



BOARD DIRECTIONAL POLICY	
DIRECTIONAL POLICY TITLE	DIRECTIONAL POLICY NUMBER
Catholic Education	200

**Title of Directional Policy:**

Catholic Education

**Date Approved:**

October 15, 2024

**Projected Review Date:**

2029

**Policy:**

Our Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board schools offer an extraordinary contribution to the social and environmental fabric of our society. In partnership with parents, who bear the primary responsibility for the education of their children, all those who work in Catholic education are called upon to reflect, in a faithful and discerning fashion, God’s presence in this world. Within the context of Catholic education, the promise is that a true encounter with Jesus can and does take place, each and every day. We must work together to strengthen our Catholic schools and departments as communities that exemplify, in word and in deed, the Good News of Jesus Christ (Renewing the Promise, 2018).

It is understood that the mission of Catholic education includes the religious and moral formation of its students ,their personal and social growth, and their call to responsible citizenship (D’Souza, 2016). It is directed toward the common good. PVNC Catholic serves the common good by applying the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church within the context of a culturally, religiously, and regionally diverse society.

Dialogue combines attention to one’s own identity with the understanding of others and respect for diversity. In this way, the Catholic school becomes an educating community in which the human person can express themselves and grow in their humanity, civic responsibility and learning in a process of relational dialogue, interacting in a

constructive way, exercising tolerance, and understanding different points of view in their formation as a whole person created in the image and likeness of God. (The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue, 2022).

### **Purpose:**

PVNC Catholic recognizes that Catholic Education requires the collective effort and engagement of the entire system: trustees, staff, students, parents, parishes, priests, and the community - partners that promote a Catholic worldview that is theological, philosophical, social, cultural, moral, and communal (D'Souza, 2016). The cooperation that exists between the home, parish, and school is an integral part of Catholic education. The work of Catholic schools involves initiating, cultivating and maintaining trusting relationships with and among Catholic educational partners.

As reflected in our [PVNC Catholic Pastoral Plan: Ignite Faith, Hope and Love Through Conversation, Celebration and Community to create a culture of belonging](#), this directional policy calls us to invite conversation and silence between community members, making space for the Holy Spirit and leading us to prayer; to celebrate diverse charisms while reflecting on shared identity, hopes and mission; and to see God's presence in each other and in the witnesses found in our community.

Accompaniment is at the core of PVNC Catholic. The art of accompaniment is to take the time to walk alongside one another, to listen and to teach; and in so doing, to transform. Our Catholic schools are communities of accompaniment where the story of our salvation is known and shared, offering the encouragement that comes from knowing that Jesus walks with us. In addition to being places of teaching and learning, our Catholic schools and departments live the Emmaus experience as they bear witness to the Risen Lord. It is important to recognize that people are at different stages on that journey. Jesus provides the model for how our schools and parish communities need to accompany students and families with great respect, patience and love, inviting all to deepen their understanding of Christ and His Church (Renewing the Promise, 2018).

PVNC Catholic schools form disciples with a social conscience who put their faith into action through a call to service. Students and staff help to promote engagement with the local and global community through their many acts of charity and by their witness to social justice and environmental stewardship. Our Catholic schools help to form joyful disciples as hearts and minds are opened to the transforming love of God and to the flame of faith in action. On a daily basis, Catholic schools demonstrate the joy of believing and bear witness of the Good News to the communities that they serve (Renewing the Promise, 2018).

### **Alignment with Multi-Year Strategic Plan:**

The Catholic Education Directional Policy 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 Directional Policy 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 and the strategic priority of Valuing Relationships to create an environment in all workplaces that has at its core “the art of accompaniment,” keeping Jesus at the centre of our community as we model ministry, acceptance and love.

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

## **Responsibilities:**

### **The Board of Trustees is responsible for:**

- setting direction and policy that governs the PVNC Catholic District School Board with care, compassion, and justice;
- reviewing, and considering for approval, the Catholic Education Directional Policy recommended for consideration by the Policy Development Committee;
- assigning responsibility to the Director of Education for ensuring the freedom, autonomy, and distinctiveness necessary to provide Catholic Education (This Moment of Promise);
- monitoring and holding the Director of Education accountable respecting the implementation and operational details of the Catholic Education Directional Policy.

### **The Director of Education is responsible for:**

- providing leadership regarding implementation and operational details in the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- providing direction to staff in the development of administrative procedures and practices to ensure implementation of the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- promoting collaborative relationships with the Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough and all of the stakeholders in Catholic Education.

### **Superintendents of Schools and System Portfolios are responsible for:**

- collaboratively leading the development of administrative procedures and practices aligned with the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- managing and providing leadership in developing the supports and resources to ensure implementation of the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- building relationships among parents, students, clergy, pastoral teams, educators, staff, and community members, to create an atmosphere of trust, respect and honesty in creating a community able to engage and accompany one another;
- providing leadership and working collaboratively with the Director, Priests, Principals and Vice-Principals, Chaplaincy Team Leads, Managers, Federations, Unions, and non-union groups to build capacity of all staff in their knowledge and

understanding of the Catholic Education Directional Policy and, in doing so, develop educational structures which will mediate a deep respect for every person whom our schools encounter;

- cultivating processes for adult faith formation, particularly among current and emerging leaders, by engaging in open dialogue with one another, facilitated by trained theological and pastoral staff, both lay and religious;
- developing strategies for supporting parents/guardians at both the local and system level in their understanding of the Catholic Education Directional Policy.

**Managers/Supervisors are responsible for:**

- providing leadership, management and support for the members of their departments in the knowledge, understanding, and implementation of the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- working collaboratively with superintendents to develop administrative procedures that align with the Catholic Education Directional Policy.

**Communication Services is responsible for:**

- working collaboratively with the Senior Administration to develop a system-wide communications plan focused on building knowledge and understanding with our various stakeholders on the Catholic Education Directional Policy to support its effective implementation.

**Principals are responsible for:**

- providing leadership, management, and support for the members of their school communities in the knowledge, understanding, and implementation of the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- co-creating the unique character of the Catholic school through commitment to staff, students, and to the Gospel.

**Chaplains and Faith Ambassadors are responsible for:**

- working collaboratively with colleagues to successfully implement the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- adhering to the administrative procedures that support the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- adopting a ministry of presence, rooted in words and deeds of encouragement and support, toward creating a community that accompanies;
- providing a welcoming, inclusive environment, rooted in listening, that invites and enables each child to realize their God-given potential;
- co-creating the unique character of the Catholic school through commitment to students and to the Gospel;

- cultivating processes for adult faith formation, particularly among current and emerging leaders, by engaging in open dialogue with one another, facilitated by trained theological and pastoral staff, both lay and religious.

**Staff are responsible for:**

- participating in prayer and the liturgical celebrations of their office or school community;
- working collaboratively with colleagues to successfully implement the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- adhering to the administrative procedures that support the Catholic Education Directional Policy;
- providing a welcoming, inclusive environment, rooted in listening, that invites and enables each child to realize their God-given potential;
- co-creating the unique character of the Catholic school through commitment to students and to the Gospel.

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are responsible for:**

- working in partnership with the school community to nurture and care for their children, and to help their child realize the gifts they have been given by our Creator God;
- considering the opportunities offered by Catholic School Councils in our schools.

**Students are responsible for:**

- participating in prayer and the liturgical celebrations of their school community;
- growing into and developing who they are as created by God and developing the talents they have been given;
- bringing the best of themselves to the society in which they live, in fulfillment of the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

**Progress Indicators:**

- All employees are aware of, and implement, their roles in the Catholic Education Directional Policy and in the related administrative procedures.
- Ongoing review and development of Administrative Procedures for Catholic Education, responding to system and legislative needs.
- Implementation and monitoring of joint guidelines for Pastoral Care in Schools as developed in partnership between the board and the Diocese of Peterborough.

**Definitions:**

- **Common Good:**

Common good is to be understood as the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily ([Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)).

**References:**

- [A Catholic Philosophy of Education: The Church and Two Philosophers](#), Mario O. D'Souza, CSB. McGill-Queen's University Press. Montreal & Kingston. 2016
- [Fulfilling The Promise: The Challenge of Leadership. A Pastoral Letter to the Catholic Education Community, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, September 21, 1993](#)
- [This Moment of Promise \(1989\): Assembly of Catholic Bishops Statement about the state of Catholic Education](#)
- [Renewing the Promise \(2018\). Assembly of Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education](#)
- [Pastoral Care in Schools: Diocesan Board Guidelines, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board and the Diocese of Peterborough, 2020](#)
- [PVNC Catholic Pastoral Plan: \*Ignite Faith, Hope and Love Through Conversation, Celebration and Community to create a culture of belonging\*](#)