



Southampton SACRE

Guidance for Southampton schools on Collective Worship

Within this guidance Southampton SACRE sets out to offer practical support and advice to ensure all pupils experience a distinctive time daily that supports their SMSC development through meeting the statutory requirement of a daily collective act of worship. Southampton SACRE advises schools to identify what they wish pupils to learn and experience from their participation in the statutory act of collective worship of a wholly or broadly Christian character in light of their individual contexts in a modern day society. It is advised that schools set this out clearly in a published statement or policy.

Collective worship should be a distinctive, identifiable time in the school day, it is different to lessons. It is not Religious Education. It should comply with the law – the duty to provide daily collective worship of a wholly or broadly Christian character. It should positively contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural life of the school and the development of its pupils. It will be of a different character to worship for a group with beliefs in common.

At the time of writing DfES Circular 1/94 gives the most recent advice based upon the statutory requirements set out in the 1944 Education Act.

Collective worship may be part of an assembly, but it is not the assembly. There is no right to withdraw from an assembly, but parents do have a right to withdraw their child/ren from the collective worship. Collective worship may be organised in whole school, year or class groups, it can happen at any planned part of the school day, in addition to the time allocated to subject lessons. It will have an organised programme set out over the school year and is likely to be based around common/school values. It will respond to local, national and world events and a range of adults and, if appropriately supported, pupil/pupil groups will lead it.

Within school there will be an identified lead for collective worship. There will be someone with responsibility for monitoring its quality and effectiveness. The governing body will be able to evidence monitoring, support and challenge to the school in the meeting of this statutory duty.

Southampton Schools are all welcoming, diverse and inclusive places and will have people with a range of views of what worship means, and also what or whom is worthy of worship in their own lives. It is therefore important for schools to clearly state in their information to parents and prospective parents the aims of collective worship in their own school. The best practice in determining this would ensure leaders and governors have considered the law, staff, pupils, parents and prospective parents views.

This guidance is intended for community, foundation and trust schools in Southampton. Schools with a faith designation should consult their diocese officers for advice and guidance.

Example of CW in practice

1 Welcome into the moment and engage with the theme/question/issue	2 Connect with own and others views / thoughts / opinions
<p>Take action to identify that it is the time to collectively consider/reflect about an identified value/theme/question, for example, music, regular visual cue, changed lighting to identify the distinctiveness of the moment.</p>	<p>Pre-prepared resource will give something for pupils, and adults, to watch, listen to, and/or consider. This will enable pupils to have a response to the theme/ question/ issue. They will not necessarily agree or not agree, but it will give them something to reflect upon from their own or others perspective. This may be faith or non-faith based depending on the theme and school.</p>
<p>What might be observed:</p> <p>A change in mood is often sensed at this point or a sense of importance of what is to come.</p> <p>This may be through welcoming into a room/hall with music, visual cue or more likely through a distinctive indicator that is recognised by all throughout the school</p>	<p>What might be observed:</p> <p>A teacher/ other adult visitor, pupil or group of pupils/ media resource will give information or thought about the theme/ question/issue from their own or others perspective. It may be a current societal worldwide/ national or local issue, it will provide information from a perspective – that may be similar or different so as to increase awareness or understanding. Pupils will actively engage in and connect with the material, for example, reactions, questions or responses to the input</p>
3 Time for reflection (will include invitation to pray/reflect)	4 Takeaway - impact
<p>Pupils will be invited to reflect upon the question/theme/ issue from their own perspective. Pupils and adults at this point can be invited to pray if they so wish or reflect upon the question/theme.</p> <p>Time must be given for the pupil to give their full consideration to the request, they may be asked to feedback, they may not – this will depend upon the theme/ question.</p>	<p>As the collective worship ends pupils will be leaving the moment with a sense of thought/action regarding the theme. They may be moving away into another space/lesson in a respectful way.</p> <p>There may be music/removal of visual cue or clear instruction from the lead that supports this.</p>
<p>What may be observed:</p> <p>The moment will be taken seriously, pupils will be able to share, if they wish, what they thought about and considered either during collective worship or at a time after. All present will respect the moment and request from the lead. If not already indicated a cue will be used to mark the moment. Sufficient time will be given for a meaningful personal response to be formulated.</p>	<p>What may be observed:</p> <p>There is likely to be a sense of calm/excitement – emotion conveyed relating to the theme. This may be through the strength of the question posed to them in reflection or their personal response/s..</p>

*Collective worship must be of a wholly or broadly Christian Character not distinctive of any denomination. This is most likely to be met through a values based Collective worship programme.

Guide to determination

Determination is the term used when a school applies to their SACRE to disapply the requirement for their collective worship for an identified group or whole school to be of a wholly/broadly Christian character.

It does not remove the duty to deliver daily act of collective worship, but a school can make a case for it to be of a different faith. It however, cannot be distinctive of any particular denomination of any faith or religion, but may be distinctive of a particular faith or religion.

Parents continue to have the right to withdraw. The school remains responsible for supervising any child withdrawn by its parent from collective worship.

In considering all applications for determination Southampton SACRE will consider the schools plans for collective worship, circumstances relating to faith backgrounds of the pupils which are relevant for deciding the character of collective worship for the group of identified pupils or the school. It will also consider, if determination is applied for the whole school, the parents and pupils for whom a broadly based collective worship programme would be suitable.

It is Southampton SACREs view that a well-planned, values based collective worship programme would be sufficient for most pupils without the need for any determination.

Head teachers can write to the chair of SACRE or professional support to SACRE through email: SACREinfo@southampton.gov.uk to ask SACRE at their next meeting to consider their application for determination. The SACRE in Southampton meets four times a year.

This must include:

- Evidence that the Governing body support the application.
- Clearly identify the group and relevant circumstances relating to family background for whom the determination applies.
- Information regarding the number of withdrawals from collective worship within the last year.

- Clear understanding that the determination will be reviewed by Southampton SACRE annually and will end after 5 years. The head teacher will be expected to provide information for each review and can request an earlier review at any time after consultation with the governing body.
- A plan for the alternative collective worship clearly set out for the following year, including who will be leading and monitoring it, and collective worship for pupils not involved in the determination.
- Information should also be provided about any visitors who may be involved in delivery of the alternative collective worship and how this will be monitored.
- Views of parents and pupils with regard to withdrawal or the application for alternative arrangements is helpful to provide.

Southampton SACRE can only accept or reject any application without modification. It will only consider one application per year from a school, unless the school can justify changed circumstances that make an additional application appropriate.

The Secretary of State has the right to revoke any determinations if it is satisfied that the SACRE has acted, or is proposing to act unreasonably in determining if it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of a school or group of pupils or has failed to discharge its duty.

Governors' Guide to Collective Worship

Governors have a responsibility to ensure that daily collective worship is being adequately provided for in the school in relation to the schools designation, so it is important to include these areas of school life on the agenda for at least one meeting a year. This could be placed in the wider context of the school's provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Collective worship is 'special or separate from ordinary school activities' (DfE circular 1/94, para. 57) and should be provided outside of curriculum hours. Collective worship is not to be counted instead of time for any curriculum subject: 'schools [should] make adequate time available for collective worship in addition to the suggested minimum hours for lesson time' (DES circular 7/90, para 2).

It is advised that all schools have a statement that is available for staff, pupils, parents and prospective parents setting out clearly how they meet their statutory duty and the aims of collective worship in their school.

Monitoring Collective worship

- Who is responsible for leading Collective Worship, in terms of planning, staffing and evaluating it?
 - Is there a clear statement setting out how the school meets its statutory duty for daily collective worship for all pupils? Is it relevant to the school context and is it published?
 - Is there a planned programme for Collective worship that is of a wholly or broadly Christian Character?
 - Is parents' right to withdraw their children from collective worship included in the school prospectus/website/information?
 - How many requests for withdrawal from collective worship have been received in the past year, was there discussion with parents and what was the outcome of this? Has this raised any further concerns? How does the school respond to parental requests to withdraw children from collective worship?
- How are pupils, parents and visitors used in Collective Worship and how is this monitored?
 - How can we improve Collective worship further?
 - Has there been any external monitoring of collective worship, for example a SACRE monitoring visit?
 - Has use been made of the self-evaluation toolkit for RE and CW?
 - When observing a CW were all pupils and adults strongly engaged in the theme? Was there sufficient time given for a personal response to be made? Was the moment distinctive from lessons?
 - Do pupils value the experience that CW offers them that is different to lessons? Why or how do they?
 - How regularly do governors receive information, or collect first-hand information regarding collective worship in school?