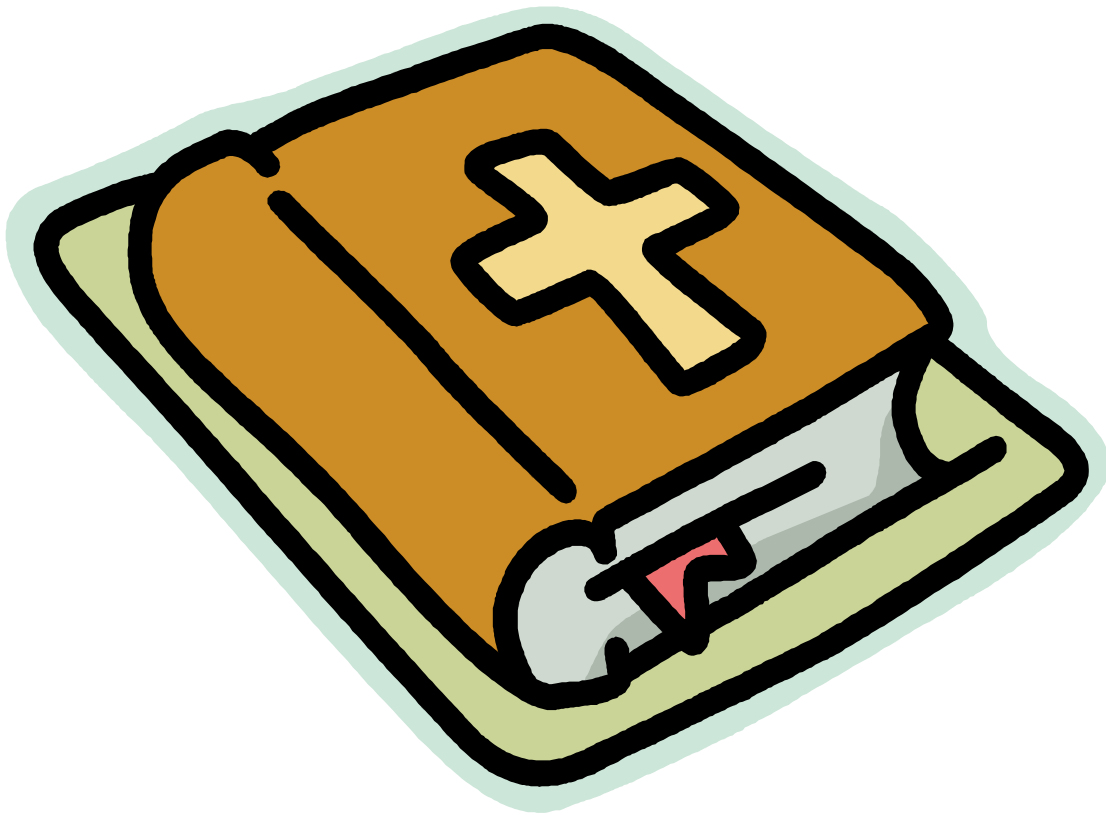


St. Andrew's CEVC Primary School, Great Yeldham.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY DOCUMENT



**Reviewed Autumn Term 2010
(Maria Trappitt)**

**St Andrew's CEVC Primary School
Church Road
Great Yeldham
Halstead
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CO9 4PT**

Introduction

At St Andrew's School, Great Yeldham, all children come together as a community to share and integrate the life, work and values of our school. We meet the requirements of the 1988 Education Act, providing a daily act of Collective Worship as part of the assembly which occurs on the school premises and it is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature."

Worship is about things of worth, things we value:

"I think worship is when your heart and mind and yourself are caught up into something that is bigger than you are and which is sort of special, call it spiritual..."

(Jim Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1994).

As stated in Circular 1/94, at St Andrew's we aim to "*... provide the Opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.*"

St Andrew's is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School serving our village and the surrounding area. Some of our children have a regular active involvement as members of the Christian church and a few children belong to other faiths.

Aims

In our school we aim to help the children to:

- Develop a deeper awareness and understanding of themselves, their feelings and experiences.
- To foster an appreciation of the feelings and needs of others, to develop a sense of community within the school and a sense of being part of a wider community.
- To make explicit and to celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for the children as individuals, the school and the wider community.
- To celebrate difference and diversity.

- To celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of individuals, the school and the wider community.
- To endeavour to create a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them and an appreciation of beauty and mystery.
- To enable children to use silence for stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation and if appropriate, prayer.
- To provide suitable opportunities for children to express their beliefs and feelings in worship.
- To encourage a receptive attitude towards faith and particularly the Christian religion.

In Practice

In order to provide opportunities for children to participate in worship and respond in a more positive way, we have planned the following program for Collective Worship:

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| Monday | Whole school Assembly in Hall, at 10.15, with Head teacher. |
| Tuesday | Whole school Assembly in Hall, at 10.15, with school Rector and/or another visitor. |
| Wednesday | Key Stage Assemblies in Hall , at 09.15, KS2 and 10.15, KS1, with class teacher. |
| Thursday | Whole school Assembly in Hall, at 10.15, with Class teacher. |
| Friday | Whole school Assembly in Hall, at 10.15, with Head teacher. Class assemblies, celebrating work, including hymn and prayer, with parents invited, twice a year for each class. |

The Key Stage Assemblies enable the children of similar age to meet, giving more opportunities to respond and ask questions on an individual basis, with assembly topics finely honed to meet the needs of the Key Stage. Whole school assembly foster the development of the community spirit.

Music is played as the children enter and depart from Assembly and it is used to create the atmosphere of a "special occasion". Through experiencing and listening to a wide variety of music we are also giving the children opportunities to develop their musical appreciation. Hymns and songs, of

varying styles, are chosen to fit in with the theme of the Collective Worship, if appropriate. Recorders are sometimes used to accompany the singing.

Prayers are chosen by the staff or written by children to fit the theme, when appropriate, and an attempt is made to vary the types of prayer used. A time of "reflection" and "thinking" is also included as part of the act of Collective Worship.

The children are encouraged to participate in and respond to the worship in a variety of different ways, including: stories, music, drama, movement, art and craft, poetry and prose.

The document 'Guidance for the Daily Collective Act of Worship', should be consulted for detailed guidance on the content, practicalities and resources available to implement this policy.

Planning, Record Keeping and Monitoring

A two year rolling programme of 'Themes' have been planned and are explored on a weekly basis. They are linked to the Christian Calendar, Festivals, Topics/Themes from the schools Long Term Curriculum Planning and the celebration of special occasions throughout the year, including events which occur within the school.

Daily records of the acts of Collective Worship are kept in a readily accessible folder. Monitoring procedures are carried out by the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship and the Rector of St Andrew's Church.

Withdrawals

The 1988 Education Act allows for parents to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship if they so wish, because of their own religious beliefs. When such withdrawals are requested, provision will be made for the child to be withdrawn from the act of worship as appropriate. Members of staff may also withdraw on request, but the school encourages its staff to participate, in order to develop the school ethos of a community spirit.

Links with the Church

Services are held at least once a term in church and include Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leaver's Service. In addition to the services held

at the church, the Rector leads an act of Collective Worship every week and other visitors are regularly welcomed into the school throughout the year.

Visitors

Visiting speakers are invited to the school to lead and participate in the acts of Collective Worship and they are asked to contribute to the theme of the week. Where possible, visitors are included in the planning procedures, but flexibility is important. They are made to feel welcome in our school and an attempt is made to involve them as part of the "school family."

Reviewed by M Trappitt – October 2010

Shared with staff October 2010

Shared with Governors November 2010

Review date – October 2013