



Archdiocese of
Birmingham

St Thomas More

Catholic Academy

S⁺ Thomas More
Catholic Academy
FAITH | EXCELLENCE | RESPECT

Quiet Space Policy

Date of Policy: December 2021

Member of Staff Responsible: Mr M Rayner

SLT:

Headteacher: Mr M Rayner

Chair of the Academy Representatives: Mr R Fello

Nominated Academy Representative:

Date of Policy Review: September 2022

Publish:

Internal / website

Christ is at the heart of our community, where everyone is known and loved.

In fulfilling our mission we are a school of prayer. We live as a community of love, peace and reconciliation, valuing everyone's dignity as a child of God to promote and celebrate the growth and achievement of the whole person.

Purpose

Catholic schools recognise that “true education is not limited to imparting knowledge; it promotes human dignity and genuine human relationships and prepares the way for opening oneself to the Truth that is Christ” (*Lay Catholics in School – Witnesses to Faith*, Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education (Rome 1982), no 28.)

Catholic schools in England and Wales are established to serve the Catholic community and to provide a Catholic education for Catholic children within the diocese. However, Catholic schools also educate many non-Catholic pupils.

As a Catholic school, we take seriously our belief that faith is a source of strength and resilience. Touching base in one’s faith tradition allows one to be, or to work towards being, grounded, centred, peaceful, energised and focussed. Assessment for learning is built upon skills of reflection and self-awareness. Prayer can help pupils to become deep thinkers, accustomed to contemplation and ‘active’ silence. It is for this reason that St Thomas More Catholic Academy has assigned a Quiet Space for students who wish to access a safe, clean and inclusive space for reflection and private prayer, within the normal school day.

An additional space for quiet reflection ensures that all our students can deepen their spiritual growth. Furthermore, accessing the Quiet Space during lunchtime also supports students in developing their self-esteem and confidence which indirectly contributes to their learning and achievement. Quiet reflection and prayer can have a calming, refreshing and invigorating effect on children, thus supporting their spiritual, moral, social, vocational and cultural development.

Overview

No particular individual or group has an exclusive right to use the space at any time and all users of the space have an equal right to access the space.

The aim is to keep access to the space as uncomplicated as possible. The shared nature of the space relies largely on the respect and generosity of users. The space is provided for prayer, meditation, reflection and quiet, and users must treat each other with tolerance and respect.

The space is available during lunchtime only and cannot be accessed during lesson time. Use of the space, for any reason, does not provide reason for poor punctuality to lesson, and any lateness to lesson following use of the Quiet Space will be dealt with in accordance with the school’s Behaviour Policy. Registers will be maintained of those students who access the Quiet Space.

Any breach of the school rules whilst attending the Quiet Space will be dealt with in accordance with the school’s Behaviour Policy and may also result in removal of access to the Quiet Space for identified students.

Principles for use

When accessing the Quiet Space, students must adhere to the following guiding principles and Quiet Space Code of Conduct, as outlined below and within Appendix 1:

- The Quiet space is provided as a privilege to students.
- The Quiet space will be in room 106 and supervised from 1.40 to 2.10 by a member of staff. However, it may be necessary for the location of the Quiet Space to be amended without notice. If so, students will be made aware of where the Quiet Space has been relocated to.
- Pupils are responsible for good behaviour while they are attending the Quiet Space just as they are in the classroom or in any area of the school community.
- Any unacceptable behaviour will be considered seriously by the school and may result in a child being banned from the Quiet Space, pending a meeting with their parents or carers.
- The purpose of the Quiet Space may include the completion of the Farz Prayers (Muslim essential units of the prayer). In such instances, these will take no longer than 10 minutes.
- The Quiet Space will be for multi/simultaneous use at any given time. Access / use by any individual or group will not be prioritised or lead to others being denied access at the same time.
- The Behaviour Policy still applies, for example:
 - Noise must be kept to a minimum - do not disturb others
 - The use of mobile phones and other devices is not allowed
 - Eating and/ or drinking is not allowed
 - Users must also follow the guidelines in the Student Code of Conduct/Home School Agreement and the staff Code of Conduct
- Using the Quiet Space is limited to lunchtime only and does not provide reason for lateness to lesson. Poor punctuality to lessons after attending the Quiet Space will be dealt with in accordance with the Behaviour policy.

This list is not exhaustive but seeks to identify the primary principles that must be observed.



Quiet Space

Rules and Responsibilities

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- The Quiet space will be in room 106 and supervised from 1.40 to 2.10 by a member of staff. However, it may be necessary for the location of the Quiet Space to be amended without notice. If so, students will be made aware of where the Quiet Space has been relocated to.
- Registers will be taken on arrival
- Pupils are responsible for good behaviour while they are attending the Quiet Space just as they are in the classroom or in any area of the school community.
- Any unacceptable behaviour will be considered seriously by the school and may result in a child being banned from the Quiet Space, pending a meeting with their parents or carers.
- The purpose of the Quiet Space may include the completion of the Farz Prayers (Muslim essential units of the prayer). In such instances, these will take no longer than 10 minutes.
- The Quiet Space will be for multi/simultaneous use at any given time. Access / use by any individual or group will not be prioritised or lead to others being denied access at the same time.
- Noise must be kept to a minimum: this space should not be used for group gatherings, talk or collective prayer
- The Behaviour Policy still applies, for example:
 - Noise must be kept to a minimum - do not disturb others
 - The use of mobile phones and other devices is not allowed
 - Eating and/ or drinking is not allowed
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