

Policy 18

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Catholic schools are places of both learning and believing. Our schools share a foundational belief that all children are loved by God, created in God's image, and individually unique. As such, all human beings are inherently sacred and must be treated with dignity and respect. The school has a mission to help students grow as children of God in all aspects of their person: physically, academically, socially, emotionally, morally, and spiritually.

1. The Catholic Church teaches that:
 - 1.1 Respect for the human person entails respect for the rights that flow from their dignity as a person;
 - 1.2 Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that "everyone" should look upon their neighbour (without exception) as another self, above all bearing in mind their life and the means necessary for living with dignity;
 - 1.3 With respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of unjust discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent.
2. Given these teachings and given the requirements of the:
 - 2.1 *Alberta Human Rights Act*;
 - 2.2 *Education Act*; and
 - 2.3 *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
3. The Board is committed to ensuring that all students and staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools and their families will be provided with:
 - 3.1 A fully inclusive school community;
 - 3.2 A welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic environment;
 - 3.3 An environment that is free from discrimination of any type including but not limited to discrimination based on race, colour, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical, and mental characteristics, nationality, sexual orientation, family status or marital status.

In addition, the Board expects schools to offer learning experiences that will enhance the concept of a Catholic Christian community, that will help ensure that all students will be made to feel welcomed and included, and that will help ensure that all students will be given a full opportunity to benefit from their Catholic education.

Adopted: June 30, 2017
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Legal Reference: Education Act, Sections 11, 31, 33, 35.1, 36, 37, 51, 52, 53, 54, 58, 196, 197, 213, 222
Alberta Bill of Rights
Alberta Human Rights Act
Occupational Health and Safety Act
Teaching Profession Act
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Criminal Code