



Mpumalanga Department of Education

Gekombineerde Skool Ogies

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The Religious Policy

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The Religious Policy

1. Purpose

The religious policy is one of the critical guiding documents of Gekombineerde Skool Ogies. This policy aims to define the manner in which the school shall practice its religious observance. The policy shall promote tolerance and protect all members of the school community from discrimination on the basis of their religious belief or lack thereof.

2. Preamble

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa recognises the existence of diverse religions in the country. Every citizen of the Republic has protected rights to the freedom of expression. Citizens are also protected against any form of discrimination on the basis of their religion. The South African Schools Act (SASA), No. 84 of 1996 stipulates that subject to the Constitution and any applicable provincial law, religious observances may be conducted at a public school under rules issued by the governing body if such observances are conducted on an equitable basis and attendance at them by learners and members of staff is free and voluntary.

3. Religious observance

- a. The following religions and denominations are found among the school community:
 - i. Christian

- b. The school shall officially observe the practices of the following religions/denominations:
 - i. Christian

- c. The attendance to services and/or sermons of the observed religions/denominations shall be voluntary.

4. Religious holidays

- a. The school shall observe the religious holidays of the recognised religions or denominations in the school, after consultation with the Provincial Department of Education.

5. Promoting tolerance

The school believes in the promotion of tolerance for each one's religious belief.

6. Religious gatherings

- a. Gatherings of any religious groupings shall be officially authorised by the Principal in consultation with the SGB.
- b. The school may charge religious groupings that use the school facilities for their services during weekends.

7. Policy effective date

This Religious Policy becomes effective as from the date when it is adopted and signed into effect by the Chairperson of the SGB, Secretary of the SGB and the Principal of the school.

8. Conclusion

The adoption and implementation of this policy is a milestone achievement for the school in its endeavour to promote religious tolerance in the school. The policy shows that the school adheres to the needs of its community in totality. All participants and role players in the school shall be bound to observe this policy in its entirety.