

## **Legal basis of SACRE's remit to monitor Collective Worship**

Guidance for schools is here:

- 1988 Education Reform Act sections 6 and 7 on Collective Worship being wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character:

[Education Reform Act 1988 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/20/contents)

- And the 1994 guidance:

[Collective worship in schools.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/264842/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf)

And this makes the following general points about what Collective Worship is:

“Worship' is not defined in the legislation and in the absence of any such definition it should be taken to have its natural and ordinary meaning. That is, it must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. However, worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.

58 Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

- There is also information in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 on Collective Worship:

[School Standards and Framework Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/26/contents)

- Many Hampshire maintained schools use the Hampshire guidelines contained in the RE pack “Collective Worship” available from the County RE Centre which define Collective Worship as:

a universal human activity which can be expressed as a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth. For many people, worship involves commitment to a belief in God. However, it can have a much broader and inclusive meaning. It can be a

*“form of human activity, when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us”.*

- Also attached is the NASACRE summary of what every SACRE should do, part of which is to monitor Collective Worship.