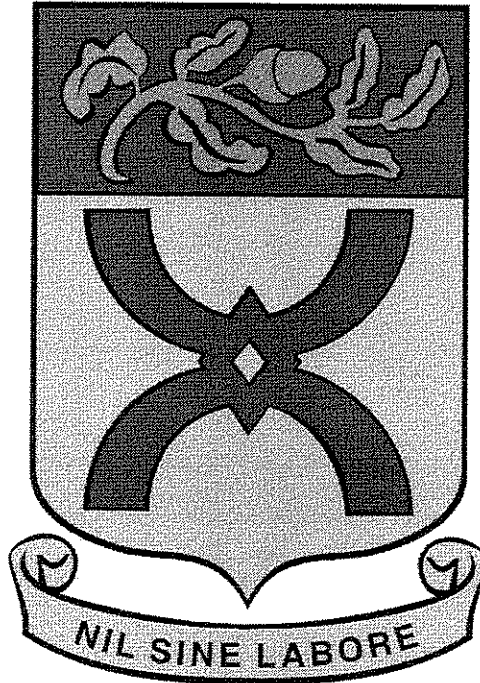


# **A.F. LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **RELIGIOUS POLICY**

**2025**

*Laerskool A. F. Louw Primary*

*Stellenbosch*

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*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
H D.P.A. AC  
BWI

## RELIGIOUS POLICY

### 1. Introduction

This document is the religious policy of A.F.LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL. The religious policy acknowledges the fundamental values entrenched in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996; the applicable provisions of the South African Schools Act, Act 84 of 1996, and other relevant provincial legislation.

Section 15(1) of the Constitution provides that every person has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.

Furthermore, Section 15(2) provides that religious observances by state or state-aided institutions may be conducted, provided that:

- (a) such observances adhere to the rules stipulated by the relevant public authority;
- (b) they are conducted equitably; and
- (c) attendance is free and voluntary.

A.F.LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL acknowledges that the abovementioned rights are not absolute and may be restricted by Section 36 of the Constitution.

Section 7 of the South African Schools Act vests the governing body with the power to determine the rules in terms of which religious observances must be conducted. This power is subject to the Constitution and any other applicable provincial legislation. Religious observances must be conducted on an equitable basis and attended voluntarily by educators and learners.

### 2. Core Statement

Based on the above, the governing body of A.F.LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL has drafted this religious policy with due regard to the religious composition of the school as well as to give effect to the mission of the school.

A.F.LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL undertakes to ensure that each representative religion at the school is dealt with on an equal basis.

### 3. Definitions

**'Religion'** – refers to the comprehensive and fundamental orientations in the world, with specific reference to sacred, spiritual and non-secular beliefs; requires dedication; includes organised forms of faith and certain world views, and is collectively used to refer to those organisations that have been established in order to protect and promote these beliefs.



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**'Religion education'** – refers to a curricular programme with clear and age-related educational objectives that the Department of Education prescribes for the teaching and learning of religion, religions and religious diversity in South Africa and the world. The study of religion must be aimed at achieving identifiable educational objectives that are in accordance with the objectives and outcomes of other learning areas, and, as with other learning areas in the curriculum, programmes in Religion Education must contribute to the development of fundamental observation, listening, reading, writing and reasoning skills.

**'Religious instruction'** – refers to a programme consisting of information with regard to a specific religion, aimed at promoting adherence to that specific religion. The governing body regards the family and the faith community as the primary providers of religious instruction. The school is an educational institution and, therefore, religious instruction does not form part of its formal programme. However, the school will make its facilities available for such programmes, provided that religious instruction does not interfere with the school's formal educational objectives.

**'Religious observances'** – refer to those activities or actions that give expression to the values of a particular faith or belief, and *inter alia* include prayer meetings, reading from the Scriptures, dress and diets. In terms of the South African Schools Act, religious observances may be conducted in the following ways:

- Voluntary, public events where the school's facilities are used for the purpose of religious observances
- Voluntary events (during school time) by the school community (learners and educators)
- Voluntary events during normal and other break times at school

#### **4. Religious policy of A.F.LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

To give effect to the school's vision and mission, the religious policy of A.F. LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL is based on a single faith, namely Christianity. As A.F.LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL acknowledges and respects the values entrenched in the Bill of Rights, the governing body ensures that the observance of other religions is respected and accommodated.

Educators and learners will be able to attend the particular religious observance voluntarily. The school will in no way compel educators or learners to participate in religious activities against which they have a conscientious scruple. Alternative arrangements will be made for the supervision of those learners who do not want to attend religious observances. Learners must provide the school with a letter in which the parents confirm the conscientious scruple.



BW

D.P.A.

AC

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Religion education will take place in accordance with the National Policy on Religion and Education. This education forms part of the learning areas; Life Orientation and History. Such education will take place from the school's perspective, as outlined in its mission and vision.

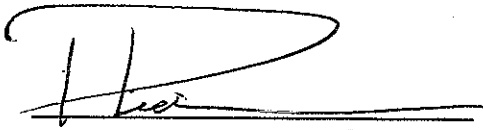
No educator will be forced to provide religion education if he/she has a conscientious scruple against the content of the curriculum. Such scruple must be conveyed to the principal in writing. The governing body may consider appointing a person/persons who would not have a problem with presenting the particular programme.

A.F.LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL will make available its facilities for religious observances by any representative faith group in the school. Such observances may only be conducted outside school hours, may not infringe upon the school's formal educational objectives, and are subject to the conditions that the governing body may impose.


As far as possible, A.F.LOUW PRIMARY SCHOOL will promote and enhance understanding of and respect for religious diversity.

Date of Review: January 2026

Signed at Stellenbosch on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

  
NAME: Hayward Pieterse

CHAIRPERSON

  
\_\_\_\_\_

S.A. TARR

PRINCIPAL



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RELIGIOUS POLICY

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*Handwritten notes:*  
KSE AC.  
D.P.A.  
BW  
J. van