



# **MOUNT STEWART**

## **FEDERATION**

**Report of the consultation on the Determination of collective worship at  
The Mount Stewart Schools Federation 2023.**

## **CONTENTS**

This report describes the background, the process, and the findings of the consultation of a determination for collective worship for The Mount Stewart Schools Federation.

**It has five main sections:**

1. Introduction – provides brief background information
2. Consultation process – includes a list of the various stakeholder groups and describes how they were approached
3. Consultation findings – presents the detailed results
4. Conclusion
5. Recommendations – submitted by the Headteacher for consideration and vote by the Governing Body on December

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Both the infant and junior schools at Mount Stewart historically held determinations for collective worship. Post-2015, the infant school reverted to Christian-based worship due to the lapse of their determination, while a new determination was approved in 2019 but lapsed after COVID. The leadership team believes that continuing with a collective worship format reflective of the school's diverse community will enrich the curriculum across the federation.

### **2. CONSULTATION PROCESS**

The consultation, adhering to Brent SACRE's guidelines, spanned approximately seven weeks, from 10th October to 20th December 2023. Documentation was disseminated via email and accessible on the school's website, including a letter outlining the consultation's purpose and a response Google Form. Stakeholders, including parents/carers and staff, were provided multiple response avenues and opportunities to discuss the determination at designated times.

The consultation pack comprised:

- A letter outlining the reasons for the consultation
- A response Google form;

The schools' correspondence with parents regularly included reminders about the consultation and the need to provide feedback.

In addition, staff were invited to raise any questions about the determination at weekly briefings and through their phase leaders.

Reminders about the consultation and the need to provide feedback were regularly included in the schools' correspondence with staff via email and briefings.

### **3. CONSULTATION FINDINGS**

A total of 4 responses were received during the consultation period through various means like Google Forms, telephone, and email. Although the concerns varied among respondents, some specific views included preferences for Christian worship and appreciation for the school's diverse approach to faith and prayer.

Responses informed the Governing Body and the Headteacher, contributing to the leadership team's understanding.

As well as general comments and observations, some specific questions were raised, including:

- *We would not like to educate our kid on any religious belief*
- *I prefer to stick with Christian community so, I strongly disagree to this proposal for my child*
- *Regarding the SACRE consultation period. I wanted to express my delight at the current approach. Brent is a hugely diverse borough and the school should be commended for embracing this when it comes to the observance of prayer and respect for all faiths.*

Each parent was responded to individually by email. It was explained that as a multi-faith school, we teach about all religions, we encourage the children to question and have personal reflection, but we do not teach them how to pray. Each respondent was sent the collect worship policy (also available on the website), and the Brent SACRE guidance for information and invited into the school to observe an assembly. None accepted the offer to observe an additional assembly. All parents are invited to two learning assemblies over the year for each of their children.

### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

A total of 4 responses were received during the consultation period through various means like Google Forms, telephone, and email. Although the concerns varied among respondents, some specific views included preferences for Christian worship and appreciation for the school's diverse approach to faith and prayer.

Responses informed the Governing Body and the Headteacher, contributing to the leadership team's understanding.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations for both schools to apply for a determination for collective worship were considered and voted on by the Governing Body on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December.

The leadership team would like to thank all those who participated in the consultation process.