




<b>SUBJECT</b>	RELIGION	<b>PAGES</b>	4
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>		<b>DATE</b>	AUGUST 2023
<b>REVIEWED AND APPROVED:</b>			
	GOVERNING BODY		

## 1. Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this religion policy is to:

- 1.1 recognize that everyone has a Constitutional right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, and opinion.
- 1.2 ensure that minority religions, beliefs, and opinions in the school are protected and respected and accorded the dignity and status equivalent to the majority religion in the school.
- 1.3 describe how various aspects relating to religion will be accommodated in the school.

## 2. Principles

- 2.1 The school will exercise its right to allow religious observances on an equitable basis and attendance at them will be free and voluntary subjected to the Constitution of RSA.
- 2.2 Gene Louw Primary School is a Christian orientated school. Bible Education is presented at Gene Louw Primary with the aim of teaching learners those values and norms which are manifested in the Bible.
- 2.3 Scripture reading is done, it is discussed, and the day is opened with prayer. Values are presented in every grade according to the specific child's level of development as set out by the Values Committee.
- 2.4 Educators will lead an appropriate classroom devotion each morning.
- 2.5 Learners of other faiths are not compelled to attend the religious part of assembly. These learners gather in the allocated venues and join the rest of the learners for the remaining part of assembly once the religious part has been completed. People from outside of their own religion are welcome to come in and present religious studies to these learners during this time.
- 2.6 Emphasis is placed on a practical faith, the relevance of the Bible and a workable Christian lifestyle is developed.
- 2.7 The school will not tolerate discrimination against any person based on his/her religion, belief, or opinion.
- 2.8 The school will act against any person who fails to adhere to this religion policy using appropriate strategies provided in terms of school policies and codes or South African law.
- 2.9 Parents are expected to assist the school in its adherence to this policy by, for example,
  - 2.9.1 informing the school of dates of religious holidays/holy days/festivals at the time that the school year plan is drawn up for the preceding year
- 2.10 No learner, staff member, parent or visitor may attempt to impose a religious belief or opinion on another person, except where the person's participation is free and voluntary in a gathering exclusively for one religion, belief, or opinion.
- 2.11 This policy is compiled in accordance with the following legislation and amendments:
  - 2.11.1 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)
  - 2.11.2 National Education Policy (Act 27 of 1996) and amendments
  - 2.11.3 South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996) and amendments
  - 2.11.4 National Policy on Religion and Education

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2.11.5 Western cape School Education Act

2.11.6 Department of Basic Education Circular 01/LEG/2018

### 3. Application and scope of the policy

- 3.1 This policy applies to all learners, parents, and staff of the school.
- 3.2 Visitors to the school, including education department officials, and representatives of faith-based organisations and political parties are required to respect the Constitutional right to freedom of religion, belief and opinion and the principles of this policy while on the school premises or during a school day.

### 4. Responsibilities of the SGB

- 4.1 The SGB, in conjunction with the school's management, is responsible for developing and monitoring the implementation of the SRP and must do so in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- 4.2 The policy will be reviewed every three years and when there are changes in legislation or interpretation of the legislation.
- 4.3 Where necessary, the SGB will assist the principal when action must be taken following breaches of this policy.

### 5. Responsibilities of the Principal

- 5.1 The principal must ensure that the school community is educated regarding the SRP and that the policy is implemented and adherence to it is monitored.
- 5.2 The principal is responsible for instituting action against any person who acts in contravention of the policy using the appropriate disciplinary and other legal remedies. Where necessary, the SGB's assistance will be required.

### 6. Religion Policy Detail

- 6.1 Religion education
  - 6.1.1 The school implements the prescribed Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) for Grades 1-7 which includes religion education topics within the Life Skills and Life Orientation curriculums.
  - 6.1.2 Educators must ensure that the religious interests of all learners are protected.
- 6.2 Religious instruction
  - 6.2.1 By arrangement with the principal, religious instruction activities, religious societies and gatherings may be permitted on the school premises during break times on condition that they do not extend beyond the break times.
  - 6.2.2 Religious instruction may be conducted by staff members or by external persons accredited by faith communities during school assemblies.
  - 6.2.3 Participation in religious instruction must be free and voluntary.
- 6.3 Religious observances at school
  - 6.3.1 If it is compulsory for members of a religion to wear a religious symbol, learners may do so without requesting a concession. However, as learners are wearing a uniform, they are requested to wear these discreetly.
  - 6.3.2 Permission from the SGB and SMT must be given for the wearing of any visible symbols
- 6.4 Concessions for religious or cultural reasons



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- 6.4.1 Where a person requires further concessions, the staff member or parent of a learner must apply to the SGB or principal (if delegated by the SGB) stating the grounds for requiring additional concessions.
- 6.4.2 The principal will not unreasonably withhold permission but will do so if the concession is likely to disrupt the disciplined and purposeful school environment or impact on the quality of the learning experience.
- 6.5 Absence from school on days not designated school holidays for observance of religious holidays/holy days/festivals
  - 6.5.1 Parents of learners and members of staff may request leave of absence to observe religious holidays/holy days/festivals.
- 6.6 Use of school facilities by religious groups
  - 6.6.1 The governing body may allow religious groups to use the school facilities for religious observances. This will be done on an equitable basis. A fee may be charged for the use of the facilities. Activities must be conducted within the rules specified in the use agreement.
- 6.7 Religion policy and promotion of the core values of a democratic society
- 6.8 Through this religion policy the school aims to promote the core values as defined in the paragraph 14 of the NPR, namely: equity, tolerance, diversity, openness, accountability, and social honour.

## 7. Definitions and acronyms

equitable basis	means on a basis that is deemed fair, right, reasonable and just and gives equal treatment to everyone.
freedom of conscience	refers to the freedom of an individual to consider a fact, point of view or thought independent of others.
freedom of religion, belief, and opinion	Is the right to choose, express or practise any religion, belief or opinion free from coercion, prejudice or interference.
parent	has the meaning assigned to it in the South African Schools Act.
religion	“is used to describe the comprehensive and fundamental orientation in the world mostly with regard to ideas of divinity, spiritual and non-secular beliefs, including (but not restricted to) organised forms of religion and certain worldviews as well as being used collectively to refer to those organisations which are established in order to promote and protect these beliefs” (NPR).
religion education	“is a curricular programme with clear age-appropriate educational aims and objectives, for teaching and learning about religion, religions, and religious diversity in South Africa and the world.” (NPR).
religious holiday/holy day/festival	Is a day or period of observation, remembrance, celebration of any cultural or religious activity that is recognised as a feature of a particular cultural or religious community.
religious instruction	“refers to a programme of instruction which is aimed at providing information regarding a particular set of religious beliefs with a view to promoting the inculcation and adherence thereto” (NPR).
religious observance	“are those activities, behaviours, and practices that recognise and express the views, beliefs, and commitments of a particular religion, and may include gatherings of adherents, prayer times, dress and diets” (NPR).
school	refers to GENE LOUW PRIMARY School.
school community	includes all learners, all members of staff, all parents and visitors to the school, and residents in the school neighbourhood.



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school day	“entails that portion of each day in which it is compulsory for educators and learners to be at school”(NPR) and includes the seven hours contact time that is expected of educators and learners, including breaks, compulsory activities, assembly and designated extramural activities.
WCED	Western Cape Department of Education
NPR	National Policy on Religion and Education
SMT	School Management Team
SRP	Gene Louw Primary School’s Religion Policy



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