



# LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK

## POLICY & PROCEDURE

### RELIGION POLICY

Laerskool Wierdapark

LSWP – B – L- 016(E)

## Dokumentontwikkeling en Goedkeuring

Verantwoord- delikheid	Detail	Naam	Handtekening	Datum
Outeur:				
Goedgekeur:	Voorsitter: Beheerliggaam	JC de Bruijn		2018/11/29
Goedgekeur:	Hoof en Beheerliggaamslid	Y Wilken		2018/11/29
Goedgekeur:	Adjunkhoof en Beheerliggaamslid	HJ Basman		2018/11/29
Goedgekeur:	Beheerliggaamslid	C. FRYLWICK		2018/11/29
Goedgekeur:	Beheerliggaamslid	C. van den Bergh		2018/11/29
Goedgekeur:				
Gepubliseer	In Beleidsleer			
	Op webwerf			
	Gekommunikeer			

Weegawe No	Datum	Beskrywing
Final		

Confidential



**LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK  
POLICY & PROCEDURE  
RELIGION POLICY**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Title of the policy.....	3
2. Effective Date.....	3
3. Revision History.....	3
4. Preamble.....	3
5. Definitions.....	4
6. Laerskool Wierdapark Religion Policy .....	5
7. Short Title.....	6
8. Approval.....	6



# LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK *POLICY & PROCEDURE* RELIGION POLICY

Laerskool Wierdapark

LSWP – B – L- 016(E)

1. **TITLE OF THE POLICY** : Religion Policy
2. **EFFECTIVE DATE** : 1 January 2019
3. **REVISION HISTORY**

<b>As amended on:</b>
a)
b)
<b>Date of Next Review:</b>
c) 30 March 2019
d)

#### 4. **PREAMBLE**

This document is the religion policy of Laerskool Wierdapark as approved by the governing body. The religion policy acknowledge 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 84 of 1996 (“Schools Act”), and the provincial legislation applicable to this school.

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.



# LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK

## *POLICY & PROCEDURE*

### RELIGION POLICY

Laerskool Wierdapark

LSWP – B – L- 016(E)

Laerskool Wierdapark acknowledges that the abovementioned rights are not absolute and may be restricted by section 36 of the Constitution. Section 7 of the 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 freely and voluntarily by educators and learners.

Based on the above, the governing body of Laerskool Wierdapark has drafted this religion policy and rules with due regard to the religious composition of the school and for the execution of the mission of the school. Laerskool Wierdapark undertakes to ensure that each representative religion at the school is dealt with on an equitable basis.

#### 5. 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.

**‘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 that does not promote one religion over another, 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.





# LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK

## ***POLICY & PROCEDURE***

### **RELIGION POLICY**

Laerskool Wierdapark

LSWP – B – L- 016(E)

‘**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 sacred texts, dress and diets. 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

#### **6. LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK’S RELIGION POLICY**

For execution of the school’s vision and mission, Laerskool Wierdapark’s religion policy is founded upon Christianity.

As the 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 on an equitable basis where reasonably practicable. Admission will not be refused to learners on the grounds that a learner or the parents of the learner do not profess to be Christians.

Educators and learners will be able to attend organised religious observances at school freely and voluntarily and this will be communicated categorically to educators and learners. The school will in no way compel educators or learners to participate in religious activities. Parents must inform the school in writing, should a learner wish to be excluded from said observances. Alternative arrangements will be made for the supervision of those learners who do not wish to attend the religious observances offered. A learner’s wish to be excluded from religious observances may under no circumstances lead to discrimination against said learner.

Religion education will take place in accordance with the National Policy on Religion and Education. This education forms part of the learning area Life Orientation. The school’s point of view as stipulated in the mission – vision statement of the school, will serve as basis for the religion education at the school.

No educator will be forced to provide religion education. Should an educator wish to be excluded from providing religion education, it will under no circumstances be held against said educator. A request for exclusion should be made in writing and submitted to the principal. The SGB may decide to appoint a person / persons who would have no objection against the proposed program.

Confidential



# LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK

## POLICY & PROCEDURE

### RELIGION POLICY

Laerskool Wierdapark

LSWP – B – L- 016(E)

However, a person who applies for a position and states that he / she is not a Christian, should not be viewed in a negative light.

Laerskool Wierdapark will make available its facilities for religious observances by any representative faith group in the school. Such observances may be conducted only outside of the normal school hours. No religious observance may infringe upon the school's formal educational objectives, and are subject to the conditions that the governing body may impose.

Laerskool Wierdapark will promote and enhance understanding of and respect for religious diversity as far as reasonably practicable.

#### 7. SHORT TITLE

7.1 This policy shall be called The Religion Policy of Laerskool Wierdapark.

#### 8. APPROVAL:

Recommended by: (Principal)	<i>Y Wilken</i>	Signature:	<i>Wilken</i>
Date:	<i>2018 / 11 / 29</i>		
Approved by: (SGB Chairperson)	<i>JC de Bruin</i>	Signature:	<i>JC de Bruin</i>
Date:	<i>2018 / 11 / 29</i>		
Verification by GDE: (District Director)		Signature:	
Date of Verification			