



Cramlington Village Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

July 2020

“Empowering everyone to achieve”

Policy Title	Collective Worship
Policies that interrelate	
Legal and Statutory documents linked	Education Act 1996
Governor Committee responsibility	Education
Date of last review	October 2016, July 2020
Reviewer name and position	J Bain, HLTA
Date of next review	July 2022
Date approved by Governors	
Audit file updated (date and name)	

The role of Collective Worship in the life of our school

Collective worship makes a valuable contribution to the life of Cramlington Village Primary School. It provides an opportunity for members of the school community to pause from activity, to gather, to remind themselves of and to reflect upon the beliefs and values which bind the school community together. It also allows those both with and without religious commitment to sense what worship is and to reflect deeply. In this way we aim both to affirm and to protect the integrity of the whole school community.

In particular, Collective Worship in our school

- Provides an opportunity for members of the school community to stop activity, to pause and to reflect on important issues.
- Builds up the sense of group identity.
- Gives pupils the experience of being still or silent.
- Provides an opportunity for meeting at times of celebration, worries, sadness or sorrow.
- Provides an opportunity for highlighting and reflecting upon core school values – such as striving to be honest and truthful, trying hard in all things, respecting oneself as well as other people, striving to be fair and just, being kind and offers the opportunity to mark significant points in the year such as festivals and school events.

Our School and the Law on Collective Worship

At Cramlington Village Primary School we acknowledge that the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the 1996 Education Act sets out the law regarding Collective Worship and we ensure that the 'broadly Christian character' requirement is achieved in the majority of our Acts of Collective Worship over the course of a school term. We do this in a number of ways, for example, by

- Making reference to God or Jesus, when appropriate (but being sensitive to the nature of the school community and guarding against the assumption that simply to use such words somehow creates 'worship' or 'legality'.)
- Encouraging a positive and responsible attitude to the environment.
- Encouraging a quest for honesty, integrity, justice and truth.
- Encouraging children to look beyond the obvious, the immediate and the material.
- Encouraging kindness, love and respect for self and others.
- Encouraging service to others and to the community.

- Building Christian festivals into the yearly programme (which does not, of course preclude focusing on festivals from other faith traditions as well)

At Cramlington Village Primary School we seek to make Collective Worship as inclusive as possible. Therefore we:

- Recognise that there are many forms of commitment, religious and non-religious.
- Regard variety – in religion, culture and belief- as something to be acknowledged and explored rather than avoided and denied.
- Build religious festivals from a variety of cultural and religious traditions into our yearly programme.

Collective Worship and the School Curriculum

At Cramlington Village Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship is in 'dialogue' with the curriculum i.e.

- Collective Worship draws from the curriculum – by providing an opportunity to reflect on and highlight classroom work.
- Collective Worship feeds back into the curriculum-by providing ideas and suggestions which can be followed up in the classroom.
- Collective Worship is also an opportunity to consider and reflect on concerns, issues and interests.

The organisation of Collective Worship in our school

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis for all year groups either in a gathering of the whole school, a year group, key stages or class group.

Acts of Collective Worship will usually last for 20 minutes, although it is recognised that the time may be extended or reduced as appropriate.

Record Keeping

We recognise the importance and value of record keeping. Collective Worship leaders are encouraged to keep a clear and simple record by using a simple grid which is available. (Appendix 1,2,3)

- Records are kept **on the drive** where staff can both complete the details of Collective Worship for which they have been responsible and glance at the structure and content of those led by others. Records may be used to provide material to show to and discuss with OFSTED inspectors.

Evaluation

Staff meetings will discuss if necessary the assembly contents which are also often discussed by pupils during school council. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for next term.

The right of parents to withdraw their children from Acts of Collective Worship

At Cramlington Village Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community. However we respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. The school expects that the withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Principal/Collective Worship Coordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Our school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However no additional work is set or followed at this time.

The right of staff to withdraw from Acts of Collective Worship

All teachers, including the Principal, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Principal, should he or she exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in our school. The right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

The Role of Governors

The Governing Body will review this policy formally two years from the date of its adoption. Informal review may be necessary in the interim and should take place when required. This Policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Cramlington Village Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors, Principal and the Collective Worship Coordinator in conjunction with all staff two years from the date on the cover page.

Appendix 1

Collective Worship Planner

Date :-

Member of Staff:-

Focus:-

	Details
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

Appendix 2

Whole School Collective Worship Planner - 1 day a week lead by class teacher

Date :-

Member of Staff:-

Focus:-

Week	Staff	Details of themes covered
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Appendix 3

Class Collective Worship Planner - 1 day a week lead by class teacher/HLTA/TA

Date :-

Member of Staff:-

Focus:-

Week	Staff	Details of themes covered
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		