



**POLICY SECTION:** STUDENTS

**SUB-SECTION:** PROGRAMS

**POLICY NAME:** RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSE  
REQUIREMENT FOR SECONDARY  
PUPILS

**POLICY NO:** S.P.12

<b>Date Approved:</b> August 21, 1986	<b>Date of Next Review:</b> March 2022	<b>Dates of Amendments:</b> March 30, 2017
<b>Cross References:</b> Religious Accommodation – S.22 Religious Education – Board of Education Schools – H.T.06 Ontario Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum 119, <i>Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools</i> Constitution Act, 1867, Section 93 <b>Ontario Human Rights Code</b>		
<b>Appendix</b>		

### Purpose:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is committed to educating our students to lead lives grounded in faith, hope and charity. The Board's mandate, beyond meeting the Ministry of Education's goals regarding student achievement and well-being, is to ~~deliberately infuse~~ **apply Catholic social justice** the Catholic Graduate Expectations and ~~gospel values into~~ **to all disciplines to create a Christ-centred learning environment and Catholic community in every school**. Our vision is to create **nurture** discerning believers **in God's image** who ~~seek to transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action~~ **exemplify the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and who grow in knowledge with justice and hope**.

### Scope and Responsibility:

This policy applies to **all** pupils of TCDSB secondary schools. The Director of



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Education is responsible for the implementation of this program in alignment with the Multi Year Strategic Plan **and successive Pastoral Plans.**

### **Alignment with MYSP:**

~~Living Our Catholic Values~~

~~Strengthening Public Confidence~~

~~Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being~~

~~Inspiring and Motivating Employees~~

### **Learning – Growing in Knowledge**

**Continue to develop a Christ-centered learning organization in pursuit of knowledge, innovation, and responsiveness.**

### **Equity – Growing in Knowledge with Justice**

**Apply Catholic social justice to nurture a community focused on equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression.**

### **Well-Being – Growing in Knowledge with Justice and Hope**

**Strengthen an environment rooted in Gospel values that nurtures hope and wellbeing and to better support a work-life balance for all staff that nurtures spiritual, emotional, physical, and social well-being.**

### **Policy:**

A religious education course will be offered in each of the secondary school grades operated by the Board, and sStudents are required to enroll in one of these courses in each of the four years, **preferably at the secondary school they attend in order to nurture a faith community through prayer and the celebration of liturgical seasons, engaging in retreats, and supporting ongoing efforts of**



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**Catholic community organizations.** Our distinctive Catholic approach to teaching and learning is founded in the dignity and value of every person. This gospel value and approach permeate all aspects of school life and the Toronto Catholic District School Board thus holds specific expectations for all of our students.

### **Regulations:**

1. Religious education courses are approved by the ~~appropriate Catholic authorities~~ **Institute of Catholic Education and the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario** and recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Education as credits which count towards the Ontario Secondary School Graduation Diploma.
2. All students are expected to participate in the prayer and liturgical life of the school and be respectful of all religious observances.
3. The TCDSB will respect exemptions to the requirements **in** this **policy** pursuant to applicable legislation.

### **Evaluation and Metrics:**

The effectiveness of the policy will be determined by measuring the following:

Monitoring secondary school student scheduling data to ensure that all students are registered in and complete a Religion course in each academic year.