



BOARD DIRECTIONAL POLICY	
DIRECTIONAL POLICY TITLE	DIRECTIONAL POLICY NUMBER
CATHOLIC EDUCATION	200

TITLE OF DIRECTIONAL POLICY:

Catholic Education

DATE APPROVED:

February 25, 2020.

PROJECTED REVIEW DATE:

January 25, 2025.

POLICY:

The Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board serves the common good by applying the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in the context of a culturally, religiously, and regionally diverse society.

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 Catholic Education Directional Policy supports our Vision for Achieving excellence in Catholic Education **LEARN • LEAD • SERVE.**

This Vision calls the Board to these Strategic Priorities:



Strategic Priorities 2017-2020

Vision

Achieving Excellence in Catholic Education
LEARN • LEAD • SERVE

Mission

To educate students in faith-filled, safe, inclusive Catholic learning communities by nurturing the mind, body and spirit of all.

LEARN

Achieve excellence in instruction and assessment to enable all students to become reflective, self-directed, lifelong learners.

LEAD

Foster critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication, to enable all students to realize their God-given potential.

SERVE

Inspire engagement and commitment to stewardship for creation to enable all students to become caring and responsible citizens.

In particular, these strategic priorities include building and sustaining a strong partnership between home, parish, and school.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- setting direction and policy that governs the PVNC Catholic District School Board with *care, compassion, and justice.*
- reviewing, and considering for approval the Catholic Education Directional 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 Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- providing direction to staff in the development of administrative procedures and practices to ensure implementation of Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Promoting collaborative relationships with the Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough and all of 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 Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- managing and providing leadership in developing the supports and resources to ensure the implementation of the Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- working collaboratively with the Director and Superintendents, Priests, Principals and Vice-Principals, Chaplaincy Team Leads, Managers, Federations, Unions, and non-union groups to build capacity of all staff in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- developing strategies for supporting parents/guardians at both the local and system level in their understanding of the Catholic Education Directional Policy.

Superintendents of Schools and System Portfolios 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 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 Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- working collaboratively with the Superintendent of Religious Education and Family Life to develop administrative procedures that align with the Catholic Education Directional Policy.

Communication Services is 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 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 Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- co-creating the unique character of the Catholic school through commitment to staff, students, and to the Gospel.

Priests are responsible for:

- *meeting the pastoral and spiritual needs of both staff and students in Catholic schools through faith development, social outreach and liturgical celebrations that will benefit both the parish and the school under the diocesan oversight of the Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough.*

Staff are responsible for:

- working collaboratively with colleagues to successfully implement Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- adhering to the administrative procedures that support the Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- being proactive and self-directed in building their knowledge and understanding of the 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.

- seeking out ways of becoming more closely related to those who are teaching their children.
- considering the opportunities offered by parent organizations in our 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:

- All employees are aware of, and implement, their roles in the Catholic Education Directional Policy and in the related administrative procedures.
- Ongoing review and development of Administrative Procedures for Catholic Education responds to system and legislative needs.
- Development of joint guidelines for Pastoral Care in Schools between the board and the Diocese of Peterborough.

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
- [Catholic Schools in our Culture Message of His Eminence Cardinal Paul Poupard President of the Pontifical Council for Culture To the Symposium on The French Language Catholic School in Ontario Ottawa, May 4 - 6, 2001, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario](#)
- [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.](#)
- [Pastoral Care in Schools: Diocesan Board Guidelines](#), Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board and the Diocese of Peterborough, 2020