Collective Worship Policy

St Katharine's Knockholt Church of England (VA) Primary School

Date of policy:	September 2026
Date of last review:	September 2026
Date of next review:	September 2029
Policy authorised by:	Governing Body
Policy approved date:	November 2026

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TEAM

Headteachers: Sarah-Jane Tormey and Xanthe Veneziani

St Katharine's Church: Rev Tim Edwards

Link Governor: Rev Tim Edwards

Policy Author: Xanthe Veneziani

Daily Collective Worship is at the heart of school life at St Katharine's and contributes to the Christian ethos of the school. St Katharine's is committed to an inclusive Christian ethos based on respect for, and celebration of, all children and stakeholders regardless of gender, disability, faith and racial diversity. This policy aims to ensure that all children will be able to access Collective Worship fully. This policy aims to ensure that our Collective Worship will enrich and develop the spiritual lives of every child at St Katharine's, supporting them and preparing them to become independent, reflective and empathetic members of our global society. Collective worship includes specific beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith. 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, drawing on its heritage and, on occasion, upon the rich tapestry of practice in the worldwide church.

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Act and DFE Circular 1/94 state that governors are responsible for providing a daily act of worship for all pupils not withdrawn by parents on grounds of conscience.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 the current Section 48 Church School Inspection Framework. . 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.

Collective Worship is planned and timetabled by the Headteachers, who are responsible for reporting to the governing body through regular meetings with the link governor. The whole governing body, however, 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.

Our acts of Collective Worship follow the guidance and teachings of the Church of England, through use of the Rochester Diocese Assembly materials. The themes for worship will allow a mixed age group to participate in a meaningful and relevant way at different levels of understanding.

Our Collective Worship values all children in our school community, irrespective of their background, be it of another faith, or no faith. We seek to nurture children spiritually as they reflect on the teachings of Jesus and become familiar with liturgy, symbols, festivals and key elements of the Christian faith. We encourage all children to participate actively, at an age-appropriate level, in varied acts of Worship which may include Bible reading,

music, singing, drama, prayer, reflection and moments of silence. Collective Worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. All members of our school community are welcome and valued at our acts of Worship. In summary, the aims of our Collective Worship are:

- 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 eg reflection, silence and prayer

THE ORGANISATION OF DAILY WORSHIP

Monday	Whole School led by Miss Tormey or Mrs Veneziani
Tuesday	Whole School led by Rev Tim Edwards or Nick Batt
Wednesday	Whole School, with a focus on worship through singing, led by Miss Tormey or Mrs Veneziani
Thursday	Worship in Key Stages led by Class Teachers
Friday	Whole School Celebration led by Mrs Veneziani

A typical worship starts with a hymn as children enter, includes a biblically based message and an opportunity for children to lead prayer, using the "prayer hands". Y6 children help with organisation and preparation.

In addition, there are class-led acts of Worship, to which parents and carers are invited. These take place in school and include: Year R Nativity, KS1 Nativity and Year 3 and 4 Easter Play.

At the start of the year, children in Year R take part in daily worship within their classroom, led by the class teacher. When ready (this is cohort specific), they join in with Key Stage and whole school Worship.

THE ROLE OF MUSIC AND SINGING IN WORSHIP

Music and singing are central to our worship at St Katharine's Knockholt. They provide a powerful means for children to express their faith, creativity, and emotions, fostering a sense of unity and joy within our school community. We believe every child should have the opportunity to participate and find their voice in worship, whether through singing, playing instruments, or contributing to musical expression. By encouraging active involvement, we aim to nurture confidence, celebrate individuality, and ensure that all children feel valued and heard in our shared spiritual life.

LINKS WITH ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH

In addition to weekly collective worship led by Rev Tim or Nick Batt, at various times during the academic year whole school worship takes place at St Katharine's Church:

Term 1 – Harvest

Term 2 – Christmas Carol Service

Term 4 – Easter Service

Term 6 – Leavers' Service (KS2 with Year 6 parents and carers)

PARENTS' RIGHTS TO WITHDRAW PUPILS FROM SCHOOL WORSHIP

This is an important part of our school day, and we hope that everyone will feel included and able to participate. However, under the 1996 Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children form collective worship.