



# Worship Policy: Love, Truth and Forgiveness

January 2025

## Legal Requirements

1. The 1994 Education Act, 1988 Education Reform Act and DFE Circular 1/94 state that governors are responsible for providing a daily act of worship for all pupils not withdrawn by parents on grounds of conscience. The act should usually be in school, it may be at any time of day and not all pupils need to be gathered in one place.
2. The content of the Act of Worship must be in accordance with the trust deed (the Anglican Church).
3. The inspection of the Act of Worship must be under section 13 of the 1992 Act. This must be arranged, by the governors, near the time the school is inspected by Ofsted. The inspector shall be qualified and on the Diocesan list.
4. The whole governing body, not just one, or several governors, have a corporate responsibility to provide the act of worship, to inform parents of their right of withdrawal and to set up a complaints procedure and appeals for parents dissatisfied with the act of worship.

At St Katharine's CEPS collective worship is a denominational one and is in accordance with the trust deeds, that to say, in conformity with the beliefs and traditions of the Church of England.

Collective worship is **at the heart** of school life and contributes to the Christian ethos of the school. Collective worship includes specific beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith. Our Worship draws upon the Church of England heritage and also on occasion upon the rich tapestry of practice in the worldwide church. Collective worship promotes strong links with St Katharine's Anglican Church and also an awareness of other local Christian churches and the common beliefs we all share.

At St Katharine's Knockholt, a worship co-ordinator is responsible for the day-to-day organisation and reporting to the governing body through regular meetings with the link governor. The themes for worship will allow a mixed age group to participate in a meaningful and relevant way at different levels of understanding.

## Aims

- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship God
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- To develop links with local churches and introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England
- To contribute to the spirituality and moral development of the pupils
- To help pupils develop the skills necessary for worship e.g.: reflection, silence and prayer

The headteacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. This may take place at any time of day and not all pupils need to be gathered in one place.

The whole governing body has a corporate responsibility to see that a daily Act of Worship is provided, that the provision is in line with diocesan policy and to inform parents of their right to withdrawal.





### **The organisation of School Worship**

The Senior Leadership team and Rector plan Worship themes on a Termly basis.

Monday	Whole School led by
Tuesday	Whole School led by
Wednesday	Whole School led by Mrs
Thursday	Whole School Worship led by Mrs
Friday	Whole School led by

Each class gets an opportunity to plan at least one assembly a year, and this is shared with parents. Termly acts of worship take place in the church and these are planned and led by Y6.

A typical assembly starts with reflective music, a biblically based message, a Worship hymn or song and a prayer. A candle is often lit. Y6 children help with organisation and preparation.

### **Parents' rights to withdraw pupils from School Worship**

This is an important part of our school day, and we hope that everyone will feel able to participate. However, under the 1996 Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. We would appreciate it if parents would discuss this with the Headteacher prior to making the decision.

