

POLICY ON ASSEMBLIES AND SCHOOL SERVICES

All pupils and teaching staff are expected to attend assembly and full school services. Most of the worship is not only 'broadly Christian' but 'predominantly Christian' and all sacramental services follow the liturgies of the Church of England. There is a strong awareness that this means that some girls and staff are being asked to attend an act of worship which does not follow their own philosophy or religion and this is taken into consideration whenever possible. Girls are always encouraged to think about spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues in such a way as is appropriate to them and some staff lead assemblies based on their own moral stance.

In addition to this St Helen's takes seriously both the wishes and the religious traditions of its founders, the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage.

Aims of Assemblies and School Services

Assemblies

- 1) To provide a time for individual reflection and response and to arouse awareness of spirituality.
- 2) To provide an opportunity to affirm and explore beliefs, values and traditions.
- 3) To provide an opportunity to consider moral issues.
- 4) To bring the school (or a section of it) together in order to foster its ethos and desired attitude towards others.

Weekly Chapel services

- 1) To provide a weekly opportunity for every girl to reflect personally and spiritually within the context of a short act of Christian worship
- 2) To encourage singing and engagement with the choral traditions of the worldwide church through the leading of the chapel choir
- 3) To pray for the needs of the world and school community
- 4) To provide an opportunity for girls/staff to read/listen to the bible

Full School Communion Services

- 1) To provide an experience of Anglican liturgy for all girls.
- 2) To provide an opportunity to receive Holy Communion for those who wish.
- 3) To continue the Eucharistic tradition of the school.

Organisation of Assemblies

- 1) The Chaplain is responsible for the organisation of assemblies and school services.
- 2) Assemblies take place in both the School Chapel and the YPH. If necessary a live –link is established with the lecture theatre or Chapel
- 3) All girls attend a variety of assemblies on a rota basis.
- 4) The Chaplain, Headmistress and other staff members who wish and, occasionally, girls lead the various assemblies.

Content

- 1) The Chaplain organises an overall plan of themes for each half term.
- 2) Individuals may use the set readings, etc, or lead their own assembly.
- 3) Chapel choir usually lead the singing and any responses in Chapel and other services.
- 4) YPH assemblies vary enormously using appropriate resources.
- 5) The Chaplain officiates at the informal celebrations of Holy Communion in Chapel.
- 6) Full school communion services are normally held four times a year.

Rotas

These are produced by the Chaplain as below:

- 1) Chapel rota
- 2) Detailed half term list

Policy last reviewed Lent 2018
Next review due Lent 2020
Person responsible for reviewChaplain
Audience Staff/Parents/Pupils