

## Provision and Withdrawal from Religious Education

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**Verified:** Vice Principal 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

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**Approved:** Principal 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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**Review Date:** July 2018

## Provision and withdrawal from RE Policy

### 1. Purpose

Clause 24 of our Funding Agreement states:

- 1.1 The Academy shall make provision for the teaching of religious education and the education act of 1944 gave parents/carers the right to withdraw students from RE and collective worship which was restated in the Education Reform Act of 1988. Withdrawal from these lessons or acts of worship was intended to allow the removal of pupils/students from lessons and allow them to be taught in accordance with the demands of a faith.
- 1.2 The Thomas Deacon Academy recognises the right of all pupils/students to receive quality Religious Education which takes account of the Agreed Syllabus of the Peterborough SACRE.
- 1.3 The Academy views the delivery of the RE syllabus as a key aspect in fulfilling its obligation to provide for the spiritual, social, moral and social development of every student.
- 1.4 Parents/carers, however, have the right to withdraw their children from RE where there is a conflict with the parents'/carers' religious beliefs.

### 2. Procedure

- 2.1 Parents/carers wishing to exercise the right of withdrawal should write to the Head of House of their son/daughter, or Junior Leader if they are primary aged pupils, giving brief details of the religious issues about which the parent/carer would object their child being taught.
- 2.2 Parents/carers will be invited in for a discussion to examine the practical implications of withdrawal from RE. This might include arrangements for the pupil/student to study independently during timetabled RE lessons and, where appropriate, that this independent study be focused on another aspect of the pupils'/students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### 3. Permission

- 3.1 In most cases, permission to withdraw from Religious Education is granted where parents/carers or pupils/student are members of a faith, religion, denominational group or sect that does not permit religious instruction in a school context using nationally/locally agreed specifications and programmes of study.
- 3.2 A request for withdrawal from Religious Education will not be granted on the basis that the pupil/student does not want to study RE or believes that time is better spent studying other subjects.