

# Learning Outside the Classroom

## **PGCE Students out and about in Bradford - Exploring communities and asking questions**

The Anne Frank Exhibition and a visit to a synagogue

### **What are we trying to achieve?**

The visit was for students completing a PGCE primary course at Bradford College.

The visit was to:

- extend knowledge of the Jewish faith by visiting the only synagogue in the city
- meet people of that faith and see how Judaism can be introduced to children in the primary school
- make links with the Anne Frank touring exhibition and linking her history with children's comments on what it is to be a member of a faith group in modern Britain

### **Cost:**

A fee was paid to the Inter Faith Centre in Bradford to arrange the visit to the synagogue. This paid for the building to be opened and for two members of the community to be there to take the students around. The visit to the exhibition was free.

### **Who is involved?**

Two tutors from college

The advisory teacher for RE from the Interfaith Centre

Students from the primary PGCE course

The visits ran twice and 30 students attended each time

### **Preparation:**

In college, students had looked at and worked with the local agreed syllabus for the teaching of RE in Bradford as well as the non-statutory national framework.

A consideration of where Judaism could be studied was undertaken and the students were introduced to some basic information in relation to this faith.

### **How did we organise the learning?**

At the synagogue, students were introduced via artefacts to some information on the Jewish faith. They then considered the presence of people of that faith within the history of the city and the timescale before the first German Jews built a synagogue.

Students were then given time to walk around the building before being shown the Ark, offered additional information, and given time to ask questions.

At the Anne Frank exhibition – the students were given a brief introduction by a tutor and then given time to explore and investigate.

### **What was the impact of the experience?**

The evaluations were very positive. The students felt they had been given information that would prepare them to teach about this faith but also challenged by a lot of what was in the exhibition.

'I found the synagogue visit very useful as I ended up talking to Year 1 and 2 children about the Torah a couple of weeks later... This worked so well that one of the children asked me if I was Jewish yesterday.'

'The main thing I got from it was a much clearer appreciation of the Jewish faith and celebrations, which in turn gave me much more confidence to talk about this with the children.'

### **Follow up:**

Students will be asked to let us know if they are able to use information from the visit in their next block of teaching in schools but in addition we would hope that as in previous years they will move into their first jobs working in schools with the confidence to bring children out of the classroom and into places of worship.

### **Contacts and links:**

Bradford Interfaith Education Centre, Listerhills Road, Bradford, BD7 1HD. Tel: 01274 - 731674

[www.ngfl.ac.uk/re/](http://www.ngfl.ac.uk/re/)