



THE MOUNTAIN CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL

POLICY S1 P2

S1: GENERAL

P2: RELIGION

## POSITION STATEMENT

Most South Africans are religious people, following a number of different religions. In South Africa we have followers of African Traditional Religions, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and other religions. Because religion plays an important role in the lives of so many, it is important for us to have a policy dealing with religion in our school.

For most people who follow a religion, their religions and traditions are very important to them. Many such people do not feel as if they are full human beings if they are not allowed to practice their religions and teach their children about their traditions. In our democratic society, all religions and their followers have a place and have the right to be respected by all. Similarly, people who do not have a religion also have the right to the same kind of respect. The MCS policy on Religion and Education is an attempt to give that respect to all our citizens within the school environment.

## POLICY

The South African Constitution gives recognition to the role of faith and religion in our society. The preamble to the Constitution ends with the words:

*May God protect our people.*

*Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.*

*God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.*

*Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afrika. Hosi kateskisa Afrika.*

With this in mind MCS will recognise the place that religion plays in our lives.

MCS acknowledges the multi-cultural and multi-faith parent-learner community.

It cannot be more strongly stated that no prejudice against individuals, because of their religion, will be tolerated. Families of all religions will be accepted as part of the MCS family.

There are two aspects to religion in the school that need to be addressed.

The first is at whole school functions such as assembly and prize-givings. As allowed for in the Education Act, there will be religious observance at these gatherings. Out of respect for the school's majority of Christian families, there will be a Bible reading, a song/hymns and prayer at these functions.

Any learner, with permission from their parents, or staff member may leave the venue for the duration of these observances. These individuals have a right to do so and will not be discriminated against in any way.

The second aspect is teaching religion in the classroom. The job of educators teaching religion in the classroom is not to convince learners that a particular religion is better than others or to convince learners that all religions are good or that all religions are bad. The job

of educators is to teach learners certain aspects of the many religions so that the children will learn to understand & respect differences of other people.

### As set out in the RNCS:

#### Whole school grade 000 – 12

Bible reading and prayer each day during register period.

During Life Orientation/Life Skills periods: Life Orientation/Life Skills is concerned with developing knowledge about the self and skills that will enable young people to engage socially, to be responsible citizens, and to live healthy and productive lives. Life Orientation/Life Skills draws on the core of the non-examinable subjects previously known as Guidance, Family Guidance, Vocational Guidance, Religious or Bible Education, Civic Education, Health Education and Physical Education. It is also an interdisciplinary subject in that it integrates knowledge, values, skills and processes embedded in various disciplines such as Sociology, Psychology, Political Science and Human Movement Science.

#### Foundation Phase

They have Bible reading and prayer time each day during register period.

In the Foundation Phase, learners discover the religious *diversity* in our society.

#### Intermediate phase

They have Bible reading and prayer time each day.

#### What Religion Education can do:

- Religion Education can help to build a school community of respect and understanding.
- It can help the learner understand how his/her beliefs are different from those of other learners.
- It can strengthen the idea of unity in diversity.

#### What Religion Education does not do:

- Religion Education does not say that all religions are the same.
- It does not try to say that one religion is better than another.
- It does not try to make a new religion.
- It does not try to make everyone have the same religious beliefs.

## School Prayers

### PRIMARY SCHOOL PRAYER

*God bless Africa*

*Guard her children*

*Guide her leaders*

*And give her peace. Amen.*

### High School Prayer

*Almighty God, May our school be welcoming*

*May our school be encouraging, Let friendship flourish here*

*Let learning fill our day, Give us the strength to do our best*

*Give us the hope to carry on. Be our guide in all that we do. Amen*