

Hoe voel die SAOU-lede daaroor? Wat het die SAOU destyds gesê en wat sê hulle nou?

Die SAOU het aanvanklik sterk standpunt ingeneem vir die skole wat geraak word deur die hofaansoek. Dit is gedoen op grond van peilings onder SAOU lede:

Vraag / Question	Ja / Yes	%	Nee / No	%
1. Moet die beginsel van keusevryheid tov 'n bepaalde godsdienstige etos en karakter (ongeg die geloof) by 'n betrokke skool gehandhaaf word?	2667	94.9	143	5.1
2. Moet die BL en die onderwyspersoneel dit op so 'n wyse implementeer dat ruimte en respek vir ander gelowe en standpunte geskep word?	2636	93.8	173	6.2
3. Word die beginsel aanvaar dat leerders en onderwyspersoneel wat nie met 'n betrokke skool se spesifieke benadering tot godsdienstbeoefening saamstem nie, vrygestel word van enige samekomste en verder dat daar op geen wyse hoegenaamd teen hierdie persone gediskrimineer mag word nie?	2710	96.4	100	3.6

Die oorweldigende positiewe reaksie op geloof in skole, het gelui tot die SAOU wat in aanvanklike eedsverklarings sterk vir geloof in skole uitgekome het.

14.4 In other words, the right to freedom of religion in public schools **permits a school community, through its governing body, to exercise a choice to align itself with a particular religion...**"

14.8 "Based on the knowledge and experience the SAOU has gained, it will submit that **it is possible for public schools to elect to align themselves with a particular religion...**"

Op 28 Februarie 2017 dien die SAOU se hoof, Chris Kloppers, egter hofstukke in – wat lynreg teen die mening van sy lede, en die van sy vorige eedsverklarings indruis.

59.2.3 “That, with respect, is the wrong conclusion. The impossibility of knowing the beliefs of every learner, and the ever-changing nature of the student body, is precisely what **obligates the school not to align itself with any one religion.**”

79. “...The SAOU submits that the National Policy provides such a framework, and **that the alignment of schools with a particular religion is inimical children’s participation.**”

Volgens die nuwe hofstukke, wat amptelik namens die SAOU ingedien is, hoort geloof geensins tydens skoolure nie.

63. “Accordingly, a policy that ensures that observance is **free and voluntary** is one that allows religious attendance on an **opt-in basis during break times and after school, not on an opt-out basis during regular school hours...**”

79.5 “A framework that facilitates the voice and participation of children should thus be characterised by voluntarism, which permits religious observances, and **allows learners to opt-in, for example during break or after school**, rather than requiring them to **opt out during regular school hours.**”

Chris Kloppers erken dat die SAOU hulle posisie verander het.

15. “...The decision by the SAOU **to revise its submissions** has been taken only after seeking extensive external legal advice.”