

**PART 1 - PUBLIC**

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Decision Maker: **Standard Advisory Committee for Religious Education**

Date: **2 February 2010**

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

**TITLE: SACRE VISITS TO SCHOOLS**

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 two schools during the Autumn term 2009.

1.2 A visit is planned for 3 February to Bishop Justus C of E school. A visit to a second school is being planned for the second half of term.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **Members to read the reports of the visits.**

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil.
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## **Bromley SACRE Visit to Darrick Wood Junior School on 4 November 2009**

This visit was undertaken by Penny Smith-Orr the RE Consultant.

The RE Co-ordinator, Ms Holly Seare, welcomed me and explained the context of the school which has a mixed population including some non English speakers. She showed me her arrangements for the RE scheme of work. And we discussed the need for assessment. I arranged to send her the 'I can' statements which have been produced nationally as a simple means of organising assessment. Mr Turvey, the Head Teacher introduced himself. Miss Carter, the Deputy Head, joined the discussions as she was previously in charge of Religious Education in the school.

We also discussed resources and the RE centre. The school has a number of resources of it's own as they find it difficult to get to the RE centre on a regular basis. They were also interested in the idea of the faith directory that SACRE is working on.

We went to observe a Year 5 lesson delivered by Mrs Swan on the Jewish celebration of Simchat Torah. The children recapped previous work, including making Sukkahs last term. After looking at a dvd of the celebration they had to work in pairs, using a sheet of information to find the most interesting facts about the festival and competed to stick these onto an information board. This was a very lively lesson which the children clearly enjoyed and they had obviously learnt several facts by the end of the lesson.

The collective worship was led by Miss Carter and was on the theme of remembrance. It was very interesting for the children to hear about the Caretaker's medals and the local war memorial.

It was very good to be able to meet Ms Seare and visit the school. Hopefully, she will be able to come to the Primary network meetings in future and share her good practice.

## **Bromley SACRE Visit to Perry Hall Primary School on Wednesday, 11 November 2009**

This visit was undertaken by Mrs Penny Smith-Orr, RE Consultant, and Mr Martin Sweet, Chair of SACRE. We were greeted by Mrs Angela Ward, the Head Teacher, and given the context of the school. There are children of several faiths within the school but generally they are not willing to talk about their faith and the parents are also reluctant to come in and act as speakers. The faith directory would be very gratefully received with lists of speakers.

This is a very inclusive school and any incidents concerning faith issues are taken seriously. The different festivals of faith groups represented in the school are recognised with displays or in collective worship.

The school has a good link with a school in Mukombami in Zimbabwe and the display of pictures showing the link school having been painted using funds raised at Perry Hall was very interesting.

Mrs Ward had been in contact with SACRE over the withdrawal of a Jehovah Witness child from RE and collective worship. After discussions with the parent, the issue is resolved with the child leaving cw during the singing of certain types of songs. Within the RE lesson, the parent is happy that the child takes part in the attainment target 'learning about' and there are activities for the child to do when the content is less suitable. The parent trusts the Teacher to decide this.

We went to one of the Y6 classes to observe an RE lesson. This was an assessment lesson after a unit of work on charities. The children discussed their previous work and, with partners, made notes on 'what makes a good charity', the children were extremely well disciplined and were able to walk round the class reading each others notes. The activity was to make a leaflet for a charity, either a made up charity or an established one. The children seemed to enjoy this and were very engaged with the task.

The Collective worship was for Key Stage 1. Everyone took part and worked with partners to act out a poem. The children had a moment of reflection on how we can all help each other and work together. The school has visits from Spinnaker and the local Vicar at some of their collective worship.

Mrs Douglas, who is the RE Co-ordinator, joined our discussions and explained how she monitors RE and how she is trying to make the subject more interesting with activities, visits and speakers. Finally we went to the other Y6 classroom to join with them during the 2 minute silence for Remembrance Day. The children were very calm and well behaved and sat in perfect silence.

This school and the staff are obviously committed to teaching RE in the best way and we suggested that the RE Co-ordinator might like to think about joining SACRE.