

Policy 17

CATHOLICITY AND CATHOLIC LIFESTYLE

As Roman Catholics, we accept the teaching of the Magisterium of the Church. Our Catholic faith permeates all that we do. The Board believes that the teaching of our Catholic faith and the evidence of practical applications must be shown in the culture of the Division and in schools. The adults employed by our Division serve as models of faith for our students, teaching and leading by example. Our time, talent and treasure are gifts given to us by God to be used wisely in sharing with others.

The Board will assist, promote, encourage and support Catholic faith formation for Catholic and non-Catholic staff. It is an expectation that staff and students participate in the religious life of the school and that every aspect of the Division is permeated with faith. Students and staff will have the opportunity to enrich their faith through community service, acts of social justice, participating in liturgical celebrations and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Training and support will be provided for teachers to permeate faith. Staff will also be provided with opportunities for enhancement and development of faith among the community and within schools.

Specifically,

1. All employees must undertake to follow, both in and out of the work situation, a lifestyle and deportment in harmony with Catholic teaching and principles. They must proclaim Catholic philosophy through their actions, both within the Division and outside it.
2. An employee shall at no time conduct him/herself, either professionally or personally, in such a manner so as to bring the Division or its representatives, or the Board into public disrepute or ridicule.
3. All Catholic employees are expected to be in good standing with the Church and are to be an active member of a parish community.
4. All Catholic teachers are expected to be knowledgeable about our faith and be able to integrate the teaching of our faith throughout the school day.
5. All non-Catholic employees are expected to continue to practice their own particular faith and to support the religious foundation of the Division.
6. All employees of the St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate School Division permeate all aspects of life in the division with the religious dimension as they discharge their duties. Words and actions of employees will reflect the teachings of the Catholic faith, and in particular relationships with colleagues and students, will model Catholic teaching. Teachers in particular are sensitive to this aspect of educating students:
 - 6.1 All employees will permeate the Catholic Faith during the school day;

- 6.2 Teachers may refer resources developed and shared by the Director of Faith Life and Religious Education as they plan and deliver curriculum content in their courses and throughout the school day;
 - 6.3 As career-long learners, and as professionals in a Catholic Separate School Division pursuing the attainment of the Teaching Quality Standard, teachers are expected to participate in professional development activities that enhance their ability to make the Catholic faith “the foundation of all that they do”. This supports the mission of the school Division.
- 7. All Division personnel are expected to attend Reflection Day.
 - 8. Schools cooperate with parish teams to enhance the religious formation of the students and the faith life of the school.
 - 8.1 Each school will publish a yearly liturgical plan that reflects the Church’s calendar;
 - 8.2 Schools will consult with the local parish priest for advice and involvement in making the liturgical plan a reality;
 - 8.3 Schools will provide all assistance possible to their parishes in the delivery of sacramental preparation programs to students.

Legal Reference: Section 53, Education Act