example to others should it be needed.