Dear Families,

We are writing to you as part of a consultation process on how we will practice collective worship at George Dixon Academy.

All non-faith maintained schools and academies must provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered students. At George Dixon Academy we promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all our students, this must reflect the teaching and practices of many principal religions. Collective worship is intended to be educational, and aims to provide all individuals with an insight into other faiths and backgrounds.

The requirements describe that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, this should be appropriate for most students across the country. The 'determination' procedure, allows these requirements to be lifted in respect of some or all of the students in a school where they are inappropriate.

In determining this, The Department for Education, is to have regard to any circumstances relating to the faith backgrounds of the students which are relevant for deciding the nature of collective worship. As George Dixon Academy is an academy of many faith backgrounds, we are informing you that we are applying for a determination.

Schools and academies have to apply for a determination if the establishment for religious reasons believes collective worship which lends itself to the broad traditions of Christian belief are not appropriate for their students.

As mentioned, collective worship is for educational purposes, at George Dixon Academy, our aim is to fulfil this purpose and ensure students are educated about religious and non – religious beliefs.

Please contact Louise Harris (Deputy Director of Social Sciences), if you have any further questions or if you would like to discuss the above.