



POLICY (Number: Avii)
SUPPORT IF CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND NQF

How does Somerset House School support the Constitutional Values of South Africa

Education was described by our first president as being, “the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. We not only believe this statement to be true, but we also believe that it is incumbent on us as a school to make sure that we do all we can to live it out. What does this mean for Somerset House:

- It means that we have a responsibility to ensure that the right of access to our school is not only made equal for all children regardless of race, gender, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth, but also, that we seek to correct the negative impact that was made by apartheid in terms of access to quality schooling.
- It means that we seek to teach children not what to think, but rather, how to think, so that they may contribute to our country by being original and free thinkers in their own right.

We also have other responsibilities in terms of the constitution of South Africa:

- We are responsible in our daily work as a school, to uphold the law of the land in the way we do business, the way we employ people and the way in which we deal with children. By so doing we seek to live out what it means to be a good citizen, and lead by example.
- We are responsible for making every effort to uphold the fundamental human rights of every person involved in the school at all times.

Somerset House has a proud history of being a school that always plotted its own course. During the apartheid years it was a school that opened its doors to children of all races when it uncomfortable to do so. Children were always taught to challenge and not accept dogma as truth. It is our hope that this will never change, and that Somerset House will always be a place where free thought is encouraged through innovative and relevant teaching.

How does Somerset House School support the Principles of the NQF

The constitution of South Africa protects the right of Independent Schools to exist. There are however certain responsibilities that Somerset House has as an independent in terms of abiding by the principles of the NQF. Somerset House supports the principles of the NQF by:

- Being open about its distinctive mission.
- Determining its own learner admission policy in line with the law
- Choosing to use a curriculum that allows learners to access the school of their choice as a result of the curriculum meeting or exceeding the prescribed outcomes of the National Curriculum Statement.
- Determining its own promotion and retention policies in line with applicable policies.
- Determining how it is governed, financed and staffed, within the boundaries of the law; and in line with good governance practice.
- Operating within the confines of the Constitution and all relevant National and Provincial legislation.

We regard the freedom of Somerset House to use its own professional judgement to make decisions as an important right, one which is never taken lightly. These key characteristics ensure that Somerset House has the freedom it requires to be able to determine and deliver a programme of academic excellence to its learners.



Further to the above, Somerset House supports the principles of the NQF by:

- Not discriminating on the basis of race, gender, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.
- Being correctly registered with the state as required by law.
- Being correctly registered as a Section 21 Company and complying with all laws relevant to public benefit organisations.
- Maintaining standards that are not inferior to standards at comparable public educational institutions.
- Registering with the relevant Quality Assurance bodies and seeking to comply with the requirements as set out by the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act, 2001 as amended.
- By abiding by the South African Schools Act (SASA), general law and by any legislation that protects the best interest of the child.

Somerset House maintains the right to exclude children when such exclusion has followed a fair procedure on the basis of:

- Exclusion on grounds of contravention of the rules contained in the school's Code of Conduct and grievance procedure, drafted in line with relevant legislation and good practice.
- Exclusion on the grounds that the contract between the parents and the school has been broken, usually because the parents have failed to pay fees.

Curriculum and Assessment at Somerset House

Somerset House chooses to make adaptations to the standards prescribed in both the National Curriculum Statements for the General Education and Training (GET) and the Further Education and Training (FET) bands. It makes every attempt to ensure that it meets the standards prescribed by the National Curriculum Statement.

Progression, Promotion and Retention

Decisions about promoting or retaining learners fall within the curriculum and assessment areas and are critical to the freedom of Somerset House to use its professional judgement to maintain a high quality of education. Such decisions are made in the best interests of the child, in consultation with parents, and with due cognisance being taken of the learning outcomes and assessment standards prescribed in the National Curriculum Statement.