



ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

SECONDARY SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Rationale

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board recognizes that at the heart of the distinctiveness of our Catholic school system is our duty, right and privilege to offer our students not only courses of study which have been imbued with the values and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, but distinctive courses of study in religious education that offer students truly unique opportunities to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. In that regard, our sharing in the evangelical mission of the Church is both expressed and reinforced and through which both the informative and transformative power of the life and message of Jesus Christ is conveyed.

It shall be the policy of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board that, with the exception of allowances provided for by the Ministry of Education, the Education Act or by this policy, all full time students who are enrolled in secondary school will take a prescribed credit course in religious education in each of their four years of attendance.

Guiding Principles

- Catholic schools exist to foster in their students not only an understanding of the connection between faith and life, but a commitment to establishing, nourishing and strengthening that connection.
- Religious Education functions as the academic component within the nexus of activities that seek to evangelize and catechize students. As such, it plays an integral role in the learning experiences of students and complements the various faith related activities (e.g. chaplaincy services, community outreach, peer ministry) that take place within the instructional setting.
- Religious Education must be pursued with sensitivity to the freedom and responsibility of students, to the practical and social conditions in which students live, and to the historical times that influence these conditions.

References

Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document, Religious Education, Institute for Catholic Education, (Revised 2006)

General Directory for Catechesis (1997)

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992) S-2010-00-0

Administrative Procedures

Secondary School Religious Education Programme

Approved: June 29, 2004

Revised: March 30, 2010