



REPORT TO

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

REQUEST FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS 2017

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

1 Peter 3:8

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
October 20, 2017	November 2, 2017	Click here to enter a date.
Nick D'Avella, Superintendent of Equity, Diversity, and Indigenous Education Marina Vanayan, Senior Coordinator, Educational Research John Morgan, Research Associate		
INFORMATION REPORT		

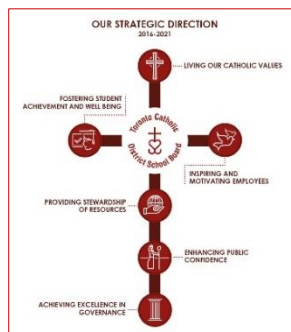
Vision:

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.



Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

D. Koenig
Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio
Associate Director
of Planning and Facilities

T.B.D.
Executive Superintendent
of Business Services and
Chief Financial Officer

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 for a one-year period (October 2016 to October 2017). Since 2012 there have been relatively few requests for religious accommodation, including exemptions, and this pattern continues this school year.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 21 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. 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 2017** – All principals were sent a survey on requests for religious accommodation.
2. Recently, arising out of an Ontario Human Rights Tribunal case, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board has published its ***Practice and Procedure around Religious Education Exemptions***. The TCDSB received this document on October 16 and is currently reviewing it to ensure that its own policies and procedures meet all legislative requirements.

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 religious accommodations.
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 42 (13). (**Appendix C**).

3. With relatively few requests, there is no distinct pattern to the type of requests made.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.