



# ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

### OPENING AND /OR CLOSING EXERCISES IN SCHOOLS (Policy Statement: Opening and /or Closing Exercises in Schools)

#### Purpose

The purpose of this administrative procedure is to provide guidelines to assist principals, teachers and the school community of the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School board to provide an environment which proclaims and nurtures our distinctive Catholic character, rooted in the person of Jesus Christ, and promotes good citizenship and respect for our Catholic values.

#### References

*Safe Schools Act 2008, Section 304*  
*Ontario Regulation 436/00*  
*Ontario Regulation 298*

#### Procedures

##### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The principal, staff members, clergy, parents/guardians, volunteers and students will recite/pray/reflect or listen to Catholic prayers, scripture, songs, poems and creative writings that reflect the teachings of Christ in our faith community during opening exercises and /or closing exercises and /or selected assemblies.

##### **2. Requirements**

- 2.1 Each principal shall ensure that opening and/or closing exercises are held daily.
- 2.2 These exercises shall include the singing of "O Canada" and may include the recitation of the Oath of Citizenship and the Pledge to the Canadian Flag. (Appendix 1)
- 2.3 These exercises shall include scriptural reading, prayers, or inspirational teachings that reflect our Catholic values. (Reference: Children's Daily Prayer, Liturgy Training Publications)

- 2.4 Each year, the principal will review with staff procedures and expectations for opening and/or closing exercises and selected assemblies.
- 2.5 Anyone who requests an exemption must put the request in writing to the principal. The principal will consult with the appropriate supervisory officer, and the principal will respond to the parent and family in a timely fashion.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Texts of Oath of Citizenship, Pledge to the Canadian Flag and O Canada! (English/French)

Approved: August 30, 2001

Revised: June 18, 2002

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