



## PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

POLICY: Collective Worship Policy

**SLT LINK MEMBER:** Jacqueline Ironside

**GOVERNORS SUB COMMITTEE:** T & L

This policy was adopted/updated: February 2015

This policy will be reviewed: (annually)

Statutory Policy: NO

Source: School/Rev.Bryce

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### AIMS

The aim of the Collective Worship Policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs:
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos, and shared values
- Reinforce positive attitudes

and to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

### PATTERN

At Plymouth High School for Girls there is an assembly on one day a week. On three of the remaining days students meet their tutor to discuss issues of concern; and on the final day students may gather together as a School House to engender the extremely valuable *esprit de corps* that is part of Plymouth High or Year group(s) may be called to an assembly if there is a particular need.

There is a whole school corporate act of worship once a year, the Christmas Carol Service; and particular note is also taken of other major points in the Christian year: Harvest and Easter.

### ATTENDANCE

All pupils are expected to attend all relevant assemblies. The school respects the right of parents to withdraw their daughters from the section of assembly which forms the act of corporate worship. Individual arrangements are made for students who are withdrawn. As part of the school community teachers also attend Assemblies to supervise students and to ensure safe and orderly movement on entry and exit from the Hall.

### ORGANISATION

The responsibility for the organisation of Assemblies rests with the Headteacher who selects and publicises the theme for the week and invites a range of speakers to deliver each Assembly. The Headteacher delegates responsibility for the House Assemblies to Heads of House who will ensure that the students involved in their organisation deliver content that is suitable, appropriate, and properly prepared. This is seen as a valuable team building activity, and the House Captain/Junior House Captain will use some Registration time to organise the Assembly.

Visitors to Assemblies are welcomed and those responsible for the organisation of Assemblies may invite visitors to address the students. Visitors are selected carefully by senior staff for their suitability and briefed about the arrangements.

## CONTENT

The worship content of Assemblies should be prepared imaginatively and sensitively to make it both interesting and appropriate for a community of varying degrees of faith. Although the content should be broadly Christian, it should on occasion reflect the wider scope of the overall aims of collective worship, including a moral/ethical element on the four values of Christian teaching. Each Assembly provides time for private reflection.

Any necessary school notices should be dealt with efficiently and not be allowed to diminish the significance of the collective worship element. In preparing an Assembly the content should have a clear aim upon which the students are able to reflect at its conclusion. This may be achieved through the use of silence following a thought, prayer, a reading (spiritual or secular), music, or some other appropriate but sensitive means. The use of collective worship to celebrate school and individual successes should be encouraged.

## MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND REVIEW

Plymouth High School will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

J Ironside/Rev Bryce