

## **Covid 19: Further information for SACRE members and school staff (January 2021)**

### **Determination application and renewals: online meeting or phone call to replace the school visit**

#### **Introduction**

Schools that wish to submit their application/ renewal of their collective worship determination in the spring term 2021 may do so or they may choose to defer the submission until the summer term 2021.

For schools wishing to continue with the submission, the visit from the SACRE member to the school which is a required part of the process, will be replaced by an online meeting or phone call. The purpose of this document is to provide the school and the SACRE member with information about the amended process.

#### **Usual process**

When schools are operating as normal the process of application for a determination includes a school visit by a representative of Ealing SACRE. Their task is to ensure that the school provides a suitable opportunity for collective worship or reflection for all pupils every day. The SACRE representative should be familiar with the paperwork and information submitted by the school to support its application for a determination.

During the visit the SACRE representatives will:

- Observe an act of collective worship
- Hold a discussion with the headteacher and other relevant members of staff using the determination application pack and some of the questions on p2&3 to help structure the conversation.
- Following the visit, compile a report for a SACRE meeting to consider, in which they will recommend whether or not a determination should be granted or renewed. The pro-forma on p4 can be used to structure the report but this is not essential.

#### **Revised process (Covid 19) Spring 2021**

During the period of the Covid 19 pandemic the face-to-face visit to school will be replaced by an online meeting or telephone call between the SACRE member and the headteacher and other relevant members of staff. The meeting should take 30-45 minutes. An online meeting may be more effective if it can be arranged as it would enable the determination pack and other documentation to be shared on the screen.

The SACRE representative will:

- Hold a discussion with the headteacher and other relevant members of staff using the determination application pack and some of the questions on p2&3 to help structure the conversation.
- Discuss how the school has adapted collective worship during the partial school closure. If a school has provided opportunities for online collective worship these can be shared.
- Following the visit, compile a report for a SACRE meeting to consider, in which they will recommend whether or not a determination should be granted or renewed. The pro-forma on p4 can be used to structure the report but this is not essential.

If the written report cannot be submitted by the deadline required by SACRE, verbal feedback can be given at the meeting and the report submitted at the next meeting. Lack of a written report would not prevent the determination being granted.

## Aspects to be considered by the SACRE representative in the phone call / online meeting

The following are suggestions about what might be considered in discussion with the school staff. It is not designed to be an exhaustive list of questions, merely to provide an understanding of the school in this context.

- 1. Number of pupils and age range in the school/ number of forms of entry**
- 2. Context of Collective Worship/Reflection**
  - a) Within assemblies
  - b) Within a class, form or teaching group
- 3. Frequency of Collective Worship/Reflection for**
  - a) The whole school
  - b) Each year group
  - c) Each class group
  - d) On the days when a child does not have school or year group CW/reflection, what provision is made within the class setting?
- 4. Location of Collective Worship/Reflection**
  - a) School hall
  - b) Classroom
  - c) Sports hall
  - d) School grounds
- 5. Time of Collective Worship/Reflection**
  - a) at the beginning of the school day
  - b) at the end of the school day
  - c) during the school day
- 6. Duration of Collective Worship/Reflection**

How much time is allowed for the specific act of CW/reflection?
- 7. Leaders of Collective Worship/Reflection**
  - a) Headteacher
  - b) Teacher(s)
  - c) Pupil(s)
  - d) Governor(s)
  - e) Representative(s) of a faith community
- 8. Delivery of Collective Worship/Reflection**
  - a) the spoken word including stories, poems, prayers, discussions, interviews, prose
  - b) the sung word including hymns, pop songs, rhymes
  - c) Visual stimuli including pictures, posters, slides, religious artefacts, natural objects, video
  - d) Performance including dance, drama, role play, movement, mime, simulation
  - e) Music: recorded or live
  - f) Atmosphere enhancers including subdued or coloured lighting, candles, incense, drapes, central visual focus
- 9. Theme**
  - a) Does the school have a weekly, monthly or termly theme?
  - b) How and by whom are these themes decided?

- c) To what extent does the CW/reflection provision reflect the theme?
- d) What is the scope for reinforcing the message of the CW/reflection in other situations?

**10. Collective Worship/Reflection content**

- a) Does the CW/reflection reflect the faith groups with which the parents of the school body identify?
- b) How is provision made for those with no religious affiliation?
- c) How is provision made to reflect those faith groups that are not represented within the school body?

**11. In the context of the school curriculum**

Relationship between the CW/reflection programme and the secular curriculum, including PSHE, Citizenship, British values, SMSC (Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development), Other

**12. Withdrawal**

- a) Are any pupils withdrawn by parental request? Please explain why.
- b) Is the request discussed with parents?
- c) Is there a substitute activity?
- d) How are withdrawn pupils presented with opportunities for reflection?

**Optional** (the determination application relates to collective worship only)

**13. Religious Education**

- a) Does the school follow the Ealing Agreed Syllabus for RE?
- b) Are RE teachers subject specialists?
- c) Do pupils take part in visits to places of worship?
- d) How are non-theistic world views accommodated?

**Definitions**

The terms 'assembly', 'collective worship' and 'reflection' are not synonymous. They have specific meanings and their correct use is summarised here:

**Assembly**

- a gathering of part or all of the school for general announcements
- part of the secular curriculum
- not required by law
- no pupil withdrawal; staff may have to attend
- may include an act of collective worship, if there is reflection or prayer

**Collective Worship (CW)** is a daily act which:

- is mandatory for all pupils in all maintained schools
- comprises pupils who are part of same educational community; they may possess diverse religious, agnostic and non-religious life stances (NB called 'corporate worship' if all share the same religious beliefs)
- may take many forms but always presents pupils with specific concepts, themes and thoughts
- can use structures of religious worship but does not require actual worship
- allows deep thinking and individual spiritual response to the concepts explored

**Reflection**

- part of every daily act of collective worship
- allows thinking about the specific concepts, themes and thoughts presented
- encourages the pupil to apply these ideas to their own life
- helps pupils develop the capacity to appreciate introspection
- CW and Reflection can support the RE programme e.g. by focus on special features of the calendar.

Traditionally, Ealing SACRE has used the term 'Reflection' in carrying out its statutory duty in order to enhance inclusivity in a very diverse population.

**Ealing SACRE member report for application for or renewal of a determination**

**School:**

**Headteacher:**

**Date of online meeting / phone call:**

**SACRE member:**

**Summary:**

**Brief details about the school:**

**Assemblies and collective worship:** brief summary of the approach in the school including how the school has adapted during Covid 19

**Links with the curriculum** – other opportunities for reflection

**Conclusion/summary:** overview of documentation, recommendation for renewal of the determination

**Additional information** the school may wish to provide: (not compulsory)  
**RE:** Brief summary of the approach to teaching RE in the school