

APPLICATION FOR A DETERMINATION

That Section 394 (1) of the Education Act 1996 should NOT apply to a school.

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| 1. Name of School: |
| Wykeham Primary School |
| 2. Head Teacher: |
| Mrs Gurvinder Notay |
| 3. Pupils to whom application applies: |
| This application applies to the whole school. |
| 4. Outline reasons for application: |
| <p>Diverse faith backgrounds of the school community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our school serves a highly diverse community, with pupils and families from a wide range of faiths and beliefs. Adopting a multi-faith approach to collective worship ensures that all pupils feel included and respected, regardless of their personal religious or spiritual background. This approach reflects the cultural diversity of the school and fosters an environment of mutual respect and understanding among pupils of different faiths. <p>Promoting inclusivity and equality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The multi-faith approach helps to promote inclusivity by ensuring that no single faith is favoured over another. This is particularly important for our pupils, who come from various cultural and religious traditions, as it promotes a sense of belonging for all. By using a multi-faith model, we avoid alienating pupils who may not identify with the dominant faith narrative, allowing them to feel respected and valued within the school community. <p>Supporting the spiritual and moral development of pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective worship is an essential aspect of our school's commitment to nurturing the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils. A multi-faith approach enables us to explore shared moral and ethical values across different religions, fostering a broader understanding of spirituality and morality. This approach encourages pupils to reflect on the school's values of Respect, Responsibility, Tolerance, Co-operation, Excellence, Equality and Enjoyment as well as showing kindness, and compassion, which are fundamental to the development of well-rounded, empathetic individuals. <p>Legal and educational requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the legal requirements for collective worship, all schools must provide a daily act of worship that is of a broadly Christian character unless a determination has been granted. Given the religious diversity within our school, the multi-faith approach is a natural and appropriate solution, aligning with both legal guidelines and the educational ethos of inclusivity. By applying for a determination, we ensure that our collective worship provision is in line with statutory obligations while also being meaningful and relevant to all pupils. <p>Support from school stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have consulted with a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, staff, and governors, to seek feedback on our collective worship practices. The consensus has been that a multi-faith approach best reflects the school's values and supports the needs of our diverse community. The feedback we have received indicates broad support for this approach, with stakeholders recognising its importance in fostering community cohesion and promoting respect for all faiths. |

Commitment to a shared educational vision:

- The multi-faith approach aligns with the school's values. It supports our vision of preparing pupils for life in a multicultural and multi-faith society, equipping them with the skills, and understanding needed to engage respectfully with others, regardless of differences in belief or culture.

Provision of a broad and balanced curriculum:

- A multi-faith approach to collective worship enhances our curriculum by incorporating elements of world religions and spiritual practices. This exposure to different belief systems encourages pupils to develop a broader perspective and deepens their understanding of global cultures, contributing to their overall education and personal development.

Flexibility to tailor worship to the needs of the school community:

- A determination would allow the school to continue providing collective worship that is adaptable and responsive to the evolving needs of our school community. This flexibility is crucial for addressing the unique challenges and opportunities that arise in a diverse educational environment.

5. Outline details of consultation with governors:

The application was initially discussed with the Chair of Governors on 29/04/2025. This was shared at the Governors' meeting on 24/06/2025. The governors unanimously stated their wish to continue with existing practice based on a multi-faith approach and to follow SACRE's Recommended Approach.

6. Outline of details of consultation with parents:

A letter was sent to parents on 14/05/2025 (copy attached) informing them of the Headteacher's decision to renew a determination based on our evaluation of the present practice and inviting them to respond if they objected. No parents objected to this application.

7. Outline of proposed provision for collective worship
Frequency and timing:

- Collective worship will take place daily, in accordance with statutory requirements. It will generally be held during morning assemblies or at other suitable times within the school day, depending on the school timetable.
- All pupils and staff will be invited to take part in collective worship, ensuring that the whole school community is involved. Worship will be structured to be age-appropriate for different year groups.

Content and focus:

- The content of collective worship will adopt a multi-faith approach, encompassing various religious and spiritual traditions. It will reflect Christianity, as well as other major world religions such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and humanism.
- Worship themes will focus on universal and the school's values and shared moral teachings, including kindness and empathy. These values, which are common across different belief systems, will be explored through storytelling, music, prayer, reflection, and discussion.
- Religious holidays and festivals from different faith traditions will be celebrated throughout the year, providing pupils with the opportunity to learn about and appreciate a variety of cultural and religious practices.

Inclusive and non-denominational approach:

- The collective worship will be designed to be inclusive, ensuring that no single religion is favoured over others. Instead, the focus will be on universal values, exploring a range of beliefs in a manner that promotes understanding and respect.

- For example, pupils may be invited to engage in a moment of reflection, which could include prayers or meditations from different faith traditions. However, pupils will always have the option to remain silent or engage in a non-religious reflection, respecting individual preferences.

Engagement:

- Pupils will be actively encouraged to take part in collective worship. Opportunities will be provided for students to contribute through readings, performances, or by leading parts of the worship.
- Pupils will also be invited to reflect on the messages of the worship through creative activities such as writing, drawing, or role-playing. This will help them internalise the values and ideas shared during worship and promote thoughtful reflection.

Staff involvement and leadership:

- Staff will play an active role in leading and supporting collective worship. Depending on the theme, teachers may share personal reflections or stories related to the values being explored.
- We will occasionally invite external speakers from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds to lead or contribute to collective worship, further enriching the experience and broadening pupils' understanding of different perspectives.

Reflecting the school's values:

- The proposed provision for collective worship will be fully aligned with the school's values of Respect, Responsibility, Tolerance, Co-operation, Excellence, Equality and Enjoyment. It will aim to foster a sense of belonging and shared purpose, regardless of pupils' individual religious or cultural backgrounds.
- We will ensure that collective worship is always conducted in a positive, respectful environment where pupils feel comfortable to participate, reflect, and learn from one another's viewpoints.

Parental and community involvement:

- Parents and carers will be invited to take part in or observe collective worship when appropriate. We also encourage parents to share their own cultural and religious perspectives, enriching the experience for the entire school community.
- We will keep parents and carers informed about the themes and content of collective worship through regular communication, providing opportunities for feedback and discussion to ensure transparency and inclusivity.

Evaluation and adaptation:

- The collective worship provision will be regularly reviewed to ensure it remains relevant and meets the evolving needs of the school community. Feedback will be sought from pupils, staff, and parents, and used to refine and improve the worship experience.
- As the school community develops, we will continue to adapt the provision of collective worship to reflect changes in the religious and cultural diversity of our pupils.

8. Signature of Head Teacher:

Gurvinder Notay
Acting Headteacher