



RELIGIOUS POLICY

POSITION STATEMENT

South Africa is a multi-cultural, multi-religious environment. Both religion and culture play a hugely significant role in the existence of South African citizens. Not only is each religion significant to its followers, but so too is it important that members of each religion are acknowledged and accepted within the school. As culture and religion are so important to the identity of each and every member of the school, it is vital that a policy is in place to guide all role-players in their dealings with others. It goes without saying that all members of all different religions have a place within the school and must be able to exercise the right to be respected by others, irrespective of their different beliefs. Over and above this, the school recognizes the significant role of faith and religion in the lives of all South African citizens.

POLICY


Pelham Senior Primary School acknowledges the multi-cultural, multi-faith community present within the school demographics. It cannot be strongly enough stated, that no prejudice or discrimination against individuals (because of their culture or religion), will be tolerated. Families that are representative of all different religions will be accepted as part of the Pelham Senior Primary School family.

The following aspects do however, need to be noted:

- As the majority of Pelham Senior Primary School families are presently of the Christian faith, assemblies, prize-givings and whole-school functions will dedicate time to prayer, a Bible reading and a hymn, as allowed for in the Education Act. Any learner, with the approval of his/her parents, wishing not to participate in such activities, may choose to abstain.
- Should any minority religious group wish to commemorate a religious event/date/time in an assembly, they may, at the discretion of the Principal be permitted to present an assembly/talk aimed at exposing the other learners in the school to their culture/beliefs in order to promote better understanding of all cultures. Any learner, with the approval of his/her parents, wishing not to participate in such activities, may choose to abstain.
- Should any classroom teaching cover the topic of religion, the role of the educators must be strictly to teach the learners the different aspects of the different religions to enable deeper understanding of different groups of people. This teaching is not intended to convince learners to follow the religion which is being taught or to indicate any preference of religion whatsoever; neither may any teaching highlight any religion as good or bad.
- Religious icons may be worn discreetly by believers of different religions but this may not be allowed to influence the appearance or identity of the Pelham Senior Primary School scholar who must present him/herself, at all times, according to the Pelham Senior Primary School dress-code. Any major deviation to the Pelham Senior Primary School dress code is to be referred to the principal for consultation with the Governing Body. Together a decision will be made as to whether said deviation is permissible or not.

THE INTENTION OF RELIGIOUS TEACHING AT PELHAM SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious teaching is geared to building respect and understanding within a school community. It strengthens the idea of unity in diversity whilst enabling the learner to see how his beliefs differ from others. Religious teaching does not rate different religions against another, neither does it make all religions appear the same (or similar) or even attempt to blend all religions into one.

Signed:  (Principal)

Signed:  (GB Chairperson)

Date: 20190616