

PART 1 - PUBLIC

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

Date: **16 February 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 have historically visited two schools per term in order to enable members to experience RE and collective worship in practice in schools.
- 1.2 Increasingly these visits have been undertaken by the Adviser alone or with one other member.
- 1.3 One visit was made by the Bromley Adviser and the Diocesan Adviser during the Autumn Term to Kemnal Technology College, the report of visit is attached (**Appendix**).
- 1.4 A short discussion took place during the October meeting about the value of school visits, but without any decisions taken. A further discussion and decision whether to continue the style of school visits or whether an alternative way of monitoring schools can be found.
- 1.5 During March 2011 is national 'celebrating RE month'. It would be desirable for members to visit schools holding events or putting on exhibitions during this month. Information on dates and schools activities will be provided at the meeting.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Members to consider the report of the Autumn school visit and the future of school visits.**
- 2.2 **Members to bring diaries to enable them to volunteer to attend events.**

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil.
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## **Visit to Kemnal Technology College on 23 November 2010**

The Head of the RE Department at Kemnal Technology College, MS Emma Honey, is a relatively new appointment and has recently joined the SACRE Committee as a teacher representative. She has attended the Secondary Network meetings and invited the SACRE Committee to come on this visit. The visit was undertaken by the RE Adviser, Penny Smith-Orr, and the Diocesan Adviser, Jan Thompson. The school covers a large site, although the classroom we visited was not overly spacious and had little storage space for the necessary books and artefacts needed to teach RE effectively. There were pictures and key words displayed around the room.

The lesson was a Year 8 group who were looking at Pilgrimage and particularly why Jerusalem is important to Christians, Jews and Muslims. The boys looked at pictures, recapped previous knowledge and were told new information. Ms Honey used a computer generated 'jackpot' system to pick names out of pupils to be asked questions. One activity was to write down the answer to the question 'What would you ask God for?' and the answers were put through a slot in a box to represent the Wailing Wall. We read these afterwards and many were along the lines of wishing that mum or grandparents would be happy, or that the pupil could live normally.

Ms Honey came through the 'teach first' scheme and is very enthusiastic and energetic. There are two full-time RE Teachers and three part-time and Ms Honey does all the planning. She has raised the profile of RE and improved the exam results for 2009 when 17% of pupils got A\*-C rising to 33% in 2010. The pupils receive one hour's teaching a week and start the exam work after half-term in Year 9. She has also introduced an A-level course this year and someone from the graduate teaching programme will be joining the department. Assessment of learning takes place once a term according to the whole school system.

Ms Honey makes good use of the Internet and using interactive whiteboard and has suggested that, at a future network meeting, she could share her moviemaker skills with colleagues. We very much enjoyed the visit and it would be useful to other members of SACRE to visit in the future.