



BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE	
Administrative Procedure Catholic Family Life Education Program	Administrative Procedure Number 208
Directional Policy 200 - Catholic Education	

Title of Administrative Procedure:

Catholic Family Life Education Program

Date Approved:

October 15, 2024

Projected Review Date:

2029

Directional Policy Alignment:

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.

Alignment with Multi-Year Strategic Plan:

The Catholic Family Life Education Administrative Procedure supports our Vision for creating a culture of faith, hope and love to ensure equity and well-being and our Mission to accompany our students as we both strive for excellence in Catholic Education and to educate our students in faith-filled, loving, safe, inclusive schools to develop the God-given abilities of each person. This Administrative Procedure supports

the strategic priority of Inspiring Faith to strengthen the foundation of Christ in our Catholic schools and spark a call to service in the greater community.

[PVNCCDSB Board Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities](#)

Action Required:

Background

Family Life Education in Catholic schools seeks to help students know what it means to be human, what God calls us to in loving relationships and what our vocation is. It reflects a distinctively Catholic view of human life, sexuality, marriage, and family. It incorporates the curriculum expectations set out by the [Ministry of Education's Health and Physical Education Curriculum, from Strand D – Healthy Living, along with the Social Emotional Learning Skills of Strand A](#). The knowledge, skills, attitudes and values acquired in Family Life Education are meant to complement those instilled by families (Institute for Catholic Education, 2023).

A Pastoral Approach to Family Life Education

Family Life Education addresses matters of deep meaning and practical relevance for how we are called to live our lives: issues relating to sexuality, marriage, physical and emotional well-being, the procreation and raising of children, the nature of the family and its place in human society and the Church. These matters must be taught using a pastoral approach, a disposition of tenderness, which by its nature includes both sensitivity to individual circumstances and respect for the wisdom of the Church, who seeks to proclaim the truth revealed by God and propose what will yield true human flourishing (Institute for Catholic Education, 2023).

Elementary

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. The learning expectations in Family Life Education are divided into three broad strands:

- Strand A: Families: A Living Communion of Love
- Strand B: Families: Called to be in Relationship
- Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made.

Currently, the program in place to support this curriculum in Grades 2-8 is named Fully Alive. In order to ensure that this program meets the requirements of the revised curriculum, [concordance charts](#) have been developed for each grade.

Beginning in September, 2024, a new program entitled Blessed & Beloved will be implemented in a phased approach across 5 years, beginning with Gr. 1. Additional grades will become available in subsequent years. These programs are designed to foster and enhance the integrity, values, traditions and distinctiveness of Catholic Education.

Hope Expectations for Family Life Education

In Catholic schools, Family Life Education seeks to develop not only knowledge and skills, but also to foster in students the attitudes and values derived from faith and that constitute a Catholic worldview. As such, we are guided by [Hope Expectations](#) which articulate our deep aspirations for students as life-long learners. Hope Expectations are not the list of 'what we teach', rather they are the expression of what we hope students come to value and strive for, what they cherish and appreciate most deeply. Hope Expectations depend on the interaction between God's Spirit and the freedom of the individual student.

The list of [Hope Expectations](#) precedes the overall and specific expectations for each division (primary, junior, intermediate). The Family Life curriculum opens students to a discovery of what the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations say about being Caring Family Members and is meant to inspire wonder to learn about self, God, others and the world, as part of the experience in and of family (Institute for Catholic Education, 2023).

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

- Fully Alive and Blessed & Beloved are the approved Family Life Education programs to be used in elementary schools of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board.
- A summary of the Fully Alive and Blessed & Beloved education programs, 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 made available 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 Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made.

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 in collaboration and with the support of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario to support the implementation of the [Secondary Religious Education](#) curriculum policy document (2016).

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 (Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made) 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 the Ministry of Education [Policy/Program Memorandum 162](#).
- Principals will work with parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide appropriate supervision for students exempted from Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made.

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.

Superintendents of Schools and System Portfolios are 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;
- 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 and Blessed & Beloved 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 [Policy/Program Memorandum 162](#) in cases where a parent has requested an exemption from instruction from Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made 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 the Ministry of Education [Policy/Program Memorandum 162](#);
- Working with parents/guardians to provide appropriate supervision for students exempted from Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made;
- 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 and Family Life Education is responsible for:

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

Staff are responsible for:

- Utilizing the Fully Alive and Blessed & Beloved programs 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 or Blessed & Beloved Family Life Education programs, 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 Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made, 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 Catholic school to ensure that they receive all the information about the Blessed & Beloved program prior to its implementation in the classroom;

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) 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 or Blessed & Beloved Program;
- Communicating with classroom teachers and school staff when concerns or questions arise;
- Providing written notice to request an exemption from Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made 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 by forwarding Family Life Curriculum Unit letters to parents prior to the beginning of each strand;
- Schools will communicate the planned start and end dates of the instruction related to Strand C: Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made, at least twenty days in advance;
- Schools will transition from Fully Alive to Blessed & Beloved as each new grade program becomes available.

References:

- [Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario](#)
- [Catholic Association for Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario](#)
- Institute for Catholic Education, Blessed & Beloved
- [Institute for Catholic Education Elementary Resources](#)
- [Institute for Catholic Education, Fully Alive](#)
- [Institute for Catholic Education Secondary Resources](#)
- [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. \(PPM 162\)](#)
- [Ontario Catholic Elementary Family Life Education Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, 2023](#)
- [Ontario Catholic Elementary Religious Education Curriculum Policy Document, 2012](#)
- [Ontario Catholic School Kindergarten Program, 2019](#)
- [Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association ~ Respecting Difference, 2012](#)

- [Ontario Catholic Secondary Religious Education Curriculum Policy Document, 2016](#)
- [Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019](#)
- [Renewing the Promise - A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)

Resources:

Appendix A - Exemption from Instruction in Family Life Education - Strand C