

**Religious Expectations Agreement Form
for Sudbury Catholic *SECONDARY* Schools**

Thank you for choosing to send your son/daughter to Sudbury Catholic District School Board. We are pleased to welcome you to join us in living our mission:

To realize each student's potential within our inclusive Catholic learning community by nurturing and developing their mind, body and spirit.

The Sudbury Catholic District School Board is proud of our Catholic faith and traditions and embraces the opportunity to provide learning environments which assist each student to grow in the image of Christ. We do this by integrating the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations* into all aspects of our school curriculum from Kindergarten through to Grade 12, and in all aspects of school life.

The expectations for our Catholic school graduates are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes, and actions. The Catholic School Graduate is therefore, expected to be; a discerning believer; an effective communicator; a reflective, creative and holistic thinker; a self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner; a collaborative contributor; a caring family member; and a responsible citizen.

The Sudbury Catholic District School Board supports freedom of religion and an individual's rights to manifest his/her religious beliefs and observances. The right to freedom of religion, however, is not absolute and religious accommodation in the Board is carried out in the larger context of the Catholic education system and denominational rights of Catholic schools.

The Board recognizes that any form of social or cultural discrimination is incompatible with Catholic moral principles and is in violation of the Ontario Human Rights Code. The Board recognizes that the school system gives pre-eminence to the tenets of the Catholic faith, congruent with the protection afforded in the *Ontario Human Rights Code, the Constitution Act, 1982* confirmed in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The Board and its staff are committed to the elimination of discrimination as outlined in Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy and the Ontario Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119, in a manner which is consistent with the exercise of the Board's denominational rights under section 93 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* as recognized at section 19 of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

The historical mandate of the Catholic school system in Ontario is to model the entire syllabus of the school on the life and teaching of Jesus. As such, the Sudbury Catholic District School Board has expectations of all students admitted.

Our religious expectations include the following:

1. All student will enroll in a Religion course in each of the four years. All Religion courses are approved by the appropriate Catholic authority. The Government of Ontario recognizes that Religion credits count towards a secondary graduation diploma.
2. All students will participate in school retreats offered by the secondary school. The retreat normally takes place during the school day. The annual retreats are planned based on spiritual themes appropriate for adolescents.
3. All students will participate in the prayer and in the liturgical life of the school. Catholic students are expected to participate fully as mandated by their sacramental Baptism. Non-Catholic students are expected to participate to the extent that they can. It is not the intention of the Sudbury Catholic District

School Board to proselytize, however, for supervision, safety and community reasons, the entire school participates in all religious events that occur during the school year. At minimum, non-Catholic students will attend and maintain respectful silence at all religious observances. All students are encouraged to be involved and are included in all aspects of school life.

4. Students requesting accommodations must present written notice from their parents/guardians specifying their accommodation needs relating to religious observances, including holy days on which they will be absent from school. This notice should be made in advance (preferably at the beginning of each school year) to ensure that scheduling of major evaluations, such as tests, assignments or examinations, takes the religious observances into consideration.
5. Students requesting exemptions must present written notice from their parents/guardians specifying their exemption request. Please note, only open access students are eligible to obtain a religious exemption under the Education Act.
6. The Catholic District School Boards of Ontario follow approved provincial curriculum. Given the distinctiveness of Catholic schools, the Government of Ontario recognizes parallel curricula for our system based on Catholic course profiles. All courses in all subject areas, in a Catholic secondary school, are taught from a Catholic perspective.

We hope that your experiences at Sudbury Catholic District School Board will be rewarding, and we thank you for choosing Sudbury Catholic.

Comments:

I understand and accept the expectations outlined above:

Parent's Signature

Student's Signature

Date

Date

Principal's Signature

Date