

ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

POLICY ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LEGISLATION

- Constitution, 108 of 1996
- South African Schools Act, 84 of 1996

PREABLE

The Islamic Educational Centre is an independent school, accredited by Umalusi and the Department of Education. It is a non-for-profit organization, Section 21 company managed by a Board of Trustees for the sole purpose of imparting both a conventional curriculum based on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and an Islamiyaat education system. The primary imperative is the envisaged Islamic value system that is pervasive across all facets of school life.

ETHOS

Its ethos is vividly captured in its mission statement:

- To provide quality Islamic education and academic education;
- To nurture a strong sense of Allah Consciousness;
- To uphold the principles of Islam in our daily lives;
- To enrich Islamic morality.

ISLAMIC VALUES

The Qur'anic injunctions and the traditions of the Prophet (SAW) furnish a comprehensive guide and value system for the conduct of human life and management of human affairs to enable mankind to live honest, equitable, dignified, cooperative and peaceful life on earth. These are based on equality, justice, compassion, honesty, sincerity, integrity, truth, transparency, accountability, impartiality, chastity and modesty as enjoined in the Qur'an.

Basic Parameters Prescribed in Islam

The Qur'an outlines the basic principles we should adhere to in conducting our affairs in life. For instance, it commands:

- "Cooperate with one another in performing pious and righteous deeds; do not cooperate in sinful acts." (Al Maeda – 5:2)
- "So long as they are true to you, stand you true to them" (Al-Tauba –9.7)
- Show forgiveness; enjoin what is good, and turn away from the foolish (Al-A'raf-7: 199)
- "Repay gratitude with gratitude" (Ar-Rahman 55:60) Including the Hadith (Tradition)
- "Treat the people with ease and do not be hard on them; give them glad tidings and don't fill them with aversion; and love each other and do not differ". Imam Ahmad (Tafsir Ibn Kathir Vol. 1 p: 503)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies is taught from an early stage and is based on Islam. Some of the topics covered in the classes are:

- Fundamentals of Faith
- Tafseer
- Stories of the Prophets
- Lives of the Companions
- Salaah, Wudu and Ghusal
- Manners/values based on narrations of the Prophet (SAW)
- Marriage and Divorce
- Blood transfusion

Arabic and Qur'an

The cornerstone of our education is the emphasis on the Arabic language and the Qur'an. Children from as early as Grade R are introduced to the Arabic language, and this development of the language is continued through to senior level. The Qur'an is taught by qualified practitioners in the traditional science of Tajweed. All learners are encouraged not only to memorize as much of the Qur'an as they are able to by rote, but also to understand the meaning of the verses and ensure that they implement its principles and rules on a holistic basis, in all spheres of their lives.

Religious instruction is therefore a subject which because of its forming nature will have great influence on the children's future relationships with their Creator and neighbours. Educators therefore:

- Teach Religious instruction with love and dedication.
- Inculcate a love of prayer in the learners.

In spirit of the above:

- The Constitutional right of all learners and educators to have their own views on religion will be respected.
- No learner of another or no faith will be forced to attend Religious Instruction classes. At the written request of their parents, alternative arrangements shall be made for them during these periods.

DUTY OF EDUCATORS

It is expected that educators teach the children values, norms and standards, especially those of brotherly love and prayer. To help achieve the latter it is important that prayers are said before the school starts and at midday.

CONCLUSION

It is expected of parents and learners to respect other religious faiths that make up the diverse and cosmopolitan society of South Africa.