

## **Determination Application – Baylis Court School**

### **Rationale**

The school had requested an extension of the previous determination. The purpose of this report is to support the application.

### **Findings of the SACRE LA Officer**

**Date of visit: 27.09.10**

### **Overview**

Having met with senior staff within the school I can confirm that this application is based on a continuation of practice previously agreed. The school has a multi faith population and wants their collective worship to reflect this. Current the numbers on roll (850) make it impossible for the whole school to meet in one place due to accommodation restrictions. A pattern of assemblies has therefore been developed to ensure all pupils have access to assemblies in different settings each week. Two take place in the school hall, two in tutor rooms and 1 in the canteen.

All assemblies follow weekly themes that are published in a booklet for each term. These themes cover broad moral and spiritual topics and reflect different cultural and religious beliefs. Two assemblies in each week are led by the pupils themselves and it is clear that they bring the school community together to develop a strong moral code and awareness of a variety of faith backgrounds and help develop social and community cohesion. This has been remarked on by Ofsted, as a strength of the school. As a specialist Arts College, the school encourages the sharing of performance arts as a prelude to each assembly in the hall.

My judgement is that the school provides a comprehensive and well-planned programme of assemblies that is appropriate to the background and needs of its students.

### **Observation of Assembly**

The assembly I observed was very well organised. It was well led by the member of staff who was leading the assembly. The focus was on the challenges that face all of us, and how we may strive to do our best. This was compared to the striving to be **the** best in relation to any activity, with examples being drawn from competitive sport, and the temptation faced by athletes to cheat. The assembly encouraged engagement from the girls, who participated very actively, and made many interesting points and observations. Overall the experience was stimulating, thought provoking and quite moving and pupils participated with due respect and attention.

### **Recommendation**

I was impressed with the thought, care and sensitivity with which the assembly programme has been put together and the way in which the assemblies are delivered. I have no hesitation in recommending that SACRE agree to the determination being extended.

Dennis Kitchener  
Interim Head of Standards  
Slough Borough Council  
30.09.10