

Press Release May 2016

A DAY AT THE SIKH TEMPLE IN CHEETHAM HILL

St. Ambrose College Year 7 pupils spent a day at the Sikh Temple in Cheetham Hill as an essential element of their education into world religions.

Boys from the Catholic grammar school in Hale Barns learned about the origins of the religion that was founded in the Punjab in the 15th Century and how it has now become the fifth largest religion in the world, with a strong community in and around Greater Manchester.



Over 120 young men were greeted by the Temple Priest who talked to the boys about the avowedly peaceful nature of Sikhism and how it was founded by the Guru Nanak, born a Hindu Brahmin but who rejected the cast system in the belief that all men are equal.

Boys were told that his mission was to bring peace to the embattled Hindu and Muslim religions and bring social cohesion as well as spiritual fulfilment.

The Guru Nanak was the first of 10 leaders or gurus, with the line ending with the Guru Granth Sahib, who decreed his the holy writings of the Sikhism would be the living guru and their would no longer be a figurehead.

On their visit to the Shri Guru Singh Sabha Gurudwara on Derby Street the St. Ambrose College first removed their shoes and covered their heads before paying respects to the Sikh scriptures and then listening to the lecture from the Priest.

After the lecture, the boys shared a special vegetarian meal of a potato curry with fried flat bread especially made by members of the congregation to mark their brotherhood and sense of community.



St. Ambrose boys and staff with Sikh community volunteers making their shared vegetarian meal.

St. Ambrose College Religious Education Teacher Marika Richardson said: “It was a wonderful and truly enlightening experience for our young men who learned so much about the history, culture, customs and core beliefs of our Sikh friends and neighbours.

“There was an atmosphere of total silence and respect during the Priest's lecture as the boys listened intently to every word. This was only broken by the joy and, what Catholics might term the communion, of the shared meal.”

St. Ambrose College will also visit Manchester's synagogue to learn about Judaism and every year stages a multi-faith conference for local religious leaders to talk to sixth formers about their own special beliefs and value systems.



St. Ambrose Boys with the living guru (Sikh Holy Scriptures) and the Priest XXX