

“All maintained in Hillingdon schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development”, and must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.” (Circular 1/94)

Schools can apply to Hillingdon SACRE for a determination (1988 Education Reform Act) if they feel that the legal requirement for collective worship that is wholly or mainly of broadly Christian character is not appropriate for their pupils. This application may relate to a clearly described/defined group or to the whole school, but it does not remove the requirement for collective worship, only that it is broadly Christian in character.

A headteacher may decide to apply for a determination, using the *application form*, if:

- There have been a large number of withdrawals from broadly Christian collective worship
- There is a large proportion of pupils in the school for whom broadly Christian worship may be inappropriate due to their faith backgrounds
- The school can demonstrate how they have tried to meet the requirements for a ‘broadly Christian’ worship in a multi-faith school without a determination
- All proposed alternative worship will be educational in nature and affirm the values of the school community, and will be nondenominational with no attempt to advocate, promote or indoctrinate any particular faith or religion
- The headteacher has consulted the school’s governing body (Circular 1/94), and sought the view of parents
- There are plans to safeguard the interests of any parents of children for whom broadly Christian collective worship is appropriate.

The following is not regarded as a reason for a determination by SACRE:

- Ofsted has recommended a determination. It is suggested that if Ofsted has recommended a determination, the adviser to SACRE is invited to discuss the matter with the headteacher and governors.

Completed application forms should be submitted to SACRE (contact details on the form) at least 21 working days prior to a SACRE meeting. The school will be notified of receipt. SACRE will then “determine” whether the application is appropriate according to the criteria set out in the 1996 Education Act and Circular 1/94 (or any updates to this legislation and guidance should they become available). “In considering whether to grant a headteacher’s request, the SACRE must ensure, with the support of the adviser to SACRE, that the proposed determination is justified.” (Circular 1/94).

The Clerk will send the application and attached documents to the Chair and Adviser of SACRE and all its members and invite them convene a Determination Working Party, who will present their findings and suggestions at the next SACRE meeting.

The headteacher will be notified in writing within 21 working days of the decision, and if agreed, informed of the date from which the determination can take effect.

SACRE is obliged by law to review the determination at least every five years. The Clerk to SACRE will keep an up-to-date list of schools that have been granted a determination, specifying the date it was granted and the date on which it lapses, and as soon as known, the date of the SACRE meeting immediately prior to the determination lapsing. They will notify schools and SACRE of upcoming reviews.

Further information regarding determinations is available from the Clerk and/or Adviser to Hillingdon SACRE.