

**The Interfaith Education Centre
Supporting Separate Faith Worship**

“The major world faiths present in Britain today have many things in common, what unites them is greater than what divides them.”

Schools with a high proportion of pupils for whom worship that is ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’ would be inappropriate may apply to SACRE for a determination. This enables them to offer Separate Faith Worship, either for one faith group within the school (part determination), or for a number of different faith groups (a series of separate determinations).



Muslim Separate Faith Worship for the whole school.



Separate Faith Worship affirms the identity and experience of these Sikh pupils.

Separate Faith Worship is an opportunity for pupils to meet with others of the same faith for an act of worship which will reflect the teachings, traditions and beliefs of their faith, without being distinctive of any particular denomination or grouping.

Separate Faith Worship usually takes place on one day of the week with collective worship of an ‘inclusive’ nature ie drawing from a variety of faiths, on the other days.

Our Faith Tutor team have a wealth of experience in leading Separate Faith Worship across all phases and to a range of group sizes, from small group to whole school.

Each school is assigned their own member/members of the team who will lead Separate Faith Worship on a regular, timetabled, basis - usually weekly or fortnightly.

To find out more about how we can help support Separate Faith Worship please contact Seema Buttoo, Faith Tutor Co-ordinator;
seema.buttoo@educationbradford.com

“ Separate Faith Worship is a bridge between home and school.”

Year 6 participant in the ‘7000 Hours’ project.

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Applying for a Determination.

Identify the need—are there many pupils for whom worship that is ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’ is not appropriate ?

Discuss with key stakeholders ie parents, governors, staff, pupils, **the most appropriate provision;**

Separate Faith Worship

A series of determinations for each faith group that is going to meet.

Part Determination

Enabling one faith group to meet whilst other children continue to attend collective worship that is ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’.

Whole School Determination

Collective worship will be inclusive and draw from a variety of faiths.

The Headteacher in conjunction with the Governing Body should decide if/what sort of determination will be applied for.

The SACRE ‘Application for Section 12 Determination’ should be completed and returned to the Clerk to SACRE, signed by the Chair of Governors.

The application will be put before the next meeting of SACRE and the school will be informed of the outcome. Advice will be given if the application has been turned down.

Determination

Exemption from broadly Christian collective worship, this is granted by your local SACRE.

A determination may also give exemption from the requirement to meet in ‘normal’ school groupings eg faith groups instead of class, year, phase or whole school.

Frequently asked questions.

Do we have to have Separate Faith Worship ?

The Headteacher in conjunction with the Governing body is responsible for deciding the appropriate provision of collective worship and may wish to consider alternative forms of determination— schools are strongly advised to consult with parents/carers.

What about children who don’t have a faith ?

The school should provide an alternative act of inclusive collective worship for children whose parents do not wish them to attend a faith worship group. It is good practice to give this group a name such as ‘Rainbow Group’. This should offer an alternative opportunity to promote spiritual and moral development. Parents may exercise the right to withdraw pupils from this.

Do we have to use staff from the IEC ?

No, but you will find that they have experience of leading worship in a school context and participate in regular training and review.

Current legislation and government guidance can be found in Circular 1/94.

For advice and information please contact;

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