



POLICY 1: DIVISION FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

Mission

The Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division is committed to supporting inclusive communities that foster care and compassion of students, families and staff with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and tradition, and within the means of the Division.

Our schools are gospel-centred communities of hope, fostering a Catholic Christian value system within a pluralistic society.

CONTINUING THE MISSION OF JESUS, PROPHET, PRIEST AND SERVANT KING

We make His life, mission and teaching our focal points of belief and conduct within our Catholic schools. Therefore, the education of the whole child -- intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual -- is our service commitment.

As stewards of Catholic Education nothing in this policy, or any other policy or administrative procedure, is to be interpreted so as to limit or be a waiver of the Red Deer Catholic Regional School Board's rights and powers pursuant the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to maintain the denominational character of Catholic Schools.

If any of the provisions in this policy conflict with the Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division's rights and powers pursuant to the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools, the Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division's rights and powers pursuant the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools will govern.

Abbreviated Mission Statement

Making Christ known to children.

Beliefs

1. Catholic schools, as stewards of Catholic education, have the responsibility to help all children to develop their unique, individual capabilities to learn and to live, and thereby to experience humanity and the world as created by God and redeemed by Jesus Christ.

2. Catholic schools and Catholic parishes are complementary to the family, which is the primary steward for the child's formation.
3. Education must be based on the Christian concept that each person is a unique and special child of God. The objectives and purpose of education as stated by Alberta Education must be set in this total Christian concept.
4. Students must participate in all Catholic education activities including Religious Studies classes, liturgies, celebrations, and sacramental preparations, at all grade levels.
5. The schools will strive for excellence in education for all students to develop their academic and interpersonal skills. In this way, students will be prepared to use their God-given talents to live and work effectively in society.
6. The schools will assist all students to choose and develop a hierarchy of values consistent with the teachings of the Catholic faith.
7. The schools, in cooperation with parents and parishes, will strive to develop the gift of Catholic faith by assisting all students to:
 - 7.1 Perceive faith as a personal, free and joyful response to the gift of God himself;
 - 7.2 Experience the person of Christ in their own lives through relationships with others and with the community of believers;
 - 7.3 Pray and celebrate their faith as a source of strength in daily life; and
 - 7.4 Become aware of their religious heritage and acquire a better understanding of the various rites of the Catholic Church.
8. The schools will help all students, families and staff to realize their responsibility to transform the world by practicing the Catholic faith and values in a pluralistic society.
9. The schools will foster the mental and physical well-being of all students through:
 - 9.1 Selection of appropriate programs which emphasize physical, leisure activities; and
 - 9.2 A respect for the worth and dignity of the individual.
10. The schools will foster and maintain a safe, secure, caring, respectful and inclusive learning environment for all students, families and staff that is free from physical, emotional and social abuses and models our Catholic faith and values. Schools will be comprehensive and holistic in their approach to inclusion and other potential student issues including bullying, justice, respectful relationships, language and human sexuality.

11. Staff of The Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division will support families in the faith development of students by serving as witnesses to their Catholic beliefs. Catholic social teachings will provide a foundation for the future contributions of our students to society and this connection will be formed by authentic Catholic schools shaped by those employed in the Division. Staff also share in the responsibility of helping students see the relevance of our faith in today's world and solving current problems within a Catholic world-view.

Principles of Practice

- We honour our children.
- We provide a safe and secure environment.
- We live and proudly proclaim our Catholic Christian faith.
- We provide quality education in a Catholic environment.
- We pray as an educational community.
- We practice servant-leadership.
- We focus on our mission through clarity of purpose.
- We value our staff.

Motto

Inspired by Christ. Aspiring to Excellence.

Logo



Logo Description

- The central feature is a cross which depicts Christ-centered education.
- The four stylized books represent the Gospels, which define our faith and provide the foundation elements for ongoing personal development.
- The circle represents the head of a child, whose arms are open, embracing Christ and knowledge. In full stride, the child exudes youth and potential.
- Green and blue represent creation and beauty, which are eternal gifts from God.