

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY

PREAMBLE

The South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996) upholds the constitutional rights of all citizens to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion, and freedom from unfair discrimination on any grounds whatsoever, including religion, in public education institutions.

Camps Bay Primary School recognizes the particular value of the rich and diverse religious heritage of our school community. We acknowledge that the school has an educational responsibility for teaching and learning about religion and religions. We understand that we should do so in ways that are different from the religious instruction and religious nurture provided by the home, family, and religious community.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

- Weekly assemblies are of a universal nature based on moral values, ethical standards and principles. Assemblies occasionally include neutral devotions with due consideration for all religious beliefs.
- Religious groups and practices may be conducted on school premises with SGB approval and attendance by learners must have parental consent and attendance by staff and learners is free and voluntary.
- When particular celebrations or observances occur in one of the main religions of the community these are highlighted in assembly. The aim is to promote understanding of, and respect for, each other's religions and customs.
- The school uniform serves to unite our learners. The school acknowledges the right of families to request alternatives to the uniform policy to comply with their religious or cultural beliefs. This is a constitutional right and in line with the values of the school, seeking to be inclusive and to promote diversity. Parents can make such requests in writing to the principal who involves the SGB in such decisions.
- Families are entitled to keep their children out of school for important religious holy days that are not national public holidays. The learners will be obligated to catch up any work missed.
- When events and excursions are planned, special care is taken to cater for the food/diet needs of all involved.
- When planning Assessment timetables, the school will, to the best of its ability, be sensitive to the need of learners to observe important holy days.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Teaching should, at all times, engender a sense of acceptance, security, and respect for learners with differing values, cultural backgrounds, and religious traditions.
- It is accepted that religious instruction and practice is the responsibility of the family.
- Learners are taught about World Religions in the Life Orientation programme and are exposed to many religions, faith systems and cultures.
- Educators and learners are not coerced or encouraged to follow a particular religion but may choose to attend certain meetings.

This policy has been developed with reference to the following:

- *The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996*

- *South African School Act, Act 84 of 1996*
- *Western Cape Provincial School Education Act, Act 12 of 1997*
- *Department of Education Report of the Ministerial Committee on Religious Education of 2003*
- *Western Cape Religion in Education Information Document for Schools.*

For Website Publication (YES) (~~NO~~)

Date approved:3 June 2025.....

SGB Chair

