



POLICY DOCUMENT

RELIGION POLICY

SGB / SBL
Voorsitter / Chairman

Skoolhoof / Principal

Koördineerder / Co-ordinator

Datum / Date

LAERSKOOL GOODWOOD PARK PRIMARY

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**POLICY DOCUMENT:
RELIGION**

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This policy is in accordance with the Constitution, SA Schools Act 108 of 1996, the Government Gazette Vol. 459 No 25459 of 12 September 2003 and the RNCS of 2005.

VISION

Although the ethos of Goodwood Park Primary is primarily Christian orientated we strive to develop appreciation for the different religious views and religious identities of others.

PRINCIPLES

1. NO TEACHING OF RELIGION EDUCATION

- Religion Education is not taught by educators. If there is no objection, a message will be brought to learners via an educator in the mornings. Educators may also request learners of various religious backgrounds to assist in this matter.
- Outside speakers, representing various religions may be asked to take part in the program, provided that this is done in an equitable way. The class and speaker remain the responsibility of the registered educator in liaison with the principal of the school.
- Educators must teach in an impartial manner, regardless of their personal views. Utilization of teachers in the school is managed by the school and the interests, capabilities and sensitivities of each teacher are taken into account.
- The educator needs to facilitate learning as far as possible by:
 - Reflecting on ethical issues;
 - Knowing about principles and practices of main religions of the RSA;
 - Knowing about ethical debates;
 - Understanding the impact of class, race, gender etc. on learning;
 - Showing appreciation and respect for all people;
 - Being able to respond to current social and educational problems;
 - Demonstrate caring, committed, ethical and professional behaviour.

2. LEARNING

Religious awareness makes a big contribution toward realizing of the outcomes in the following areas:

- Literacy: Cultural, Ethical and Religion literacy
- Creativity: expanding imagination, making connection and dealing with cultural differences
- Critical reflection: Comparison, cultural analysis, ethical debate and the formulation and clarification of values

3. CONTENTS

Religious awareness forms a small part of Life Orientation.

4. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

4.1 Observances regarding special events on the calendar e.g. Easter, Ascension day, Pentecost, Christmas, etc. are held in voluntary gatherings for staff/learners.

4.2 Learners of the Muslim faith are allowed to attend their prayer meetings on a Friday and other religious events on the calendar. Special dietary arrangements are made for school functions to accommodate Halaal.

4.3 Educators are allowed to open the day with prayer and a thought for the day. They need to respect the diversity of the particular class and be discrete. Learners leaving the session must be supervised. (See bullet 1)

4.4 Weekly assemblies are conducted to affirm unity in diversity. Where a religious observance is included educators and learners may be excused on grounds of conscience. Supervision must be provided. Learners of the Islam religion who attend assemblies, ARE NOT required to partake in singing along.