

# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



BOARD POLICY	
<i>Policy Section</i> <b>Program/Curriculum</b>	<i>Policy Number</i> <b>301</b>
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<b>Original Approved Date</b> December 1971	<b>Last Approved Date</b> November 1981 September 1997 March 2009

**POLICY TITLE: CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM**

## **SECTION A**

### **1. PURPOSE**

Catholic educators are called to provide young people with a vision of human life, marriage, family, and sexuality grounded in Catholic values. In the midst of a confusing world, our students require a Catholic vision of who they are and how they are meant to live. The Bishops of Ontario have embraced this mission through their ongoing commitment to, and involvement with *Fully Alive*, the Family Life program used in Catholic elementary schools and the Religious Education courses used in Catholic high schools. The York Catholic District School Board recognizes the importance of providing our young people with knowledge and moral guidance to help them better understand themselves and others, and ultimately develop a closer relationship with God. Through this policy, the Board affirms its expectation that all pupils receive a program in Family Life Education throughout their elementary and secondary school years.

### **2. POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board to provide a program of Catholic Family Life education to all pupils in its schools.

### **3. PARAMETERS**

All students of the Board shall participate in Catholic Family Life programs.

#### **3.1 Elementary**

- '*Fully Alive*' is the approved Family Life program to be used in elementary schools of the York Catholic District School Board.

- A summary of the 'Fully Alive' program including a timeline when specific units will be taught will be sent home annually.
- Elementary teachers are required to complete an introductory inservice in Catholic Family Life education during their first year of teaching.

### 3.2 Secondary

- Family Life education shall be taught as a strand within the Religious Education program using the Curriculum Guidelines developed by the Institute for Catholic Education and approved by the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### 3.3 Elementary/Secondary

- A parent or guardian may submit a request in writing to the principal that his/her child be excused from the units that teach human sexuality.

## 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

### 4.1 Director of Education

- To ensure that programs in Catholic Family Life used in schools of the York Catholic District School Board comply with the guidelines of the Archdiocese.

### 4.2 Superintendent of Education: Curriculum and Assessment

- To ensure that appropriate funds are allocated for the provision of Family Life education resources; and
- To ensure that Family Life education inservices are offered

### 4.3 Coordinator and Consultants of Religious Education and Family Life Programs

- To provide leadership in the provision of Family Life programs; and
- To support teachers in the delivery of Family Life programs.

### 4.4 Principals

- To monitor the delivery of Catholic Family Life Education programs.

### 4.5 Teachers

- To teach the Family Life program using the prescribed curriculum and resources;
- To integrate Catholic values and teachings in all subject areas; and
- To complete an inservice course on Catholic Family Life education (elementary).

## 5. CROSS REFERENCES

- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations – Institute for Catholic Education, 1998
- Human Reproduction Document – York Catholic District School Board, 2003
- Introduction to Family Life Education – York Catholic District School Board, 2005
- Religious Education – Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document, 2006
- Fully Alive (Grades 1-8), Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, Second Edition 2007
- Supplemental Resource to Support Grade Eight Family Life Education, CARFLEO (2008)
- YCDSB Policy - Pastoral Care of Our Students (Pending)

<b>Approval by Board</b>	<b>March 2009</b> <i>Date</i>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>March 2009</b> <i>Date</i>
<b>Revision Dates</b>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>March 2014</b> <i>Date</i>