



Annexure D : Our School's Religious Practices Policy

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The School will promote and enhance understanding of and respect for religious diversity.

This religious practices policy is underpinned by:

- The ethos and values of the School as per Our School's Code of Conduct and Our School's Rules and Policies,
- The right of all individuals to practice a religion of their choice, and be free of coercion to join any religion, and
- Inclusion, respect for and acceptance of all religions in our School.

1. School assemblies and religion

- 1.1. While attendance at all school assemblies is compulsory, regardless of individually held religious beliefs, participation in religious activity (e.g., hymn singing or praying) of a faith not personally held is optional. However, it is expected that respect and appropriate demeanour be maintained throughout such activities.
- 1.2. The School will conduct special school assemblies at various points during the school year, exposing boys to different religions and cultures and educating them about the religious and cultural diversity in the School community.

2. Formal assessments and religion

- 2.1. Wherever feasible and practicable, the School will ensure that its timetable concerning formal assessments of boys' work and significant, whole-school cultural and sporting activities takes cognisance of the holy days of the various religious groups in the School.
- 2.2. The School will further ensure that no boy is disadvantaged in his assessment outcomes as a direct consequence of him having observed a religious holiday or carried out a religious practice expected of him by his religion.

3. Leave of absence for religious considerations

When parents require that their children be absent from school for the observance of recognised religious holidays, parents must provide the School with reasonable notice in advance.

4. Religious instructions

Religious instruction is about giving or receiving instruction in a particular faith or belief to inculcate adherence to that faith or belief. In most cases, religious instruction would be provided by clergy or other persons accredited by faith communities to do so. Although based on Christian values, given the non-denominational ethos of the School and the School values and vision (sections 1 and 2 above), religious instruction does not form part of the School's mandate and is therefore not part of the formal school programme.

5. Facility for religious observances

- 5.1. The School may, at the discretion of the School Board, make facilities available for religious observances on an equitable basis by any representative faith group in the School. These observances may not infringe upon the School's formal education objectives, must be conducted in the facilities identified by the School for that purpose and are subject to any conditions imposed by the School Board.
- 5.2. Any religious observances by religious bodies and other accredited groups outside the formal school curriculum on School premises, may not denigrate any other religion, and attendance at these observances must be voluntary. Boys may not be bullied, compelled, or in any other way forced to attend these observances.
- 5.3. Persons offering religious observances as contemplated above must do so under the authority of a religious body.

