

Barachel Christian Academy

Policy regarding Access to school premises

1. Introduction

Daily, we read in the newspapers of crooks masquerading as well-dressed individuals, entering premises under false pretenses to commit crimes, gangsters entering schools to assault educators and pupils, drug pushers entering schools to sell drugs.

Therefore it is the duty of the principal, by the powers delegated to him by the Provincial Head of Department (Education), to:

- (a) Protect the learners from mental and physical harm.
- (b) Create a safe working environment for Educators and other personnel.
- (c) Protect the property of the State and personnel.

2. Core statement

No person shall, without the permission of the Principal or Administrator, enter these school premises.

3. Access to school premises:

3.1 Conditions for granting access

The principal may require the person/persons wanting access to:

- a) Furnish his/her name, address, telephone number and any other information of relevance we may deem necessary.
- b) Produce satisfactory proof of identity.
- c) Declare if he/she has any dangerous objects or weapons on his/her person.
- d) Declare if he/she has any illegal drugs in his/her possession.
- e) Declare what the contents is of any vehicle he/she used to enter the premises.
- f) Subject him/her to examination by an electronic device or search by a member of the same gender.

3.2 Exemptions

Some categories of persons are, on furnishing satisfactory proof of identity, exempt from the provisions in paragraph 3.1. They are:

- a) The National Minister of Education.
- b) The Provincial Member of the Executive Council responsible for Education.
- c) Officials of the Regional and Provincial Departments of Education in the execution of their duties.

3.3 Removal of persons from school property

The principal may at any time have person/persons removed from school property if:

- a) He/she considers it necessary for the safety of the Learners and Personnel.
- b) The person/persons fails or refuses to comply with the conditions for access stipulated in paragraph 3.1.

Barachel Christian Academy

4. Visits by parents

Parents of children attending school will be allowed to visit the school provided:

- a) Prior appointment with the principal has been made.
- b) Visits do not interfere with the school programme.

5. Visits by the media

The media have a right to visit schools in the interest of public accountability. Journalists will be allowed at this school subject to the following conditions:

- a) Prior written permission must have been obtained from the HOD.
- b) Such visits do not interfere to a great extent with the school programme.

6. Visits by public and political office bearers

In the interest of public accountability, Public and Political Office Bearers will be allowed to visit the school subject to the following conditions:

- a) Prior written permission must have been obtained from the HOD.
- b) Such visits do not disrupt the school programme.
- c) Such visits are not politicized.

7. General

- a) Requests are constantly received from persons and representatives from Non-Governmental Associations, Insurance Companies and other quarters to speak to educators, to address learners or to give demonstrations. Such visits from outsiders to the school, during or after school hours, may interfere with the work of the school. The principal will apply his mind to such requests and thoroughly weigh the advantages and disadvantages of such visits before giving permission therefore.
- b) Applications to stage recitals, performances, etc. which is of cultural value and for which a fee is charged, will only be allowed to take place after the normal school hours. If such performances are free and if all learners can attend it, the principal may give permission for it to be staged during school hours.
- c) Under no circumstances may staff members, regardless of their seniority, give permission for any visit by outsiders to the school without the permission of the principal. This
- d) No interviews are allowed during school hours with any educator except the principal, unless he deems it necessary in the interest of the school, and on condition that his prior approval has been obtained. This precludes interviews with parents in connection with their children.

8. Definitions

- a. Dangerous objects are any knife or sharp object; any firearm or gas weapon; any other object that may be employed to cause bodily harm to a person.
- b. Illegal drugs are chemical substances which brings about a change in a person's emotional state, body functions or behaviour.
- c. H.O.D. refers to the Head of the Provincial Department of Education.
- d. School Premises refer to the buildings, terrain, playgrounds and sports fields of the school.