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# 1. Introduction and Policy

## 1a. Introduction from Kent SACRE and the Advisory Service Kent

The Kent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and the Advisory Service Kent (ASK) are pleased to offer this guidance which builds on and replaces that provided by us in 1994 and 1997. It is primarily for **community and foundation without a religious character schools**. Controlled, foundation and aided schools and academies with a religious character may find it helpful in addressing the principles of planning and delivery to develop good practice in accordance with the requirements of their trust deeds/articles of government<sup>1</sup>.

- It aims to support schools in meeting their statutory requirements with regard to collective worship by providing high quality educational experiences and opportunities that contribute to promoting the spiritual development of all pupils<sup>2</sup>.
- It explains and exemplifies key areas of legal requirements and educational thinking about the role and importance of collective worship in schools. Quality collective worship makes a vital contribution to developing and reinforcing a school's ethos and values and to the provision made for opportunities to support the spiritual (moral, social and cultural) development of all its pupils. Ofsted judgments about a school can be influenced heavily by the quality and impact of collective worship.
- Legally in community and foundation without a religious character schools the majority of acts of collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' but this does not preclude consideration of other faiths and/or secular viewpoints. This is important for us in Kent as we want to celebrate and reinforce the Christian heritage and contemporary Christian experience of our county as well as including those from other faiths and none. In this way collective worship can provide opportunities to develop a reflective understanding of 'self', 'others' and 'God' thus contributing towards enhancing community cohesion.

## 1b. Kent SACRE Policy for Collective Worship

The key function of SACRE is to offer advice to the Local Authority on matters pertaining to religious education (RE) and collective worship. In order to offer relevant advice and to fulfil our statutory duty with regard to collective worship we:

- monitor the provision and quality of collective worship in schools;
- consider determinations and complaints;
- support schools in partnership with ASK by offering guidance and training.

Kent SACRE encourages all our schools to provide collective worship which offers opportunities for pupils to worship and reflect on key issues to do with life and living.

We remind all our schools that they are required to:

- ensure that legal requirements for collective worship are met.

We recommend that all our community and foundation without a religious character schools:

- produce a policy statement and implement a collective worship programme in line with the guidance offered in this document.

We recommend this because doing so will contribute towards helping schools meet their legal obligations with regard to collective worship.

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<sup>1</sup> Church schools should read the guidance provided in Appendix 9a (Anglican schools) and Appendix 9b (Catholic schools) before proceeding with reading the rest of this document.

<sup>2</sup> A daily act of collective worship should be provided for all pupils/students on the school roll from Reception through to the Sixth Form.