



POLICY SECTION: SCHOOLS

SUB-SECTION:

POLICY NAME: PRAYER IN SCHOOLS

POLICY NO: S.23

Date Approved: Dec. 17, 1992	Date of Next Review: April 2023	Dates of Amendments: Sep. 1998; 18 Feb. 2003; April 19, 2018
Cross References:		
Appendix		

Purpose:

This policy provides regulations regarding daily prayer in all TCDSB schools.

Scope and Responsibility:

This policy applies to all elementary and secondary schools in the Toronto Catholic Secondary School Board. The Director is Responsible for this policy with the support of the Nurturing Our Catholic Communities Department.

Alignment with MYSP:

Living Our Catholic Values

Strengthening Public Confidence

Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being

Policy:

It is the policy of the Toronto Catholic District School Board that public prayer, involving students and staff, shall take place on a daily basis in all TCDSB schools.



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Regulations:

1. The opening exercises of each school day (and closing exercises, where these are held) shall include public prayer which begins **and closes** with the Sign of the Cross and ~~shall~~ **may** include either the Lord's Prayer or the Hail Mary **or the Glory Be to the Father**.
2. Both staff and students shall be encouraged and invited to take part in each school's daily public prayer, by
 - a. reading/proclaiming/**responding to** the prayer or sections of it;
 - b. helping compose the prayer or sections of it;
 - c. providing musical accompaniment and/or singing, when appropriate.
3. Public prayer in TCDSB schools may be taken from either published formulas and formats or original compositions produced by staff and/or students. Prayers taken from published formulas will ~~usually~~ incorporate the Our Father and Hail Mary; however, other traditional common prayers of the church such as the Creeds, Glory Be, Memorare, et cetera, may be used as appropriate. All public prayer shall begin **and end** with the Sign of the Cross and **may also** conclude with a blessing appropriate to the theme, occasion or season.
4. School Principals shall also encourage classroom teachers to pray publicly with their students at times such as after recess or a period change, or at other appropriate times during the school day.



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Evaluation and Metrics:

The local school principals and area superintendents will ensure prayer in all TCDSB schools will be a daily routine.