

Nelson Mandela's former bodyguard shares his story with Goodmayes youngsters

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Nelson Mandela's former bodyguard Chris Lubbe with Mayespark Primary School pupils Adam Khan, eight, Shakira Suleman, eight, Owais Zahoor, nine, and Syhail Ali, eight

The former bodyguard of an iconic statesman stopped by at a school to tell his story.



Nelson Mandela's former bodyguard Chris Lubbe talking to pupils at Mayespark Primary School

Chris Lubbe visited Mayespark Primary School, in Goodmayes Lane, Goodmayes, yesterday to discuss his friendship with Nelson Mandela, who he protected for eight years.

The revered statesman died on December 5 2013.

Headteacher Chris Lamb said: "Chris was a truly inspirational speaker.

“The children were able to ask questions so they understood the impact of Nelson Mandela’s leadership in South Africa.”

Mr Lubbe was born in Port St Johns and moved to Durban at a young age.

He later joined the banned African National Congress (ANC), which saw him subjected to beatings and solitary confinement in prison.

Mrs Lamb said: “Following the visit, the children said they felt lucky to be living in our community, where we all get on and respect each other.

“It was a fantastic experience for the children and the adults and one which we will remember for a very long time.”