

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

### **You asked:**

- 1. Since January 1 2012 - How many schools within the council's area have applied for a determination so they no longer have to provide an act of worship which is broadly Christian in nature? Can you provide a list of those schools who have applied for a determination? In the case of each school can the council state why the school was applying for a determination. In each case can the council provide copies of any written communications and correspondence (Including emails) with the school and or with its local SACRE which specifically relate to the application for a determination?**
- 2. Could the council please state how many of these determinations have been approved and or how many are pending? In the case of each determination can you state what alternative forms of worship have been introduced and or are pending? Could the council please provide copies of any relevant written material (including emails) which relates to these alternatives?**
- 3. Could the council please state how many schools have applied for determinations in each of the previous four years (2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011). Can you please state how many of these were successful?**
- 4. Can the council state how many schools in its area have either successfully applied for a determination or are not providing an assembly which is broadly Christian in nature.**

Four schools had their determinations renewed between January 2012 and July 2012. Details for each of these schools determinations are minuted;

Sandfield Close Primary: Minutes for March 2012

Spinney Hill Primary School: Minutes for May 2012

Sparkenhoe Community Primary and Medway Community Primary; minutes for Sept 2012 meeting.

These schools have applied for a renewal of their existing determination because they serve a mainly non-Christian community where it is difficult to provide acts of worship which are both relevant to and respectful of children's own faith and traditions whilst also meeting the requirements of Circular 1/94. In particular these schools find it difficult to provide collective worship which is *'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'* (1998 Act) and which contains *'some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ'* (Circular 1/94). All

the schools anticipate that if they fully comply with the requirements of the act many parents would exercise their legal rights and withdraw their children from collective worship. They also anticipate that some teachers would exercise their legal right of withdrawal.

Each school received a letter letting them know that their determinations had been approved. These letters are also attached.

The number of schools renewing their determinations from 2008-2011 is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No of Determinations</b>	<b>Primary/Secondary</b>
2008	4	All Primary schools
2009	2	All Primary schools
2010	5	All Primary schools
2011	5	All Primary schools

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager**

**Information and Support**

**Leicester City Council**

**FREEPOST (LE985/33)**

**New Walk Centre**

**LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**

e-mail: [info-requests@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:info-requests@leicester.gov.uk)

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner's Office**

**Wycliffe House**

**Water Lane**

**Wilmslow SK9 5AF**

**Telephone: 01625 545 700**

[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.