

Applying for a Determination from Ealing SACRE: maintained schools

Collective worship determination application pack Determinations

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 may, therefore, apply to SACRE for a 'determination'. The determination lifts or modifies the requirement for some or all pupils, while safeguarding the interests of children from Christian families. A school with a determination must still provide daily collective worship for all pupils. *Academies should apply for a 'determination' directly to the DfE. The application form can be found on the Ealing grid for learning: [Determination](#)*

Ealing Collective worship guidance can be found at [Collective worship | Ealing Grid for Learning \(egfl.org.uk\)](#)

Requesting a determination

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

A determination, once granted, lasts for **five years**, and if a maintained school wishes to continue to provide acts of collective worship /reflection that are other than broadly Christian, then it will need to reapply to SACRE to seek a renewal of its determination.

Included in this document:

- **An explanation of the process** p 2
- **The determination application form** p 3-5 (Also available as a separate document)
- **Further information on the school visit** p 6-8
- **SACRE member visit report form** p 9

Sample consultation letters and the separate determination application form can be found on EGfL: [Determination](#)

All documentation must be sent to ELP@ealing.gov.uk

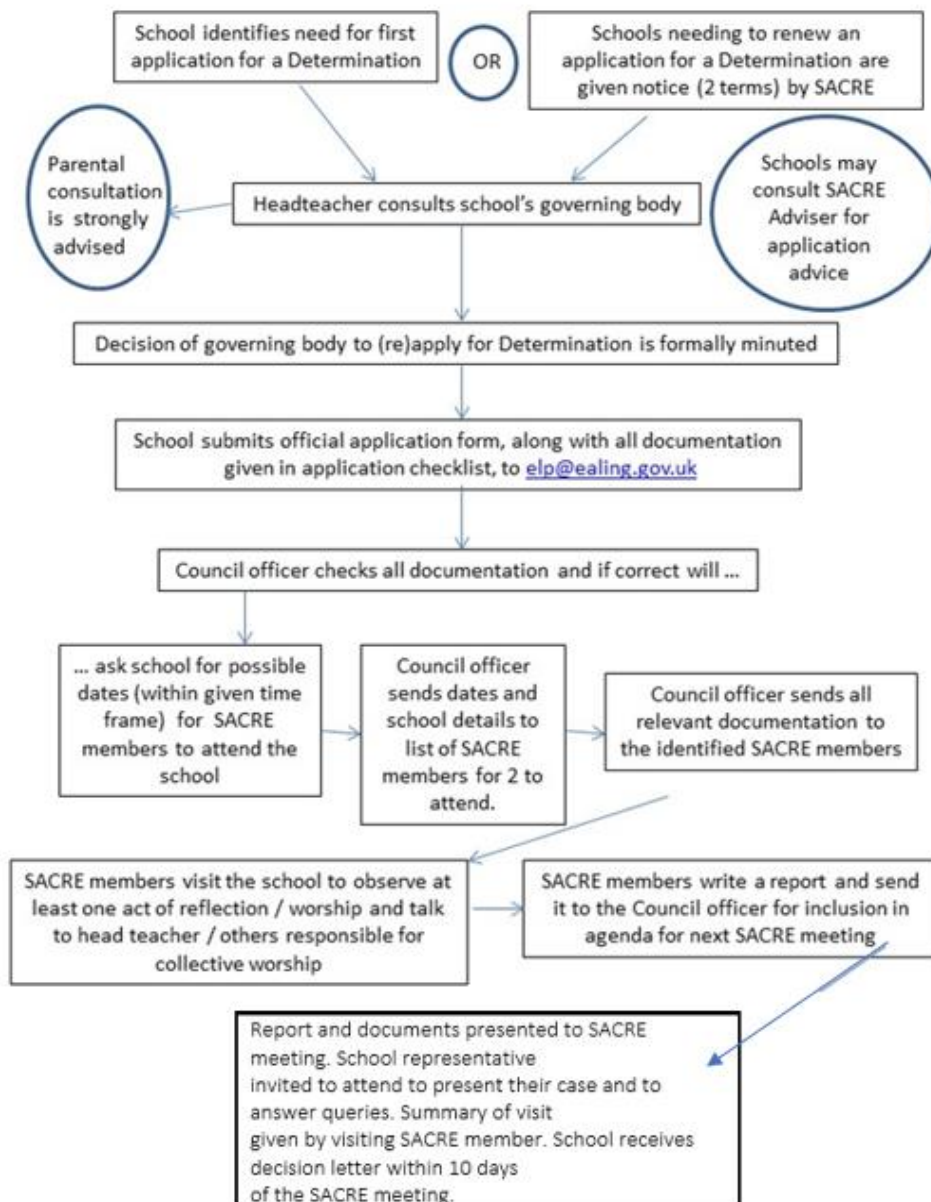
A **checklist** of submission requirements can be found at the end of this document.

Dates of SACRE meetings can be found on the Ealing Council website:

[Ealing SACRE meeting dates](#)

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Process flow chart for Determination applications for maintained schools



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Determination application form

This is 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'. A school with a determination must still continue to provide a daily act of collective worship. This application form refers to 'collective worship / reflection' in line with Ealing guidance. [Collective worship | Ealing Grid for Learning \(egfl.org.uk\)](http://egfl.org.uk) Please focus your application and evidence on acts of **collective worship / reflection** *not* on whole assemblies.

1	School name					
2	Local Authority school status	Primary	Secondary		Special	
3	Headteacher's name					
4	Is this application for a renewal of a previously granted determination?		Yes		No	
	If yes, when does/did the determination expire?					
5	Date of governing board meeting at which the decision to (re)apply for a determination formally approved. Please attach a copy of relevant section only , of the minutes.					
6	Please attach the details of any consultation with parents (strongly advised).					
7	Religious affiliation of families of pupils in the school		Current breakdown		Previous breakdown (if a renewal)	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Baha'i					
	Buddhist					
	Christian					
	Hindu					
	Humanist / atheist / agnostic					
	Jain					
	Jewish					
	Muslim					
	Pagan					
	Rastafarian					
	Ravidasian					
	Shinto					
	Sikh					
	Zoroastrian					
Other						
None						
8	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 reflection would be appropriate. (b) one or more clearly described and defined group(s) within the school? If so, please give details.					

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9	If this is an application for the renewal of a previous determination, please attach a description of any circumstances that may have changed since the last determination was granted.			
10	Please attach: (a) the school policy on collective worship / reflection (b) details of the arrangements that are in place so that all pupils in the school are being provided with an opportunity for collective worship / reflection on each school day.			
11	Please attach a summary list of (a) acts of collective worship / reflection for the current and previous term (b) please include brief descriptions of at least three acts of collective worship / reflection that have been delivered or will be delivered that represent the range of religious and non-religious content in your programme. (Please do not include complete assembly PowerPoints.)			
12	How many pupils in the school are currently withdrawn from:			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 786 1166 842">a) all acts of collective worship / reflection</td> <td data-bbox="1166 786 1428 842"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 842 1166 913">b) some acts of collective worship / reflection – please attach details</td> <td data-bbox="1166 842 1428 913"></td> </tr> </table>	a) all acts of collective worship / reflection		b) some acts of collective worship / reflection – please attach details
a) all acts of collective worship / reflection				
b) some acts of collective worship / reflection – please attach details				
13	How are you intending to feature belief systems, religious and non-religious, that are not represented in your school population within the new programme of collective worship / reflection? Please give details.			
14	Is there anything else you wish to bring to SACRE's attention in relation to your application?			

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Title of Document	Question	Tick if attached
Application form: download from EGfL www.egfl.org.uk : Determination		
Governing board minutes (<i>relevant section only</i>)	5	
Parental consultation	6	
Collective worship / reflection arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none">For safeguarding interests of Christian parentsCatering for specific groups in school	8a 8b	
Changes since the last determination was granted	9	
School policy on collective worship / reflection	10a	
Arrangements relating to provision for each school day	10b	
All-school plans for the current and previous term	11a, 11b	
Brief descriptions of at least three acts of collective worship/ reflection from this or the previous term that reflect the range of religious and non-religious content in your programme.	11c	

Headteacher's signature	Date
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Thank you for completing this application.

Please submit to elp@ealing.gov.uk with all supporting documentation at least three weeks prior to the SACRE meeting.

Further information on the school visit for SACRE members and school staff

School visits for determinations

The process of application for a determination includes a school visit by one or more representatives 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. 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

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. The pro-forma on page 9 may be used for the report.

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.

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Aspects to be considered by the SACRE representative(s) on the school visit

The SACRE representatives should be familiar with the paperwork and information submitted by the school to support its application for a determination. The following are suggestions about what might be considered in observing the school and 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 in

- a) The school
- b) Each year group
- c) Each tutor group

2. Context of Collective Worship/Reflection

- a) Within assemblies
- b) Within tutor, 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

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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 RE, PSHE, Citizenship, British values, SMSC (Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development)

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?

13. Other issues

- a) How is potential friction between children from different faith backgrounds managed?
- b) How are children who are not fluent in English included?
- c) Does display around school reflect themes, rights etc.?
- d) Are pupils engaged and responsive?

Guidelines for observation of Collective Worship/Reflection

- How is CW/R introduced and differentiated from any previous activity?
- Levels of pupil engagement and responsiveness
- Accessibility of language for ages and belief backgrounds
- Clarity of core theme/thought
- Appropriateness of atmosphere
- Delivery styles used (words, song, candles, artefacts etc.)
- How much time allotted for act of CW/R?

References

1. Circular 1/94: 'Religious Education and Collective Worship', Department for Education, 1994.
2. Collective Worship Guidelines. Education Department Advisory and Support Service, London Borough of Hounslow

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Ealing SACRE member(s) visit report for application for or renewal of a determination

School:

Headteacher:

Date of visit:

SACRE members:

Summary of visit

Brief details about the school:

Collective worship/reflection: brief summary of the approach in the school

Collective worship/reflection observed: brief summary of what was observed

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