

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE	
<i>Administrative Procedure</i>	<i>Administrative Procedure Number</i>
Opening and/or Closing Exercises in Catholic Schools	207(NEW) 806 (OLD)
<i>Directional Policy</i>	
#200 – Catholic Education	

TITLE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE:

Opening and/or Closing Exercises in Catholic Schools

DATE APPROVED: November 20, 2018

PROJECTED REVIEW DATE: November 2023

DIRECTIONAL POLICY ALIGNMENT:

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. Given this landscape, this administrative procedure imbeds the practices of prayer in keeping with our faith tradition, imbeds the practices of cultural diversity, and fulfills the requirements of the Education Act.

ALIGNMENT WITH MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

This administrative procedure aligns itself with the Mission of the Strategic Plan: To educate students in faith-filled, safe, inclusive Catholic learning communities in opening exercises that exemplify this mission.



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.

ACTION REQUIRED:

This administrative procedure provides guidelines to assist principals, staff, students, and school communities with daily prayer, which brings us together in communion, as well as responsible citizenship, which is demonstrated through the singing of O Canada. It is also intended to reflect diversity and inclusion within the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board most notably in the regular effort to include French and Ojibwe variations of the national anthem.

As such, the principal, staff, clergy, parents/guardians, volunteers and students will recite/pray/reflect/meditate or listen to Catholic prayers, scripture, songs, poems, and writings that reflect the teachings of Jesus in our faith community.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- Ensuring alignment with the Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Reviewing the Opening and/or Closing Exercises in Catholic Schools as part of its regular policy and procedure review cycle.

The Director of Education is responsible for:

- Designating resources for ensuring the implementation and compliance with this Administrative Procedure.

Superintendents of Schools and System Portfolios are responsible for:

- Supporting implementation of this Administrative Procedure.
- Ensuring that in addition to the requirements of the Education Act, it reflects the principles of diversity and inclusion.

Principals and Vice-Principals are responsible for:

- Ensuring that opening and/or closing exercises are held daily in keeping, when possible, with the Animating Catholic Teaching plan and liturgical year.
- Ensuring that the playing and singing of O Canada include French and Ojibwe versions of the national anthem.
- Ensuring daily prayer takes place at the start of the school day.
- Considering annually the recitation of the Oath of Citizenship and the Pledge to the Canadian Flag (Appendix A English/French) in consultation with the Catholic School Council.
- Reviewing with staff the procedures and expectations for opening/and or closing exercises and selected assemblies.
- Considering written requests for exemption from parents of students under 18 and students over 18 with the Family of Schools Superintendent, and providing a written response to the parent/guardian in a timely fashion.
- Notifying staff about the Opening and/or Closing Exercises Administrative Procedure.

Staff are responsible for:

- Following the Opening and/or Closing Exercises Administrative Procedure.
- Observing and participating in opening and/or closing exercises.

Students are responsible for:

- Observing and participating in opening and/or closing exercises by listening, singing, speaking, and engaging in daily opening and/or closing exercises.

Parents are responsible for:

- Supporting their children's participation in daily opening and/or closing exercises or in providing a written request for exemption.

PROGRESS INDICATORS:

- Daily observation and participation in daily opening and/or closing exercises including the playing and singing of O Canada and the daily experience of prayer.
- Regular playing and singing of O Canada in French and Ojibwe languages.

DEFINITIONS:

- Pledge of Citizenship - See Appendix A
- Pledge to the Canadian Flag - See Appendix A
- O Canada - See Appendix A

REFERENCES:

- [Equity and Inclusive Education Policy 700, PVNCCDSB](#)
- [Equity and Inclusive Education Plan, PVNCCDSB](#)
- [Ministry of Education Regulation 298 Operation of Schools](#)
- [Ministry of Ontario Regulation 435/00 Opening and/Or Closing Exercises](#)
- [Policy Program Memorandum No. 108](#)
- [Valuing Diversity AP 706, PVNCCDSB](#)
- [Religious Accommodation Guideline, PVNCCDSB](#)