

## Who is Estelle Morris and why did she come and visit Raddlebarn Primary & Nursery School?

Estelle started her career as a teacher in an inner-city comprehensive school where she taught for 18 years.

Morris was elected to Parliament in 1992 for Birmingham Yardley, gaining the seat from the Conservatives with a majority of only 162. She became a minister in the Department for Education and Employment in 1997 and was promoted to Secretary of State for Education and Skills in 2001. She was the first former comprehensive school teacher to have the position. She suddenly resigned her post in October 2002

She rejoined the Government in 2003 as Minister for the Arts in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, She stepped down from the government and as a Member of Parliament at the 2005 general election.

On 13 May 2005 it was announced that she would be created a life peer,<sup>1</sup> and she was conferred as **Baroness Morris of Yardley**, of Yardley in the County of West Midlands, on 14 June 2005.

Since then, Estelle has held posts as Pro-Vice Chancellor at the University of Sunderland, Chair of the Children's Workforce Development Committee and Chair of the Institute of Effective Education.

Estelle has been a member of the House of Lords since 2005 which she combines with her work as the Chair of the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP). She also helped to establish the Association of Education Partnerships.

She is a member of the Pinnacle Multi-Academy Trust, trustee of the Poetry Archive, Vice Chair and trustee of the Sunderland AFC Foundation and a Director of the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.



On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, BEP brought Baroness Morris to come and visit Raddlebarn Primary & Nursery School to see the wonderful things we do in our school. She was particularly interested in our Early Years experiences and environment and our wider opportunities and Arts offer in school.

Baroness Morris with BEP, had a tour of the school looking at our displays and environment, children's work and spoke to children and staff throughout the visit.

As her visit came to a close she said "I am leaving here today truly inspired". Our whole team, were incredibly proud.

She wrote us a wonderful letter of thanks too:



22/7/2023

Dear Angela,

I just wanted to thank you and your team for such an enjoyable visit to Riddlebarn School last week. I came away completely enthused by the work you were doing.

There is such a sense of creativity and joy of learning which must provide a lovely atmosphere for children and I would feel the pride you all have in what you are doing.

I also wanted to thank the early years team who have created an inspiring place for children. It was a pleasure to be able to look round.

I do appreciate what a demanding

London  
SW1A 0PW

time it is in schools at the moment so particularly appreciated the time you gave us.

I do hope that you had a good week-end and that the rest of the term goes well.

Best wishes.

Leslie Morris -

