

RELIGION POLICY

Date Approved: 11/16/11

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Approved by: Board of Directors

Section:

RELIGION POLICY

1. Laura Jeffrey Academy shall neither promote nor disparage any religious belief or non-belief. LJA encourages all students and employees to have appreciation for and tolerance of each other's views.
2. Laura Jeffrey Academy allows the inclusion of religious music, art, drama and literature in the curriculum and in school activities, provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience and is presented in an objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
3. The history and contemporary values and the origin of various religions, holidays, customs and beliefs may be explained in an unbiased and nonsectarian manner.
4. To the extent possible, special school events, such as public meetings, hearings, and dedications, shall be scheduled at times which are not likely to conflict with observance of religious holidays.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Leadership Team to ensure that the study of religious materials, customs, beliefs and holidays at Laura Jeffrey Academy is in keeping with the following guidelines:
 - The proposed activity must have a non-secular purpose;
 - The primary objective of the activity must be one that neither advances nor inhibits any religion;
 - The activity must not foster governmental relationships with religion.
 - The activity must not demonstrate favoritism for any religion.
2. The Leadership Team is granted authority to develop and implement directives and guidelines for the purpose of providing further guidance relative to the teaching of materials related to religion.

RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

1. Students have the right to pray individually or in groups or to discuss their religious views with their peers so long as they are not disruptive. However, the right to engage in voluntary prayer does not include, for example, the right to have a captive audience listen or to compel other students to participate.
2. A student may express their religious beliefs in the form of reports, homework and artwork. Teachers may not reject or correct such submissions simply because they include a religious symbol or address religious themes. Likewise, teachers may not require students to modify,

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include or excise religious views in their assignments, if germane. These assignments should be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance, relevance, appearance and grammar.

3. LJA uniforms can accommodate a diversity of cultural and religious values. Students have the right to wear religious attire, and this does not conflict with the uniform policy. Students cannot be required to dress in a way that conflicts with their religious views, including during physical education.