

TOP SECRET &amp; PERSONAL - VISITS

## "RAY OF HOPE" CHOIR - BACKGROUND NOTE

The "Ray of Hope" Choir includes children from Largymore Primary School, Fort Hill High School, Fleming Fulton Special School, Dromore High School, Assumption Grammar and Grosvenor Grammar School.

In November 1995 the children performed at the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris to an audience including Royalty, Heads of State, Ambassadors and Diplomats representing most of the countries of the world.

The Choir has now been awarded the title "UNESCO's Youth Ambassador for the Culture of Peace", one of the highest honours ever bestowed on such a group. It is hoped that the award ceremony will take place in Northern Ireland.

Commenting on the Choir's achievement, the Rt Hon Michael Ancram QC DL MP, Minister of State with responsibility for Education, said:-

"... The children and teachers of the Choir are fine examples of how mutual understanding among our young people can produce very positive results. By spreading the word of peace and reconciliation wherever they perform, they are making their own special contribution towards a more integrated society."

The Choir is led by Mr Don McBurney from Largymore Primary School. The Musical Director is Mr Victor Currie.

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