

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION:

The Board recognises that:

- Selwyn Ridge Primary School (SRP) is made up of a diverse range of students, families and teachers who hold various cultural and religious beliefs.
- There is a desire amongst a significant number of students and families of the school community to have a religious instruction programme available at SRP.
- There are also students and families at SRP who choose not to take part in any particular religious instruction programme.
- The Education Act 1964 sets out certain legislative requirements for the provision of any religious instruction or observance in school.
- The New Zealand Bills of Rights Act 1990 (section 19) maintains the rights of all people not to be discriminated against, which includes discrimination for their religious beliefs or non-belief.


PURPOSE:

To set out the guidelines for the provision of religious instruction at SRP.

GUIDELINES:

- Attendance or participation in a religious instruction programme at SRP will be completely voluntary. Parents have the discretion to opt their child in or out.
- If a religious instruction programme is provided, the school will be closed for up to one hour a week for a total of 20 hours a year (in accordance with section 78 Education Act 1964) for religious instruction.
- Any religious instruction programme will be run by a Board approved provider.
- Consultation with the school community will take place in a three year cycle, prior to updating of this policy.
- The school will provide activities and supervision for children who do not participate in any religious instruction programme during any period the school is closed for religious instruction.
- The management of the school will ensure that staff are aware of the Religious Instruction policy and in particular that they understand the distinction between teaching children about religious beliefs or traditions which is permitted under the Education Act 1964 but not teaching children what to believe, which is only to be covered within any religious instruction programme offered.
- If any issue arises in relation to any programme of religious instruction or religious observance then the process set out in the school's Complaint's Procedure will be followed.

Signed:



Robyn Garrett - BOT Chairperson



Craig Price - Principal

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