



PRETORIA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

POLICY ON RELIGION

1. Principles of the policy on religion:

- 1.1 Freedom of conscience and religion shall be protected and encouraged.
- 1.2 The right of all pupils to practice their own religion and to be free of coercion to join any religion other than their own.
- 1.3 A belief in the broad religious-moral-ethical standards and principles espoused by the Judeo-Christian-Muslim family of religions.
- 1.4 In recognition of the religions and denominations (religious groupings) that are found at Pretoria Boys High School and based on the fact that the large majority of pupils, parents and staff members are of the Christian faith, the SGB of this school decided that universal religious values shall be transmitted mainly through the Christian faith.
- 1.5 The School is mindful of the fact that there are boys who do not subscribe to the Christian faith and as such care is taken in ensuring that their particular faith is respected.
- 1.6 The school regards the inclusion of a devotional element in the life of the school as an essential part of its ethos.

2. Pupil participation in religious observances:

- 2.1 Pupil participation in these activities is free and voluntary. Pupils cannot be forced to attend or to violate the rights of other pupils and teachers to attend these observances.
- 2.2 Parents may seek permission from the school, in writing, for their children to participate in religious festivities, religious holidays, commemoration days, initiation, mourning rituals and prayer times.
- 2.3 Muslim boys are allowed early exeats on a Friday to attend services at a Mosque.
- 2.4 The school does not make provision for dedicated prayer rooms for any faith.

3. Observance of religious holidays and festivals by pupils:

- 3.1 Pupils are allowed to participate in religious holidays/festivals. Pupils who miss school for such observances will be marked absent.
- 3.2 Arrangements should be made to ensure that the affected pupils are able to catch-up their academic work/schedule.
- 3.3 Parents of pupils should notify the Principal in writing well in advance of the pupils' intention to take certain school days off for the purpose of observing religious holidays/festivals.
- 3.4 Every attempt will be made to ensure that, where possible, no tests, examinations or important events are held on these days.

4. Religious attire and symbols

- 4.1 The wearing of any non-uniform item is not an automatic privilege. The wearing of non-uniform items of a religious or cultural nature (for example bracelets and necklaces), must be applied for via the relevant Housemaster who will refer it to the Deputy Headmaster to whom they report.

It must be demonstrated by the applicant that:

- i. There is a necessity to wear the religious /cultural item at school.
 - ii. The applicant must provide a letter from his parent/s or legal guardians supporting the application.
 - iii. The applicant must provide written proof that he is a member of good standing of the religious/cultural organisation/group that requires that they wear said item.
- 4.2 The applicant will also undertake to ensure that the item concerned is not visible. Where it is not possible to cover the item while in summer school uniform this may include the need to wear formal uniform.
 - 4.3 Any school activities that preclude the wearing of such items (according to the regulations of that sport/activity's controlling body) shall be adhered to.
 - 4.4 Certain items of a religious/cultural nature are only required to be worn for a short time period. The applicant shall undertake to strictly adhere to such requirements.
 - 4.5 Should the applicant be successful in their request the relevant Deputy Headmaster will provide a letter for the pupil to carry at all times whilst in uniform.

5. Religious component of school and house assemblies

- 5.1 School assemblies are broadly Christian in character. No boy is forced to participate in the religious side of assembly and hymn book covers without hymns

are issued to boys of other faiths on request. Great care is taken with readings and prayer to ensure that they reflect universal truths and non-doctrinal values.

- 5.2 Pupils who do not wish to attend or participate in religious observances during assemblies require a letter from their parents requesting that they be excused from participation.

6. Religion and admissions

- 6.1 Criteria for admission of pupils to Pretoria Boys High School will not unfairly discriminate against pupils on the basis of their religion.

7. Determining and reviewing of the Religion Policy of Pretoria Boys High School

- 7.1 The School Governing Body (SGB) of Pretoria Boys High School shall determine the Religion Policy of the school.