

Collective Worship Policy

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Collective Worship Policy

1. PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 Thomas Deacon Academy believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of Academy life. We have a caring ethos and we value the development of the whole person; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually. This is reflected in our collective worship as a learning organisation.
- 1.2 It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils/students take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.”
- 1.3 Parents/carers who send their children to Thomas Deacon Academy are from a range of faith backgrounds, including Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish. The Academy also has pupils/students from non-faith backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our pupils/students to worship we have to consider the background of our pupils/students and it is therefore not the practice at Thomas Deacon Academy to preach to or aim to convert the pupils/students to a particular faith. The faith or non-faith background of every member of staff and pupil/student is respected at all times.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for pupils/students to:
 - a. Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the Academy and wider community;
 - b. Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs;
 - c. Explore the language which people use to express their feelings;
 - d. Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
 - e. Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole Academy;
 - f. Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus;
 - g. Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance and world view, whether it be religious or not.

3. PRACTICE

- 3.1 At Thomas Deacon Academy we combine our acts of worship with assemblies, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There is an assembly each fortnight for every student in the main Academy which incorporates reflection time. In addition, Form Tutors lead Tutor Groups through activities and reflections during Tutor Time every day.
- 3.2 The Heads of House will lead whole House assemblies each fortnight, whilst Form Tutors lead the Tutor Time theme each day during the fortnight. The Junior Leader and other nominated members of staff will lead assemblies for pupils in Years 3 - 6.

- 3.3 The academic year has been divided into fortnightly themes, which encompass opportunities for spiritual reflection and focus throughout the year on religious festivals, known national or international events. These themes incorporate all aspects of the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of our pupils/students.
- 3.4 Personal Development lessons are also divided into topics, which incorporate all aspects of the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of our pupils/student.
- 3.5 The Junior phase combines daily assemblies with acts of collective worship. The children have a range of assemblies over the week, including whole school assemblies, singing and class based assemblies. Assemblies are led by a range of people including the Junior Leader, class teachers, and members of the pastoral team, visitors and the children themselves. Themes for the assemblies follow the themes of the secondary academy, when appropriate, or use themes relevant to the Junior Phase and the age of the pupils. Pupils are given the opportunity for quiet reflection in each assembly.

4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.2 A calendar of Tutor Time themes is delivered on a yearly basis and the Subject Leader for Personnel Development is responsible for planning the PD topics on a yearly basis.
- 4.3 All Form Tutors follow the fortnightly theme in Tutor Time.
- 4.4 Parents/Carers of pupils have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent/carer asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the Academy must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent/carer who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head of House or Head of Juniors in the first instant.
- 4.5 The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for students in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.
- 4.6 The Deputy Vice Principal for Wellbeing is responsible for ensuring this policy is reviewed annually and made accessible to parents/carer, staff, pupils/students and the Local Governing Body via the Academy's website.

5 DISSEMINATION

- 5.2 This policy is shared with all staff through the Academy VLE and Induction process. An electronic version of the policy is available to download from the Academy's website.

6 MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 6.2 The fortnightly theme, assemblies and personnel Development lessons are subject to monitoring through Quality Improvement systems and are reviewed on a yearly basis.