

**Visit to Raglan Primary School – January 19<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

This visit was undertaken by the RE Consultant Mrs Smith-Orr, Mrs Thompson and Mr Riat. Raglan Primary is a two form entry school with a very local catchment area which makes it an excellent example of a local community school. There is also a Nursery and two special language classes. The first impression on entering the school is of a hive of activity, with every wall covered in excellent displays and information. The last Ofsted inspection result was 'Good with outstanding areas' and a Citizenship inspection last year came out as outstanding. Religious Education is taught to Years 0-4 by 4 teachers, while Years 5 and 6 are taught by subject teachers.

We were met by Mrs Dobson, the Deputy Head and Mrs Duncan, the RE coordinator, who work closely together on RE and Collective Worship. They have an annual planning meeting to review the policy and curriculum for the school. At the last meeting they decided to focus on Attainment Target 2 and this was discussed during our visit. They are also hoping to make a list of speakers and to look at provision for ICT in religious education. We were shown examples of work and noted that the marking was very clear and that a useful table which indicates coverage of the syllabus had been devised by Mrs Duncan. We also briefly discussed Collective Worship and the weekly timetable for the pupils. There are currently no withdrawals from worship or lessons.

We were given a quick tour of the school by Mrs Sutton, the Head Teacher, and discussed the many projects that the school undertakes each year. This includes an annual parade through the adjoining streets and a gathering in the local park. The pupils also go on various visits to places of worship and have good links with St Luke's church nearby. This was followed by a whole school worship on the theme of the Chinese New Year; the pupils were thoroughly engaged by the story being acted out and the arrival of a Chinese Dragon. They all joined in the singing and were given the opportunity to reflect on what they had experienced.

The last part of the visit was a lesson observation of a Year 2 class taught by Mrs Ford. The pupils were learning about Buddhism through stories and recapped on some things they knew and then listened to the story of The Monkey King while looking at slides which had been sourced by the teacher. They were very interested and had a lively conversation on who was the best leader and king in the story and why. They then went to tables to write their ideas on leaf shapes which were to be put onto a 'tree of enlightenment'.

This was a delightful visit to a school who clearly take the provision of religious education very seriously. Mrs Dobson and Mrs Duncan both expressed an interest in being involved in updating the syllabus and Mrs Duncan would like to join the SACRE committee.