

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Established 1981



PERSEVERE

RELIGIOUS POLICY

REDRAFTED : 2018

REVIEW : 2021

DOCUMENT CONTROL

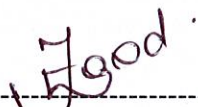
DOCUMENT DETAILS

ITEM	VALUE
Amendments Requested By:	School Governing Body
Document Revision Date:	November 2018
Author/s:	SGB
Security Level:	All Stakeholders
This copy printed on:	9/11/2018
Document Name:	SPS Religious Policy v2

REVISION CONTROL

REVISION	DATED	REVISED BY	DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR CHANGES
1	November 2018	SGB Policy Team	Alignment to high court case
2			
3			
4			


SIGNATORIES



F Wood
Principal



N Vallabh
SGB Chairperson



K Kambule
SGB Deputy Chairperson

Table of Contents

1. PRE-AMBLE	4
2. GENERAL	4
3. PURPOSE.....	5
4. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	5
5. RELIGIOUS CLOTHING.....	6
6. SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	6
7. STAFF FROM OTHER RELIGIONS.....	6
8. OTHER.....	6

1. PRE-AMBLE

- 1.1 The Constitution and the South African Schools Act, sets the tone for people of goodwill to work out their own approaches and express them in the religious policy.
- 1.2 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa emphasizes that there should be balance between freedom for religious belief and expression and freedom from religious coercion and discrimination. It guarantees that "Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, opinion, religious conviction, expression, and association." The Constitution also explicitly prohibits unfair discrimination on grounds that include religion, belief, and conscience.
- 1.3 The South African School Act, 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, it allows religious observances to be conducted at a public school under rules issued by the governing body if such observances are conducted on an equitable basis and attendance by learners and members is free and voluntary.
- 1.4 The Gauteng Schools Education Act, states that the religious policy of public schools shall be made by the Governing Body of the school after consultation with the Department and subject to the approval of the members of the Executive Council.
- 1.5 The National Policy on Religion and Education, highlights the following underpinning principles in a religious policy, it should:
 - a. recognise the rich and diverse religious heritage of our country
 - b. adopt a co-operative model that accepts our rich heritage and
 - c. explore the possibility of creative inter-action between schools and faith whilst, protecting our young people from religious discrimination or coercion.

2. GENERAL

Springvale Primary is a school which endeavours to develop each learner's spiritual education. We respect all religions and recognise each learner's democratic right to exercise their own beliefs.

We observe the values that are reflected in all religions as our guiding principles which are;

- Pride
- Perseverance
- Service
- Accountability
- Compassion
- Forgiveness
- Hope
- Integrity
- Peace
- Respect
- Thankfulness

3. PURPOSE

We, the Governing Body, staff and parents of Springvale Primary School

- a. Recognise that everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought and belief.
- b. Respect the religious diversity in our school.
- c. Seek to promote an understanding and knowledge of diverse religious beliefs and practices.
- d. Seek to promote the moral and spiritual development of all learners.
- e. Commit ourselves to inculcating sound values through a variety of religious practices across all religions.
- f. Ensure that there are no discriminatory practices amongst learners and staff in based on religious beliefs and orientation to a particular faith or religion.
- g. Promote tolerance and unity among learners and staff through diversity of religious practices and beliefs existing in the school community.
- h. Ensure that minority religions in a school are protected and respected and afforded the dignity and status equivalent to the majority religion in the school.

This policy will endeavour to give guidelines on religious education, celebrating religious festivals/holidays, religious clothing, school assemblies, handling learners and staff from all religions, assessment of religious education and the multi-faith approach to religious education.

4. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious lessons form part of the curriculum RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS, FESTIVALS AND OBSERVANCES

- 4.1 The school recognises official public holidays.
- 4.2 Learners wishing to observe religious festivals that do not fall on public holidays, weekends or during school vacation time, will be given that day off. The learner will, however, be marked absent on the class register for the day on which the festival falls. The learner will not be penalized in terms of attendance record.
- 4.3 Parents of learners who wish to have time off school to observe religious festivals that do not fall on public holidays, weekends or during school vacation time, must inform the school Principal in writing before the event.
- 4.4 It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that learners are up to date with school work missed due to religious absence.
- 4.5 The school will honour all religious holidays indicated in the Government Calendar. Children observing these days after formal permission as per 4.3 above was granted by the Principal, will not be penalised for any assessments done on such a day.

5. RELIGIOUS CLOTHING

- 5.1 All learners are required to comply with the school uniform as per the code of conduct.
- 5.2 Parents of learners who wish to wear specific items of religious clothing must submit a written request to the Principal. The written request must give details of the specific clothing and be accompanied by a letter from the relevant religious institution verifying the legitimacy of the clothing and validating the religious requirements of that particular faith.
- 5.3 Should the learner be granted permission to wear a particular item of religious clothing, the facilitator should ensure that other learners understand this so that respect for another's religion may be enhanced.

6. SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- 6.1 All learners will be expected to attend school assemblies.
- 6.2 Should a special festival be held, a representative from that religion may be allowed to share interesting facts about their religion at the assembly.

7. STAFF FROM OTHER RELIGIONS

- 7.1 We respect the right of staff to hold their own beliefs
- 7.2 Staff members should not use the classroom to advance religious beliefs, except where required by the curriculum.
- 7.3 Staff members will not be expected to participate in collective worship activities, but must be present to take responsibility for the learners entrusted to their care

8. OTHER

- 8.1 The School Governing Body reserves the right to deal with any unforeseen situations in consultation with the principal and school management team.
- 8.2 This policy will be reviewed to take into account any changes in legislation.
- 8.3 Criteria for admission of learners to public schools should not unfairly discriminate against learners on the basis of their religion, thought, belief and opinion.