

1 | France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic. It guarantees justice for all citizens throughout its territory. It affirms its respect of all beliefs.

2 | As a secular Republic, France holds itself responsible for separating religious and state affairs. The State chooses to adopt a neutral stance towards any religious or spiritual belief. There will be no State religion.

A SECULAR REPUBLIC

3 | *Laïcité* guarantees freedom of conscience for all. Every single individual has got a right to decide what they choose to believe in. It gives freedom to express individual convictions, in the respect of those other citizens profess and within the limits of public order.

4 | *Laïcité* entitles to the full exercise of citizenship. It will take into account individual freedom on one hand and the concepts of equality and fraternity for each and everyone on the other hand, in full respect of the general interest.

5 | The Republic holds itself responsible for the application of each of the above principles in schools.

THE SCHOOL *LAÏCITÉ* CHARTER

The Nation entrusts schools with the task of teaching students the values of the Republic.

6 | *Laïcité* at school gives the students opportunities to build character, express their free will and learn the basics of citizenship. It guards them against proselytism or any kind of pressure that might prevent them to make their own choices.

7 | *Laïcité* ensures access to a common and shared culture for students.

8 | *Laïcité* implies freedom of speech for the students inasmuch as it is in accordance with the rules of the school, as well as the acceptance of the values of the Republic and the possible coexistence of different convictions.

9 | No form of violence or discrimination will be tolerated. *Laïcité* guarantees gender equality and is based on a culture of mutual respect and understanding.

10 | It is the duty of any member of the staff to impart to the students the meaning and value of *laïcité*, as well as that of any other basic principle of the Republic. They will see to their enforcement within the school. It is their further responsibility to make sure the students' parents are fully aware of the contents of this charter.

11 | It is the duty of all members of the staff to adopt a behaviour of the utmost neutrality : they will on no account express their political or religious beliefs within the school.

A SECULAR EDUCATION SYSTEM

12 | The curriculum is consistent with *laïcité*. In order to open the students' minds to the different interpretations of the world as objectively as possible and acquire an extensive and accurate knowledge , any issue consistent with the curriculum can be the object of scientific and educational reasoning. No religious or political belief will be accepted as an excuse for refusing a teacher the right to cover any item of the curriculum.

13 | Nobody can claim any religious affiliation for refusing to comply with the rules prevalent in the schools of the Republic.

14 | The adopted rules within the premises of any State school are in strict accordance with *laïcité*. Any apparent religious display is forbidden.

15 | The students take an active part in maintaining *laïcité* within the school through the exercise of reason and skill.