Laerskool Vryburg

RELIGIOUS, OBSERVATION POLICY

Tedmans Vryburg 2504

LAERSKOOL VRYBURG

RELIGIOUS, OBSERVATION POLICY

BACKGROUND

South Africa is a diverse country with different religions and cultural groups. This policy of religion and education links education, with new initiatives in cultural rebirth, moral regeneration and the promotion of values in schools. Religion can also play a significant role in preserving our heritage, respecting our diversity, and building a future based on progressive values.

AIM

Aims to ensure that:

- That all the different religious groups within Laerskool Vryburg are acknowledged and accepted
- Religious observances are conducted on an equitable basis and the attendance by the staff members and learners of Laerskool Vryburg is Voluntary and out of free will. And that no discrimination against anyone will take place or be allowed

OBJECTIVES

This policy endeavors to

- Define the manner of religious observance in school
- Promote religious tolerance of all
- Protect all members of the school and its community from discrimination on the basis of religious belief or lack thereof

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

- There are various types of religious observances implied as for Instance:
- Voluntary occasions where the school community, namely teachers and learners, gather for a religious observance;
- Observance held in a voluntary gathering o learners/teachers during a school break;
- Voluntary participation of learner and teachers during assemblies and voluntary partaking in the religious activities thereof;
- Voluntary partaking of learners in extra-curricular activities associated with a specific religion like UCSA

Observance which may be ongoing, entail other dimension such as dress, prayer times and diets, which must be respected and accommodated in a manner agreed upon by the school and relevant faith authorities.

The following denominations are found among the school community

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism

The school will observe practices of the following religion(s) officially:
Christianity
According to the National Policy Act, 1996 (Act no. 1307 of 12 September 2003) religious observances may be conducted as follow:

- School governing bodies may determine the nature and content of religious observances for teachers and learners, such that coherence and alignment with this policy and applicable legislation is ensured,
- It may also determine that a policy of no religious observances be followed
- Where religious observances are held, these may be at any time determined by the school, and may be part of the school assembly. However, an assembly is not necessarily to be seen as the only occasion for religious observances which may take place at other times of the day, and in other ways, including specific dress requirements or dietary injunctions.
- Where a religious observance is organized, as an official part of the school day, it must accommodate and reflect the multi-religious nature of the school community in an appropriate manner.
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Attendance to sermons or services will voluntary and out of free will. Learners who choose not to attend should be supervised.

Learners who do not attend will gather in the foyer and wait till sermon is done.

PROMOTING RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

The school intents promoting tolerance and understanding between learner of different religious groups in the following manner:

Curricular Activities

- The Life Orientation learning area, through programmes like Life Skills, Religion Education and Social Responsibility, is well positioned to impact on the ethical and moral dimension of learner development.
- Programmes for Religion Education should purposeful pursue the moral and ethical development of learners, while they learn in a factual way about various beliefs which exist.

Extra-curricular Activities

- Appropriate and equitable means of acknowledging the multi-religious nature of a school community may include the following:
    - The separation of learners according to religion, where the observance takes place outside of the context of a school assembly.
    - Rotation of opportunities for observance in proportion to the representation of different religions in the school.
    - The SGB should decide on activities which will bring? educators and learners of diverse religions together, e.g. Cultural activities, Sport, Music, Dance. • Spiritual counseling.