

PART 1 - PUBLIC

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

Date: **25 May 2011**

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

TITLE: CELEBRATING RE

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Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. INFORMATION

- 1.1 March 2011 was designated as national Celebrating RE month.
 - 1.2 Members were informed of the events being held in Bromley schools and as a result there were no official SACRE school visits in the Spring Term.
 - 1.3 A legacy of the month is the website www.celebratingre.org which members may like to look at. This would give members an idea of good practice taking place across the country and would link to item number 5 of this term's agenda.
 - 1.4 Attached is a report on the events that the RE Consultant attended.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members to read the report ready to discuss any events that they attended.

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Nil
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CELEBRATING RE MONTH MARCH 2011

The first event that I was invited to attend was on 7th March at Royston Primary school in Penge. This was a whole school collective worship organised by the RE coordinator. The pupils from each year group took turns to show the whole school what they had been recently learning about in RE. This was a very joyous occasion and the range of learning throughout the school was impressive. Some classes had been looking at various aspects of the Easter story while pupils in Key Stage 2 had been looking at aspects of other faiths. Some pupils had artefacts that they had been making or looking at to show and some described their thoughts and their learning. After this I had a quick tour of the school and a discussion with the RE coordinator. She had taken the 'wise sayings' from the website and displayed them along all the corridors at pupil friendly height. She had also planned some other events for the month which culminated in a multi faith multi culture party on the 25th.

Two days later I attended an event hosted by Bishop Justus school and including all the church Primary schools. This event started with refreshments and talking to the teachers, head teachers, governors and helpers who had come to be part of the celebrations. We then saw a series of interactive displays which the schools had prepared on the theme of the Easter story. Each school had prepared a display and a 'stall' and visitors were invited to write a prayer, look at a mime, consider the joy and sadness of the Easter season and much more. This was excellent and the pupils who had come from each school were very good at informing us what their aspect of Easter was all about. We then went and watched a debate on a number of questions posed by the head of RE at Bishop Justus. Each table of pupils had a statement to discuss, for instance 'only Christians should celebrate Easter' 'all Easter egg packets should tell the Easter story'. After discussions one member from each table had to tell the assembled company their conclusions which were thought provoking and interesting.

At the end of the month I attended another Collective worship, this time at St George's Primary School in Bickley. This started with a tour of the school accompanied by a Y6 pupil who told me all the RE activities that pupils had been taking part in during that week. The collective worship was very lively with pupils showing each other what they had been doing. The reception class sang a song and in the middle of the event the whole school joined in a hymn. Even the pupils from an after school club came up and showed their enjoyment of the RE they had been learning. The Y6 pupils who had been at the Bishop Justus event also received certificates for their hard work.

I would like to record thanks to all these teachers and all those in other schools who made an effort to celebrate RE and to highlight the subject in their school during the National month of celebration.