



ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EDUCATION ON HUMAN SEXUALITY/ FAMILY LIFE (Policy Statement: Education on Human Sexuality/Family Life)

Purpose

Recognizing the responsibility of Catholic schools to support parents in their primary role as educator of their children, the Board seeks to ensure that family life education is conducted in a fashion which is both respectful of the role of the family as well as cognizant of the sensitivity and complexity of issues facing young people today.

References

Amoris Laetitia Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, 2016
Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 9-12, 2016, Religious Education
Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9-12, 2015, Health and Physical Education
Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, 2012, Family Life Education
Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, 2012, Religious Education
Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, ICE, 2011
Our Language, Our Story – Character Education Through the Virtues, EOCCC, 2009
Fully Alive, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario
Parent Resources – Fully Alive, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario
Educational Guidance in Human Love, Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, 1983

Procedures

1. Resources

- 1.1 Principals will ensure that the resources required to deliver the family life programs which have been prescribed by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) are in place in their schools, including the provision of information to families with regard to the availability of parent resources created by the ACBO through the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE).

- 1.2 Principals will ensure that the resources employed in family life education have been approved by ACBO and are consistent with any directives issued by the local Ordinary.
- 1.3 The Office of Religious and Family Life Education of the Board will maintain appropriate supports for schools with regard to family life education.

2. Exemptions

- 2.1 The Board through the school principal and appropriate superintendent will receive parental requests for exemption from the human sexuality portions of the Family Life Program in order to ensure that these exemptions are being consistently addressed.
- 2.2 Requests for withdrawal must be made in writing to the school principal and identify which specific topics in the area of human sexuality in the Family Life program they do not wish to have their children experience.
- 2.3 The request may then be approved in writing by the principal after consultation with his/her supervisory officer.
- 2.4 Where parents/guardians request exemption for their children from the human sexuality portions of the Family Life Program, the principal also may identify an expectation of the parents of the exempted child(ren) to accept further responsibility for the supervision of their child(ren) while they are outside of their regular classroom.
- 2.5 Where parents/guardians request exemption for their children from the human sexuality portions of the family life strand of the secondary religious education program, these can be similarly managed but the student must be given additional work to replace that missed in order to honour the credit hours requirement of the program.
- 2.6 The Board will not permit children to be exempted from the entire Family Life Program, but only those portions related to human sexuality.
- 2.7 Parent/guardian requests for exemption must be made annually and will be subsequently adjudicated on an annual basis.
- 2.8 The Board assumes neither responsibility for providing family life education in the area of human sexuality to those children who have been granted an exemption, nor of monitoring any such instruction occurring outside of the school.

Appendices

Forms

Associated Documents

Approved: November 23, 2010

Revised: April 25, 2017