



BOARD DIRECTIONAL POLICY

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Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education

DIRECTIONAL POLICY NUMBER

200

Directional Policy

Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education

Date Approved:

December 2023

Projected Review Date:

December 2028

Policy

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario has a clear and distinct mandate which is best expressed through our mission: "Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we transform the world with justice and peace through Catholic education."

Purpose

The Board recognizes that Catholic Education requires the collective effort and engagement of the entire system: trustees, staff, students, parents, parishes, priests, and the community - partners that promote a Catholic worldview that is *theological, philosophical, social, cultural, moral, and communal* (D'Souza, 2016).

As such, this policy recognizes Catholic education as a common good where student diversity and cultural plurality create *the conditions for intercultural dialogue, helping each pupil grow in their humanness, civic responsibility, and learning* (Educating Today and Tomorrow, 2014).

This policy draws upon the teachings of the Church and the history of Catholic Education in the province of Ontario where Catholic Education provides a worldview in which faith and reason meet.

This directional policy considers the formation of the student as a whole person created in the image and likeness of God. *The heart and soul of Catholic education is Jesus Christ, and our school system finds its very reason for existence in its communication of the Christian message. The goal of Catholic education is nothing less than a truly holistic formation of persons who will be living witnesses to the faith.* (Fulfilling the Promise, 1993)

Administrative Procedures that specify system-wide practices for Catholic Education operationalize this directional policy.

Alignment with Multi-Year Strategic Plan:

The *Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy* supports our Vision “Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we transform the world with justice and peace through Catholic education.” This Vision calls the Board to these Strategic Priorities:

[CDSBEO Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#)

Alignment with the CDSBEO Framework for Policy Development

The strategic plan and goals of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario must be rooted in the development and maintenance of Board policies and organizational structures that support student achievement, equity and wellbeing, and educational goals. These policies must be monitored and evaluated for their effectiveness in achieving these goals (Good Governance: Guide for Trustees, School Boards, Directors of Education and Communities, 2022).

[CDSBEO Framework for Policy Development](#)

Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- Setting direction and policy that governs the Catholic DSB of Eastern Ontario with care, compassion, and justice.
- Reviewing, and considering for approval the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Policy.
- Assigning responsibility to the Director of Education for retaining the “freedom, autonomy, and distinctiveness necessary to provide Catholic Education” (This Moment of Promise).
- Monitoring and holding the Director of Education accountable in ensuring “the best possible education for every student...” (This Moment of Promise).

The Director of Education is responsible for:

- Providing leadership regarding implementation and operational details in the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Policy.
- Providing direction to staff in the development of administrative procedures and practices to ensure implementation of the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Policy.
- Promoting collaborative relationships with the Bishop of the Diocese of Ottawa-Carleton and the Diocese of Kingston and all the stakeholders in Catholic Education.
- Contributing to *"the best possible education for every student..."* (This Moment of Promise) by providing excellence in Catholic Education in this region of the province.

Superintendent of Religious Education and Family Life is responsible for:

- Collaboratively leading the development of administrative procedures and practices aligned with the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Managing and providing leadership in developing the supports and resources to ensure the implementation of the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Working collaboratively with the Director and Superintendents, Priests, Principals and Vice-Principals, Chaplaincy Leaders, Managers, Federations, Unions, and non-union groups to build capacity of all staff in their knowledge and understanding of the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Developing strategies for supporting parents/guardians at both the local and system level in their understanding of the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.

Superintendents are responsible for:

- Providing leadership and supports for Principals/Vice-Principals, Managers, Executive/Administrative Assistants, and all departmental staff in their knowledge, understanding, and the implementation of the Catholic Education Directional Policy and, in doing so, developing educational structures which will mediate a deep respect for every person whom our schools touch.
- Working collaboratively with the Superintendent of Religious Education and Family Life to develop administrative procedures that align with the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.

Managers are responsible for:

- Providing leadership, management, and support for the members of their departments in the knowledge, understanding, and the implementation of the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.

- Working collaboratively with the Superintendent of Religious Education and Family Life to develop administrative procedures that align with the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.

Communications staff are responsible for:

- Working collaboratively with the Superintendent of Religious Education to develop a system-wide communications plan focused on building knowledge and understanding with our various stakeholders on the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy to support its effective implementation.

Principals are responsible for:

- Providing leadership, management, and support for the members of their school communities in the knowledge, understanding, and the implementation of the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Co-creating the unique character of the Catholic school through commitment to staff, students, and to the Gospel.

Teachers, Chaplaincy Leaders, and Staff are responsible for:

- Working collaboratively with colleagues to successfully implement the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Adhering to the administrative procedures that support the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Being proactive and self-directed in building their knowledge and understanding of the Nurturing and Protecting Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Co-creating the unique character of the Catholic school through commitment to students and to the Gospel.

Parents are responsible for:

- As the primary educators of their children, developing the faith and wellbeing of children that is extended and complemented by our Catholic schools.
- Considering the opportunities offered by parent organizations in our schools.
- Supporting the mission and vision of Catholic schools.

Students are responsible for:

- Becoming active participants in the process of Catholic education.
- Growing into and developing who they are as created by God and developing the talents they have been given.
- Bringing the best of themselves to the society in which they live, in fulfillment of the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

Progress Indicators

- 1) All employees are aware of, and implement, their roles in the Catholic Education Directional Policy and in the related administrative procedures.
- 2) Ongoing review and development of Administrative Procedures for Catholic Education responds to system and legislative needs.
- 3) Development of collaborative guidelines for pastoral care in schools and adult faith animation between the board and the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall and the Archdiocese of Kingston.

Definitions

- **Common Good:** How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Our Church teaches that the role of the government and other institutions is to protect human life and human dignity and promote the common good.

References

- Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Education Act
- [A Catholic Philosophy of Education: The Church and Two Philosophers](#), Mario O. D'Souza, CSB. McGill-Queen's University Press. Montreal & Kingston. 2016
- [Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Renewing Passion: Congregation for Catholic Education \(for Educational Institutions\) Instrumentum Laboris, 2014](#)
- [Fulfilling The Promise: The Challenge of Leadership. A Pastoral Letter to the Catholic Education Community, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, September 21, 1993](#)
- [This Moment of Promise \(1989\): Assembly of Catholic Bishops Statement about the state of Catholic Education](#)
- [Renewing the Promise \(2017\). Assembly of Catholic Bishops Statement about the state of Catholic Education.](#)