This study was undertaken to identify differences in leadership practices between academic and religious stream principals. Specifically, the objective of this study was to identify differences between academic and religious stream principal leadership in terms of their practices. Secondly, identifying obstacles to the effectiveness of principal practices in terms of teacher, pupil and school aspects. To achieve the objectives, questionnaires were distributed to 60 teachers in SBP and SMAP. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentage, mean and standard deviation. Meanwhile, inferential statistics used t-Test. The study found that no significant differences exist in term of practices between academic and religious stream principals as the value of t=0.440 and p=0.662. Further, SBP and SMAP were less likely to face factors hindering principal leadership effectiveness in terms of teacher, pupil and school when the agreement of respondents was shown by the mean score of less than 3.00. The implications of this study indicate the need for leadership among individuals especially teachers and principals. For excellent educational institutions such as SBP and SMAP, the principal leadership is not a major contributor to school effectiveness. This is because the school input is the best input such as selected students and teachers.