

**Decision Maker:** STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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

**Title:** SCHOOL VISITS REPORT

**Contact Officer:** Kieran Osborne, LBB Educational Advisor

**Chief Officer:** Jane Bailey, Director of Education

**Ward:** (All Wards);

---

**1. Reason for report;**

In the first half of the spring term, the LBB Educational Advisor and members of the SACRE visited Ravens Wood School. A report of the visit is attached.

---

**2. Recommendations;**

Members to read the report and comment as necessary.

## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People: this report relates to schools and their role in supporting Bromley's children to attain and achieve to their potential.
- 

## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
  2. Ongoing costs: n/a
  3. Budget head/performance centre:
  4. Total current budget for this head:
  5. Source of funding: n/a
- 

## Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): n/a
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: n/a
- 

## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
- 

## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): n/a
- 

## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

### 3. Commentary;

#### Report of SACRE School Visit – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017

School visited	Ravens Wood School 11-18 Mixed comprehensive Boys 11-16 Mixed 16-18
SACRE Members	Rev. R. Bristow Rev. S. Varney Mr A. Nandra Ms H. Arnold Mrs S. Barnett ( <i>unable to attend</i> )
Facilitator	Mr K. J Osborne
Length of visit	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January, 8.15am-11.15am

#### **Reason for Visit**

- a) To give the members of SACRE ongoing information about religious education and collective worship in the Borough's schools.
- b) To show support for schools in the organisation and delivery of RE and collective worship.
- c) To capture and share good practice.

#### **Programme**

**8.15am**                      **Welcome by Ms Spence, Headteacher**  
**School context, vision, mission and outcomes**

The Head talked about the context of the school as an 11-18 boys comprehensive (girls in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form).

The core purpose of the school as represented in the three Ls:

1.        Leaders
2.        Learners
3.        Ladies and Gentlemen

and the 3 Cs:

1.        Culture
2.        Character
3.        Currency

The Head confirmed that the systems and processes in the school were aimed at creating an ethos where these 3Ls and 3Cs would drive the development of the students and impact not just on their exam outcomes, but their personal, social and moral development.

RE is delivered to all students 11-16 with one hour per week increasing to two hours for KS4 who will all take the GCSE. There are currently no students withdrawn from RE.

Assemblies are held daily at the end of the day. Due to the restrictions on space, students have two assemblies per week; one for their year group and one with one or two other year groups.

These assemblies have moral, social, spiritual and current affair themes and aim to encourage students to reflect on big issues, ultimate questions and personal responsibility. There is generally a time for silent reflection. Religious festivals and special focus days (Holocaust etc.) are part of the assemblies programme.

The school day begins with reflection for all students in the 'Ready to Learn' sessions. The students reflect and discuss 4 stimulus items aimed at stimulating their thinking on moral and social issues as well as creative, numeracy and literacy issues.

#### **8.30am-8.40am Visit to 'Ready to Learn' session**

This is the same activity for all students conducted in form groups. SACRE members observed four classes in Year 7. Students were leading the sessions and the reflection pieces included one on 'what heaven and hell might be like?' and another on the morality of waterboarding as torture.

#### **8.40am-9.40am Year 8 Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) Class**

The students were studying ultimate questions regarding the existence and attributes of God. Students were challenged and engaged.

The group met with the Head of PRE who took them through the RE curriculum. This has taken the agreed syllabus and built on it including a great deal of philosophy as well as the study of the main religions. Two main religions focused on are Christianity and Islam.

All students study GCSE RE at KS4. A level Philosophy and Ethics is studied by 20 students in Year 12 and a similar cohort in Year 13 and is growing in numbers. The results in GCSE and RE are very good.

#### **9.40am-10.20am Year 12 Philosophy A Level Class**

Students were studying moral law. Stimulating and challenging lesson focused on answering AL exam questions.

The members met with a Year 9 student. The student described his experience of RE and how the school used assemblies, ready to learn and PSHE to explore religions and moral issues, promote core values and promote their reflective skills. Articulate and reflective, he was able to express how the schools RE lessons, assemblies and ethos challenged and supported their moral and spiritual awareness and development.

#### **10.20am-10.40am KS4 and KS5 'Philosophy Kings'**

Two presentations by the extra-curricular 'Philosophy Kings' students. This group meet with teachers to consider the great philosophical issues and philosophers.

The depth and maturity of their discussions and reflection were very impressive.

#### **10.40am Discussion and Reflection with the Head and Head of PRE**

The Head of PRE is very active in establishing a network of RE teachers to support and share ways of teaching Philosophy and RE and continuing to build the subject in schools. This is something SACRE could promote.

The good practices in both the teaching of RE and the correlation of spiritual and moral issues with ready to learn is also something that could be shared with other schools.

The visit concluded with SACRE members thanking the Principal, staff and students for their willingness to share their teaching practices and procedure to support the students' knowledge, understanding and opportunity to develop their religious education and spiritual and moral awareness.