



SUNLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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RELIGIOUS POLICY

(Amended 20 May 2024)

INTRODUCTION

At Sunlands Primary School, we strive for holistic education within a diverse environment. We recognise the “particular value of the rich and religious heritage of our country” and therefore promote the role of religion in education.

The Sunlands Primary School’s Religious Policy is based on the Department of Education’s “Policy on Religion and Education” of September 2003. This policy for the role of religion in education is driven by the dual mandate of celebrating diversity and building unity at our school, as well in our country.

To achieve the goals of the Department of Education in terms of religion and education, the relationship between religion and education must be guided by the following principles:

In all aspects of the relationship between religion and education, the practice must flow directly from the constitutional values of citizenship, human rights, equality, freedom from discrimination, and freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, opinion.

All public institutions have a responsibility to teach about religion and religions in ways that reflect a profound appreciation of the spiritual, non-material aspects of life, but which are different from the religious education, religious instruction, or religious nurture provided by the home, family, and religious community.

Religion Education should contribute to creating an integrated and informed community that affirms unity in diversity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religion Education includes teaching and learning about religion, religions, and religious diversity in South Africa and the world. The teaching of Religion Education is encapsulated in the relevant outcome and assessment standards of the Life Orientation Learning Area curriculum, which is offered from Grades 4-7.

Learning Outcome 2 of the Life Orientation Learning Area requires that:

“The learner will be able to demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to constitutional rights and responsibilities and to show an understanding of diverse cultures and religions”.

It is expected of all educators to be impartial, irrespective of their own beliefs, when conveying information relating to religion.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The annual school calendar allows for religious holidays. Religious observation may not exceed 3 (three) working days per annum for educators [Circular 19/2004 Annexure J 1(a) (iii)].

The Education Department makes provision for schools to be closed for **TWO** days per annum for the purpose of religious, sport or cultural days other than public holidays. The school will use these two days on an equitable basis and the GB must apply in writing via the circuit manager for the closure of school.

The school will, as far as possible, take religious holidays into consideration when the assessment programme is drawn up.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES DURING ASSEMBLIES

A Religious Observance may form part of the school assembly. However, as a matter of priority, the topics discussed during Assemblies should focus on shared, universal values.

Appropriate and equitable means of acknowledging the multi-religious nature of the school community may include the following:

- Selected readings from various texts emanating from different religions;
- The use of a universal prayer.

In this way, Religious Observances are used as a system for the transmission of core values (equity, tolerance, openness, accountability, social honour, justice, mercy, love, care, commitment, compassion, co-operation, etc).

At Sunlands Primary School, we ensure and protect the equal rights of all learners and educators at the school. Furthermore, we appreciate the right of all learners and educators to have their religious views recognised and respected. Therefore, no learner or staff member will be discriminated against in any way, based on their religious beliefs.

