

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE	
<i>Administrative Procedure</i> <b>Catholic Family Life Education Program</b>	<i>Administrative Procedure Number</i> <b>(NEW) (208)</b>
<i>Directional Policy</i> <b>200 CATHOLIC EDUCATION</b>	

**TITLE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE:**

Catholic Family Life Education Program

**DATE APPROVED:**

November 2019

**PROJECTED REVIEW DATE:**

November 2024

**DIRECTIONAL POLICY ALIGNMENT:** 200 Catholic Education

Catholic schools provide all students the opportunity to learn in the context of a Catholic worldview where faith and reason meet. In this pursuit, all students admitted to Catholic schools draw upon the teachings of the Church and, in doing so, the history of Catholic Education in the province of Ontario. The Family Life Education program integrates the formation of the student as a whole person created in the image and likeness of God. “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).

**ALIGNMENT WITH MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This administrative procedure aligns with the Board’s multi-year strategic plan in that it promotes the Board’s mission “to educate students in faith-filled, safe, inclusive Catholic learning communities by nurturing the mind, body and spirit of all.” The delivery of Family Life Education is an important aspect of the mission of Catholic Schools, and this procedure supports the partnership between schools and parents in the fulfilling of this program’s expectations.



## 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.

## BACKGROUND:

The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) under the guidance of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario develops the Family Life Curriculum for Catholic schools in Ontario. In grades 1-8, the program in place to support this curriculum is named *Fully Alive/Vivre Pleinement*. It is the purpose of this program to foster and enhance the integrity, values, traditions and distinctiveness of Catholic Education. Religious Education courses taught in our Catholic Secondary Schools are also supported by the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE) and the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.

## ACTION REQUIRED:

All students of the Board shall have the opportunity to participate in Catholic Family Life Education programs.

### Elementary

- *Fully Alive/Vivre Pleinement* is the approved Family Life Education program to be used in elementary schools of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board.
- A summary of the *Fully Alive/Vivre Pleinement* education program, including an approximate timeline of when specific units are to be taught shall be communicated with parents annually, and posted on school websites.

- Family Life Curriculum Unit letters shall be forwarded to parents prior to the beginning of each theme outlining what topics are to be covered, and suggestions for parent involvement.
- Parents will be provided with a list of all Family Life Curriculum expectations by grade.
- Parents will be notified at least twenty school days before the start of the “period of instruction” related to Theme 3: Created Sexual: Male and Female.

### **Secondary**

- Family Life Education shall be taught as a strand within the Religious Education program using the Curriculum Guidelines developed by the Institute for Catholic Education and approved by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.

### **Exemptions - Elementary**

- In accordance with the Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum 162, a parent may submit a request in writing to the principal that his/her child be exempted from the entire unit that covers human sexuality (Theme 3) no more than five school days before the start of the period of instruction.
- Principals will acknowledge receipt of exemption notice from parents in writing.
- Principals make the final decision about whether a request for an exemption falls within the parameters set out in Ministry of Education Program and Policy Memorandum 162.
- Principals will work with parent/guardians to provide appropriate supervision for students exempted from Theme 3: Created Sexual: Male and Female.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

#### **The Board of Trustees is responsible for:**

- Reviewing this administrative procedure to ensure its alignment with the Catholic Education Directional Policy.
- Reviewing this administrative procedure as part of the regular policy and procedures review cycle.

#### **The Director of Education is responsible for:**

- Ensuring the implementation of and compliance with this administrative procedure.

#### **Superintendent of Learning: Religion and Family Life is responsible for:**

- Providing leadership in the provision of Catholic Family Life Education programs.
- Ensuring that principals have access to current copies of the necessary family communication letters which accompany the Family Life Program.

**Superintendents of Schools are responsible for:**

- Ensuring principals are consistent with the application of this administrative procedure.

**Principals and Vice-Principals are responsible for:**

- Ensuring that educators responsible for Family Life Education Curriculum have access to the necessary *Fully Alive/Vivre Pleinement* Program materials and resources for their grade.
- Ensuring that Family Life Education is being provided as part of weekly Religious Education instruction for students from Grades 1-8.
- Following PPM 162 in cases where a parent has requested an exemption from instruction from Theme 3 of the Family Life curriculum.
- Responding in writing to any requests for exemptions.
- Making the final decision about whether a request for an exemption falls within the parameters set out in Ministry of Education Program and Policy Memorandum 162.
- Working with parents/guardians to provide appropriate supervision for students exempted from Theme 3: Created Sexual: Male and Female.
- Monitoring the delivery of Catholic Family Life Education programs.
- Working in partnership with teachers in the delivery of Catholic Family Life education programs.

**Consultant for Religious Education is responsible for:**

- Supporting teachers in the delivery of Catholic Family Life Education programs.

**Teachers are responsible for:**

- Utilizing the *Fully Alive/Vivre Pleinement* program to support the delivery of the Family Life Education Curriculum.
- Teaching the Catholic Family Life Education program using the prescribed curriculum and resources.
- Integrating Catholic values and teachings in all subject areas.
- Sharing a summary of the *Fully Alive/Vivre Pleinement* Education program, including an approximate timeline of when specific units are to be taught, with parents annually.
- Sending Family Life Curriculum Unit letters to parents prior to the beginning of each theme, and at least 20 school days prior to Theme 3: Created Sexual: Male and Female, outlining what topics will be covered and suggestions for parent involvement.
- Giving particular consideration to communication with families of students in Grade 1 and/or those new to a PVNC School to ensure that they receive all the information about the program prior to its implementation in the classroom.

**Parents/Guardians are responsible for:**

- Becoming familiar with the Family Life Education program in order to enhance their ability to discuss their children's learning.
- Communicating with their children's teachers.

- Reviewing information provided by the school regarding the Fully Alive Program.
- Communicating with classroom teacher and school staff when concerns or questions arise.
- Providing written notice to request an exemption from Fully Alive Theme 3: Created Sexual: Male and Female instruction to the principal at least five (5) school days prior to the commencement of that unit of instruction.

### PROGRESS INDICATORS:

- Schools will communicate to parents/guardians the contents of the Family Life Education program and the planned start and end dates of the instruction related to Theme 3: Created Sexual: Male and Female.

### DEFINITIONS:

- Family Life Curriculum - The expectations associated with Family Life are outlined in the Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8 – Family Life Education. The program in place to support this curriculum is named *Fully Alive/Vivre Pleinement*. This curriculum is based on the vision that the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values acquired in the Family Life program will benefit students throughout their lives and help them to thrive in an ever-changing world by enabling them to acquire a Christian vision of personhood, relationships, sexuality and to develop the comprehension, capacity and commitment needed to lead fully human lives.

The Family Life Education Curriculum contains three overall expectations which develop in complexity as they span grades 1 to 8. They are:

- Appreciating God's Goodness
- Exploring Human Nature
- Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing

The specific expectations for each grade are developed under 5 strands (themes) as follows:

1. Created and Loved by God
2. Living in Relationship
3. Created Sexual: Male and Female
4. Growing in Commitment
5. Living in the World

- Learning Resources - refers to any material or a person with instructional content or function that is utilized for formal or informal teaching or learning purposes. Learning resources include but are not limited to human resources, print and/or digital materials, artwork, audio/visual, and eLearning resources.

**REFERENCES:**

- [Institute for Catholic Education](#)
- [Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, Family Life Education](#)
- [Catholic Association for Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario](#)
- [The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019](#)
- [Ministry of Education - Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019. \(PPM 162\)](#)
- [The Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document](#)
- [Renewing the Promise - A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- [Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association~ Respecting Difference, 2012](#)
- [Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)
- [Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, Fully Alive \(Grades 1-8\)](#)
- [The Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8 – Religious Education 2012](#)

**APPENDIX**

Appendix A – Exemption From Instruction in Family Life Education – Theme 3