

## Administrative Procedure 208

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### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### Background

The Catholic school and the Catholic parish are complementary to the family's important role in assisting students to grow in their faith. As agents of Catholic parents, Catholic schools share the responsibility to help all students to develop unique individual capabilities in order to learn and to live, thereby experiencing humanity and the world as created by God and revealed by Jesus Christ. The achievement of the Division's mission and goals therefore requires the provision of formal religious instruction and celebration within the school.

#### Procedures

1. The provision of religious instruction is governed by Section 50 of the School Act.
2. All religious instruction will follow the Religious Education Program designated by the Division.
3. The Principal shall:
  - 3.1 Be accountable for ensuring the teaching of the Religious Education Program.
  - 3.2 Request the support of the religious education coordinator when required.
  - 3.3 Encourage the organization of in-service activities in religious education within the school.
  - 3.4 Communicate the Religious Education Program to the school community.
  - 3.5 Attempt to involve a parish priest in the school, especially through celebrations in the classroom and school.
4. Staff members shall provide opportunities for students to grow into mature persons in the knowledge and love of Christ. Their actions must reflect a thorough commitment to the objectives and purposes of Catholic education.
5. The Assistant Superintendent shall advise all teachers at the time of recruitment that they must be willing to provide instruction in religious education and be prepared to participate in in-service activities where appropriate.
6. Periodic meetings involving Trustees, the Bishop, the Superintendent, the religious education coordinator, the pastor and Principals will be held to discuss how the school, the church and the community can work together as a supporting medium for the Christian formation of children.
7. Parents and students shall be advised by the Principal or designate of this Administrative Procedure and its implications when they request admission to the school.

8. Teachers shall be prepared to engage in the Religious Education Program in the school either through a formal instruction program and/or other program activities so that they may cooperate in the establishment of a Christian community in the school.
9. A student not obtaining a passing final mark of 50% in Religious Studies will be required to complete an extra module of Religious Studies to the satisfaction of the Principal.

Reference: Section 16, 52, 53, 58, 196, 197, 222 Education Act  
Alberta Human Rights Act  
Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12