



# WATERSTONE COLLEGE

## Religious Policy

### Introduction

The 1996 Constitution of the South Africa, Section 29, provides for the establishment of independent schools on the basis of common culture and religion, provided that they do not discriminate on the basis of race. The collective right of the school which is joined by a common Christian purpose is more persuasive than the right of the individual.

Our Christian ethos and religious policy forms one of the major cornerstones of our school. The Christian nature of the school and religious instruction and worship lie at the very heart of Waterstone College. The College provides an environment where teachers and learners can express their faith openly and practice their beliefs.

- The College's right to exist hinges on the maintenance of the overriding Christian and moral ethos of the School.
- All efforts will be made to preserve the Christian character of the School.

Since teachers are very important role models, their influence is paramount in the development of the child. Our staff are born again Christians.

### Other Faiths and Religions

Teachers who choose to teach at Waterstone College, and parents who choose to send their children to this College, which has a specific Christian belief system, recognise and accept the School's religious policy. This does not mean to say that they may not be of a different religion or are prohibited from practicing that religion outside the school boundaries. During school hours and terms, however, learners may not leave the school or take days off for religious reasons.

### Daily Staff Meetings

It is compulsory for staff to attend these meetings, normally held before school. The daily morning gathering in the staff room may include prayer and scripture reading.

### Line-up

It is compulsory for learners to attend. The school day shall start with line-up, which will include a scripture reading and prayer. Prayer and the scripture reading shall be done by the teacher and/or learners.

### Assembly

It is compulsory for staff and learners to attend. When the school day starts with an assembly, it shall include a scripture reading, a Biblical message and prayer. Prayer and the scripture reading shall be done by the teacher and/or learners.

### Bible Education Lessons

It is compulsory for learners to attend Bible Education classes, which will be scheduled at least once a week for each class. The syllabus will include Bible teaching, and instruction with regard to the general and specific messages of the Christian faith. Learners may be examined in this subject, and the mark may reflect on the child's report.

### Dress Code

The dress code of Waterstone College will be applicable to learners, teachers and other staff members. No correspondence will be entered into.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of parent/guardian) have read and understood the College's Religious Policy. I agree to abide by the Policy, and that my child/dependant who attends the College will adhere to the college's rules and regulations in this regard.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_