

PRINCE ALBERT ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 6

POLICY ITEM: Education Philosophy	CODE: AD
LEGAL STATUS: Board Motion #259.07	DATE APPROVED: 27 Nov 07

Background: The Catholic Church established schools as a privileged means of promoting the formation of the whole person, since the school is a centre in which a specific concept of the world, of humanity, of history is developed and conveyed. The Catholic school forms part of the saving mission of the Church, especially for education in the faith. The Board is trusted and empowered to carry out this saving mission of the Church, while at the same time honouring the exercise of civil government leadership that is rightfully exercised by the Department of Education.

POLICY: **The Board of Education provides leadership and direction to the Prince Albert Catholic Schools through the establishment of a school division philosophy that will direct and guide all educational endeavours.**

Statement of Philosophy

The Catholic School forms part of the saving mission of the Church. It is in the Gospel of Christ that the Catholic School finds its definition and direction.

It is essential that each member of the school community adopts a common vision, a common outlook on life, based on adherence to the Gospel scale of values. Seen in this light, the Catholic School is not only a place where one is given a choice of intellectual values, but a place where one has presented an array of values which are actively lived. Thus, the school must be a community whose values are communicated through the interpersonal and sincere relationships of its members, and its adherence to the Catholic outlook on life that permeates the school.

The fundamental role of the Catholic School is to create a “synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of faith and life. The first is reached by integrating all the different aspects of human knowledge through the subjects taught in the light of the Gospel; the second in the growth of the virtues characteristic of the Christian.”¹

The Catholic School must be seen as a meeting place for those who wish to express Christian values in education. It must be a community whose aim is the transmission of values for living. Its work is seen as promoting a faith relationship with Christ in whom all values find fulfilment.

To achieve its educational role, the Catholic School must continually be fed and stimulated by its source of life, the Saving Word of Christ, as it is expressed in Sacred Scripture, in Tradition, especially liturgical and sacramental tradition, and in the lives of the people, past and present, who bear witness to that Word.

All participants in the task of Catholic education must be committed to it freely. In order to bring it into being and to maintain it, the Board of Education must be able to count on the unity of purpose and conviction of all the members of the community – teachers, parents, students, clergy, and administrative personnel. Each has his or her own part to play. Co-

operation of all given in the spirit of the Gospel is by its very nature a witness not only to Christ as the cornerstone of the community, but also to the Light who shines far beyond it.

A truly Catholic education, which is Church and Gospel-centred, will be directed towards conversion to Christ.

To complement the school division philosophy, the Vision and Mission statements are provided, as well as the school division's core values:

Vision

"A caring faith community sharing in the teaching mission of Jesus"

Mission

"To nurture learning and spiritual growth guided by Gospel values and Church teachings"

Core Values

Community: recognizing and accepting everyone as people of God

Integrity: operating with a spirit of justice and honesty

Leadership: service to others modeled on the life of Jesus

Respect: affirming the dignity and diversity of all

Stewardship: responsible allocation and use of resources

¹ "The Catholic School" #1, #37, *The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education*, Rome 1977.