

RE Subject leader meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015

The meeting at Easthampstead Park was attended by 9 teachers, representing 8 schools.

The topic for discussion was how to get the most out of visits to places of worship and began with staff sharing information about visits that they had found helpful and identifying that preparation and the quality of the host made the greatest difference.

A wider range of places of worship was presented and teachers will receive a copy of the PowerPoint containing links to several places of worship, including 3 churches, Christ Church Cathedral, Gurdwaras in Reading & Maidenhead, Synagogues in Reading and Maidenhead, Mandirs in Reading and Neasden, a Mosque in Maidenhead and the Buddhist centre in Taplow. One of the teachers has a contact to the new Mosque on the Oxford Road in Reading and will explore whether they are willing to host visitors.

The syllabus questions that would be addressed by a visit to a place of were looked at, and teachers spent some time thinking about the “Big Questions” that could be asked as part of a unit focusing on a place of worship. Some examples were:

Does the décor of a building make a difference?

Are places of worship relevant today?

Is the Holy Text central to the place of worship?

Teachers then explored suitable activities for a visit, both to do during the visit and as follow-up work back in class.

The date was confirmed as 19<sup>th</sup> June for the next meeting and prior to that, an email will be sent with suggestions for topics for people to express a preference.

A follow-up email will be sent in 6 weeks to see if people have participated in any visits and if so, a request will be made for a brief report to SACRE on the impact of the visit.