

Application and accompanying documentation



HAMPSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION

APPLICATION FOR AN 'EXEMPTION FROM BROADLY CHRISTIAN COLLECTIVE  
WORSHIP (DETERMINATIONS) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROPRIATE  
EDUCATION ACTS (e.g. s.394 Education Act 1996,s.70 and Schedule 20 of School  
Standards and Framework Act 1998 )

**School:** Poulner Infant School & Nursery      **DfE number:** 116031

**Headteacher:** Jo Corner

**Tel. no.** 01425 472338

**Date of application for determination:** 17 January 2022

**Please provide:**

1. An explanation why a determination is needed
2. A current analysis of the religious diversity of the pupils at your school
3. Evidence of consultation with the governing body
4. Evidence of consultation with parents of children currently attending the school, if sought by the governing body

Head teachers may choose to provide information to SACRE on what the school's policy on collective worship is going to be, how it will be managed and details of the form it will take.

SACRE reserves the right to request further information concerning the consultations the school carried out with parents, governors and staff should this not be included in your submission.

SACRE can provide further advice if required.

Please return this form and any relevant attachments to:

Clerk to Hampshire SACRE  
Democratic and Member Services, Hampshire County Council  
Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ  
or by e-mail to: [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk)

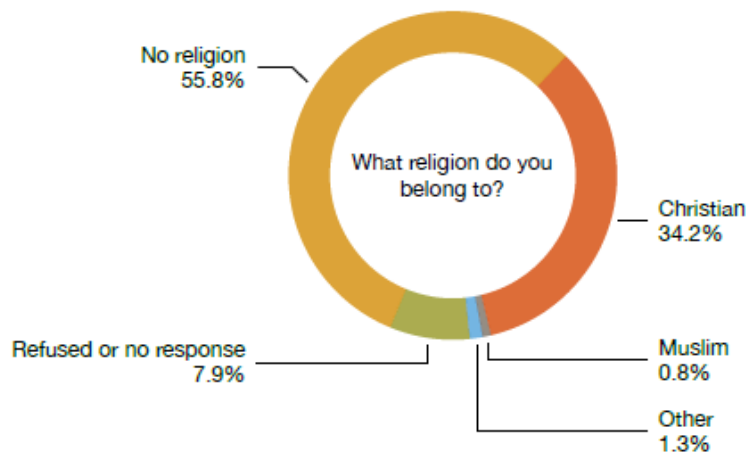
## Application for Determination Supporting Information

### *A current analysis of the religious diversity of the pupils at your school*

As an Infant School we have asked parents (rather than pupils) about their religion when joining the school. The graph below summarises the responses to the question “what religion do you belong to?”.

These figures are broadly in line with recent national polls which find that 37% of all adults<sup>1</sup> & 34% of adults under 55 living outside London<sup>2</sup> identify as Christian.

If anything it is likely the leading nature of the school survey question has resulted in slightly higher figures for those identifying with a religion compared to those not.



Religious affiliation of parents at  
Poulner Infant School & Nursery.

<sup>1</sup> British Social Attitudes Survey <https://www.bsa.natcen.ac.uk/latest-report/british-social-attitudes-36/religion.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Theos Religious London Research [https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/cmsfiles/Theos-Religious-London-Research\\_GB-ax-London\\_tables-final.pdf](https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/cmsfiles/Theos-Religious-London-Research_GB-ax-London_tables-final.pdf)

### ***An explanation why a determination is required***

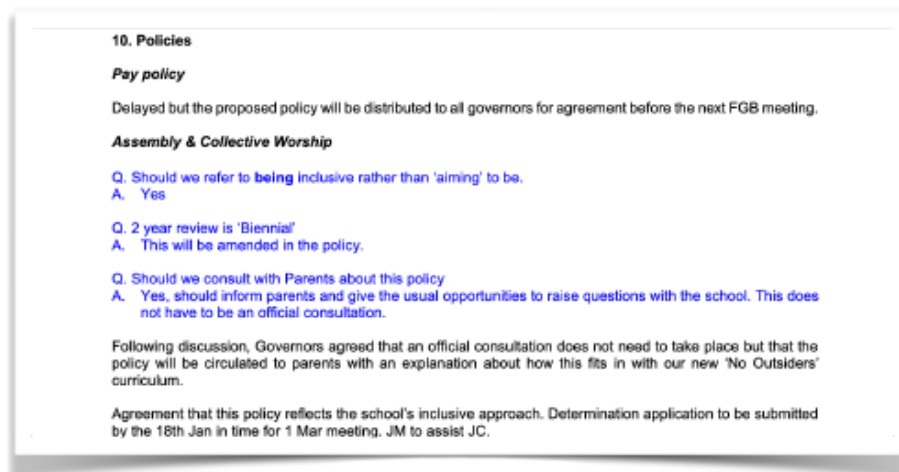
A determination is required because it is not appropriate for collective worship to be wholly or mainly reflective of the broad traditions of 'Christian belief'<sup>3</sup>. This is particularly so bearing in mind the family backgrounds of the pupils at our school - two thirds of parents do not identify as Christian. We find that parents increasingly exercise their choice by seeking out our community school as an alternative to nearby faith schools.

Our school has recently enhanced its awareness and teaching of the Equality Act in the UK, using resources like 'No Outsiders'. We also embrace the rights respecting approach promoted by The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The UNCRC has called on the UK Government to repeal the legal requirement for collective worship.<sup>4</sup> As long as the legal requirement for collective worship remains in place we feel a determination provides the best opportunity for us to provide inclusive assemblies.

### ***Evidence of consultation with the governing body***

The Head Teacher & Governing Body have discussed the school's approach to assemblies and collective worship on several occasions over the previous year and when considering an updated policy made the unanimous decision to seek a determination - an excerpt from our minutes is below. The governing body also decided to consult with parents.



Excerpt from (draft) minutes of whole governing body meeting 30 Nov 2021

### ***Evidence of consultation with parents of children currently attending the school, if sought by the governing body***

Please refer to the attached letter to parents. Parental feedback on the consultation was limited in number but wholly positive in nature & will be used by the school when developing assembly & collective worship.

<sup>3</sup> School Standards & Framework Act '98. Schedule 20. 3(3) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/31/schedule/20>

<sup>4</sup> UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Rights of the Child, List of issues prior to submission of the combined sixth and seventh reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: (pg4) [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/GBR/CRC\\_C\\_GBR\\_OPR\\_6-7\\_44382\\_E.pdf](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/GBR/CRC_C_GBR_OPR_6-7_44382_E.pdf)

# POULNER INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY

## Assembly & Collective Worship Policy

DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL	Reviewed by WGB
<b>Date of Changes</b>	<b>Summary of Changes</b>
Autumn 2	
Ratified at WGB meeting	<u>Autumn 2021</u>
To be reviewed	<u>Autumn 2023</u>
Signed By Michelle Buckler Chair of Governors	

## Assembly & Collective Worship Policy

*This policy has been developed in the context of the caring and thoughtful ethos of the school, where all members of the school community are valued and encouraged to take responsibility for themselves, others and the world around them.*

### Assemblies at Poulner Infant School and Nursery

At Poulner Infant School and Nursery assemblies offer opportunities for our children and staff to come together to reflect on the meaning of beliefs and values held in the wider community, concerning matters of ethical and philosophical importance or significance to people. Assemblies reflect the breadth of values and beliefs within our school and wider community.

In our assemblies we aim to encourage the children to:

- Reflect on their own values and beliefs as well as those of others
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- learn about the main tenets and rituals of the main world faiths & beliefs
- consider spiritual and moral issues

We have adopted the 'No Outsiders' curriculum to support our assemblies. 'No Outsiders' is used as a platform to prepare our children for life in modern Britain. It gives children the language to talk about diversity, community cohesion and inclusion. Ultimately it prepares the children for life as a global citizen.

### Implementation

As a school we hold an assembly every day of the week in the hall.

Timetable:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1.10pm No Outsiders Headteacher	1.10pm Theme Headteacher	1.10pm Theme Headteacher	1.10pm Singing and reflection Music Leader	9.10am Celebration with parents Headteacher/Deputy

The Headteacher, in consultation with the Senior Leadership team, plan themes that run through the academic year e.g. remembering, festivals such as Diwali, moral issues such as thinking of others or honesty and linked to the RSE curriculum.

We endeavour to provide opportunities for 'worship' through:

- having a special time set apart from the business of the school day
- giving time for reflection, private thoughts, giving thanks, celebrating, being still and noticing
- allowing children time to develop a concept of spirituality, to develop a sense of awe and wonder
- having a sense of belonging, for involvement, active response and sharing time

During Assembly we:

- Present imaginative, well prepared and resourced sessions
- relate to the interests and needs of the school
- aim to be inclusive - all children should gain something from the experience
- give opportunities for children to reflect on what was presented through discussion and in silence
- Involve the children by asking lots of questions and eliciting their view and ideas
- Involve the children in storytelling and role play

### **Collective Worship**

All maintained schools must provide a daily 'act of collective worship' for registered pupils. The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging this after consulting with the Governing Body.

Having regard to the family backgrounds of the children at the school, and following parental consultation, a 'determination' to allow 'acts of collective worship' that are appropriate for all children (rather than 'wholly or mainly reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief') was obtained.

### **Withdrawal**

This approach ensures our assemblies are appropriate for all children. The school encourages parents and carers to discuss any concerns they may have. If parents and carers wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and/or Religious Education they can do so by contacting the Headteacher.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The school will review this policy bi-annually and the 'determination' every five years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

November 2021

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Poulner Infant School and Nursery  
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Ringwood  
BH24 3LA  
01425 472 338

adminoffice@poulner-inf.sc.h.uk  
Headteacher: Mrs J Conner  
Chair of Governors: Mrs M Buckler

by email: members.services@hants.gov.uk

Friday, 13 May 2022

Dear Clerk to Hampshire SACRE

**Application for Determination on Collective Worship**

Further to your request please find the following information enclosed:

Governor meeting minutes at which assemblies & collective worship were discussed  
Our proposed Assembly & Collective Worship Policy  
Accompanying Equality Impact Assessment

As the school has very low levels of withdrawal from collective worship records are not kept separately for these. We believe theses low numbers reflect the fact that the school already operates the inclusive approach outlined in our policy and are hopeful that the new policy document will help demonstrate to the few families who are still concerned about collective worship e.g. Jehova's Witness, that withdrawal is not necessary.

It has taken a little time to find the relevant meeting minutes so apologies for the delay in replying. As you know we were surprised that the information listed on the application form was not sufficient. As SACRE'S application document says, we still think the principal consideration is quite straightforward.

*"The act of CW must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". For some schools this may not be appropriate, for example, if their pupils are predominantly from non-Christian faiths [or beliefs]."*

We look forward to hearing from you and would be grateful if you can make the panel meeting documents available to us, just as the SACRE meeting documents are publicly available.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Honner".