

# Determinations: Putting A System In Place For Your SACRE



- supporting
- strengthening
- promoting

# Welcome and Introductions

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# The Aims for Tonight's Training

Within this session, we will:

- consider the role, nature and purpose of determinations
- identify the legal requirements around determinations
- discuss how the process may be managed as effectively as possible within these legal requirements
- share good practice
- have an opportunity for questions!

# But First, Some Definitions!

- The terms ‘assembly’, ‘collective worship’ and ‘reflection’ are not synonymous.
- They have specific meanings and their correct use should be clarified.

# 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?

- is mandatory for all pupils in all maintained schools and should take place daily
- 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
- is not *corporate* worship!

# Reflection?

- part of every daily act of collective worship
- allows thinking – and if appropriate prayer -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

# What Is A Determination?

- In January 1994, the Department for Education released Circular 1/94, which states that all maintained schools must provide 'daily collective worship for all registered pupils' and that this 'must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. [Circular 1/94](#)
- It is acknowledged that this may not be appropriate for all pupils in all schools. Maintained schools under the control of their LA may, therefore, apply to the local SACRE for a 'determination'. The determination lifts or modifies this requirement for some or all pupils, while safeguarding the interests of children from Christian families. Academies should apply for a 'determination' directly to the DfE.



# Requesting A Determination

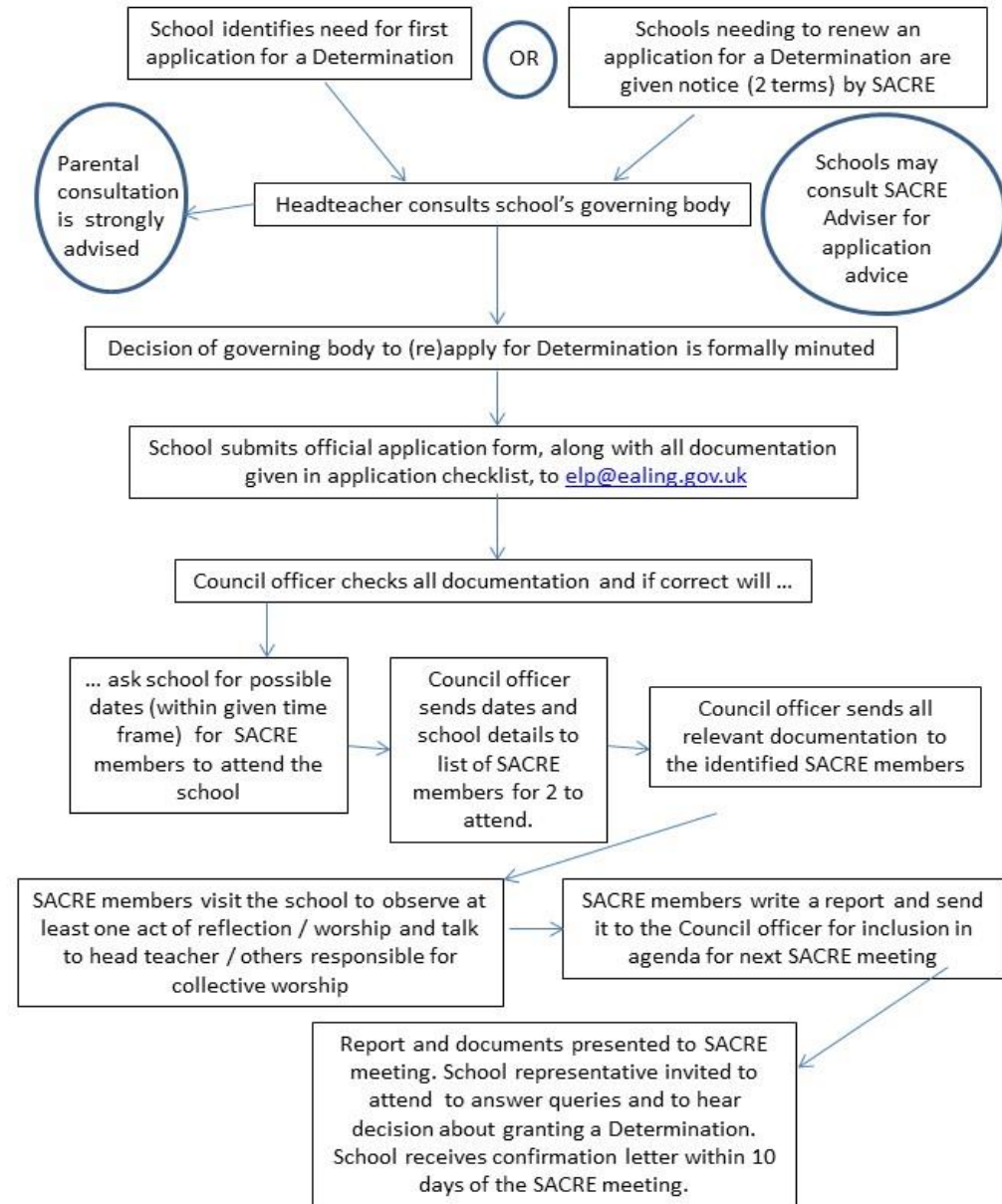
- **Before requesting a determination, the headteacher must consult the school's Governing Body, which in turn may wish to (or must) seek the views of parents.**
- **The application may relate either to a clearly described and defined group or to the whole school.**

# Requesting A Determination

- A determination, once granted, lasts for five years
- If a school maintained by the LA wishes to continue to provide acts of Collective Worship that are other than broadly Christian, then it will need to reapply to SACRE to seek a renewal of its determination.
- An academy must seek a renewal directly from the DfE.

# An Example From LB Ealing SACRE Of The Process

Process flow chart for Determination applications  
for maintained schools



# Determination Application Form



**SACREs would be well advised to draw up an application form for a determination to lift or modify the requirement for maintained schools to deliver ‘collective worship’ that is ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’.**

# What Might Such A Form Include?

- Is this application an initial one or for a renewal of a previously granted determination?
- If it is a renewal, when does/did the determination expire?
- What is the date of the Governing Body meeting at which the decision to (re)apply for a determination was formally approved.
- Please attach a copy of relevant section of the minutes.

# What Might Such A Form Include?

- A table to show religious /non religious affiliation of families of pupils in the school – what options might this include?
- Numbers and/or percentages?
- If the application is a renewal, appropriate comments on how this data compares with the data submitted five years before?
- Is this application being made in respect of:
  - (a) the whole school? *(If so, please describe how you will safeguard the interests of parents of children for whom broadly Christian worship would be appropriate.)*
  - (b) one or more clearly described and defined group(s) within the school? If so, please give details.

# Supplementary Information?

In the event that the requested determination is granted, please attach:

- the school's policy on Collective Worship
- details of the arrangements that will be put in place so that all pupils in the school are being provided with an opportunity for Collective Worship on each school day.

# Further Supplementary Information?

Please attach a summary of:

- records of acts of collective worship / reflection for the current term
- plans for the next half term
- detailed plans for one or more acts of collective worship that have been delivered or will be delivered this term.



# Additional Information?

- details of any communications with parents/families about the application and any responses?
- details of any feedback from pupils about the school's approach to Collective Worship
- details of any withdrawals from some or all acts of Collective Worship?

# SACRE Visit?

- **In some LAs, the process of application for a determination includes a school visit by one or more representatives of the SACRE.**
- **Their task is to ensure that the school provides a suitable opportunity for collective worship for all pupils every day.**

# SACRE Visit?

- **Members will observe one Act of Collective Worship (maybe more) and hold a discussion with the headteacher and other relevant members of staff**
- **The school visit is unlikely to last more than one hour.**
- **Following the visit, the SACRE representatives will compile a report for a SACRE meeting to consider, in which they will recommend whether or not a determination should be granted or renewed - a pro-forma may be used for this report.**

# Questions!



# Thank You and Keep in Touch!

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