



POLICY SECTION: STUDENTS
SUB-SECTION: PROGRAMS
POLICY NAME: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSE
REQUIREMENT FOR SECONDARY
PUPILS
POLICY NO: S.P.12

Date Approved: August 21, 1986	Date of Next Review: March 2022	Dates of Amendments: March 30, 2017
Cross References: 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		
Appendix		

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 the Catholic Graduate Expectations and gospel values into all disciplines. Our vision is to create discerning believers who seek to transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Scope and Responsibility:

This policy applies to pupils of TCDSB secondary schools. The Director of Education is responsible for the implementation of this program in alignment with the Multi Year Strategic Plan.

Alignment with MYSP:

- Living Our Catholic Values
- Strengthening Public Confidence
- Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being
- Inspiring and Motivating Employees



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Policy:

A religious education course ~~shall~~ **will** be offered in each of the secondary school grades operated by the Board **and students are required to enroll in one of these courses in each of the four years. 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 and recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Education as credits which count towards the Ontario Secondary Graduation Diploma.**

~~Within the context of the Education Act, 1990, Section 144, every resident pupil under the age of twenty one shall be required to enrol and take part in a religious education course each school year.~~

- 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 this requirement 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.