

Wellington Primary Determination October 2023- October 2028

I refer to your application for a “determination” exempting Wellington Primary School from the requirement to arrange for daily collective worship which is “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” (Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998).

I confirm that the Hounslow Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) considered the application at its meeting on 23rd October 2023 and can confirm that **renewal of the determination was approved**. This renewal will last 5 years until October 2028.

In England and Wales, SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) is a local body that oversees religious education and collective worship in state schools. SACRE is made up of representatives from different faith groups, teachers, and local council members, and one of their responsibilities is to consider requests from schools for a “determination” regarding collective worship.

Here’s what a *school determination from SACRE* means for collective worship:

1. Collective Worship Requirement

In most schools, collective worship—like assemblies—is legally required to be “broadly Christian in character.” This means that, by default, schools are expected to focus on values and themes that align with Christianity.

2. What a Determination Is

A determination is special permission from SACRE that allows a school to adjust the nature of their collective worship to better reflect the beliefs of their school community. This is especially helpful in schools where many students come from different religious backgrounds or where Christianity is not the primary faith practiced.

3. Why Schools Might Request a Determination

If a school has a significant number of students from non-Christian religious backgrounds (such as Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, etc.), it might feel that a strictly Christian focus does not fit their community. The school can ask SACRE for a determination to allow more flexibility in how they conduct collective worship, so it can be more inclusive of all students’ backgrounds.

4. What Happens After a Determination Is Granted

If SACRE grants the determination, the school is allowed to make collective worship more inclusive, rather than being “broadly Christian.” This doesn’t mean excluding Christianity; rather, it means that assemblies might include themes, stories, and

values from various religions or a focus on shared human values without any specific religious bias. This approach helps ensure all students feel respected and included.

5. What It Means for Parents and Students

For parents, a determination means that collective worship in school may reflect a range of religious traditions and shared values. It won't be strictly Christian but will instead aim to include and respect the beliefs of all children in the school.