



REPORT TO

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### REQUESTS FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS 2016

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

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#### INFORMATION REPORT

**Vision:**

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

**Mission:**

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*



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## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through the use of a survey and follow-up interviews with school principals, this report outlines the number and type of requests for Religious Accommodation within *Toronto Catholic District School Board* schools since the start of this school year to October 17, 2016. Since 2012 there have been relatively few requests for religious accommodation, including exemptions, and this pattern continues this school year.

*The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 20 hours.*

## B. PURPOSE

This report fulfils the obligation articulated in the *TCDSB Religious Accommodation Policy S. 22* that ‘the consistent application of religious accommodation requests will be monitored and reported in an annual report to the Board of Trustees’. (**Appendix A**)

## C. BACKGROUND

1. **September 2016** – All principals were sent a survey on requests for religious accommodation made in the current school year up to October 17, 2016.

## D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Despite its population of approximately 90,000 students, the board has consistently had very few requests for religious accommodations. In total, only 7 schools received requests for accommodation.
2. A summary of all requests is provided in **Appendix B**. Accommodations have been made in accordance with the *TCDSB Religious Accommodation Policy S. 22* and within the provisions of the Education Act, Section 42, (11 and 13) (Appendix C).
3. With relatively few requests there is no distinct pattern to the type of requests made.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The practice of an annual survey of School Principals will continue. Principals will inform School Superintendents of requests as they arise.

## **E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.