

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



BOARD POLICY	
<i>Policy Section</i> Program/Curriculum	<i>Policy Number</i> 301
<i>Former Policy #</i> 301	<i>Page</i> 1 of 3
<i>Original Approved Date</i> December 1971	<i>Subsequent Approval Dates</i> November 1981 September 1997 March 2009 June 17, 2014 October 1, 2019

POLICY TITLE: **CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM**

1. PURPOSE

Catholic educators are called to provide young people with a vision of human life, marriage, family, and sexuality based on the tenets of our Catholic faith. In the midst of an ever-changing 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 students 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 students shall have the opportunity to participate in a Family Life education program 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 in Catholic Family Life education to all students in its schools.

3. PARAMETERS

All students of the Board shall have the opportunity to participate in Catholic Family Life education programs.

3.1 Elementary

- 3.1.1 'Fully Alive' is the approved Family Life education program to be used in Elementary schools of the York Catholic District School Board.
- 3.1.2 A summary of the 'Fully Alive' education program including an approximate timeline of when specific units are to be taught shall be shared with parents annually during curriculum night and posted on school websites.
- 3.1.3 Family Life Unit letters shall be forwarded to parents prior to the beginning of each theme outlining what topics will be covered, and suggestions for parent involvement.

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

3.3.1 A parent or guardian may *submit a request in writing* to the Principal that his/her child be exempted from the units that teach Human Sexuality.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Director of Education

4.1.1 To oversee compliance of the Catholic Family Life Program Policy.

4.1.2 To ensure that programs in Catholic Family Life education 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

4.2.1 To ensure that appropriate funds are allocated for the provision of Catholic Family Life education resources.

4.2.2 To ensure that Catholic Family Life education sessions are offered through the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) on an annual basis.

4.3 Coordinator and Consultants of Religious Education and Family Life Programs

4.3.1 To provide leadership in the provision of Catholic Family Life education programs.

4.3.2 To support teachers in the delivery of Catholic Family Life education programs.

4.4 Principals

4.4.1 To monitor the delivery of Catholic Family Life education programs.

4.4.2 To work in partnership with teachers in the delivery of Catholic Family Life education program.

4.5 Teachers

4.5.1 To teach the Catholic Family Life education program using the prescribed curriculum and resources.

4.5.2 To integrate Catholic values and teachings in all subject areas.

4.5.3 To share a summary of the 'Fully Alive' education program including an approximate timeline of when specific units are to be taught with parents annually during curriculum night and posted on school websites.

4.5.4 To send Family Life Unit letters to parents prior to the beginning of each theme outlining what topics will be covered, and suggestions for parent involvement.

4.6 Parents

4.6.1 To become familiar with the family life education program in order to enhance their ability to discuss their children's learning.

4.6.2 To communicate with their children's teachers; and

4.6.3 To ask relevant questions about their children's progress.

5. CROSS REFERENCES

Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, [Statement from Bishop Ronal P. Fabbro](#)

[Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, Family Life Education](#)

Institute for Catholic Education, [Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#)

Ministry of Education, [Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8, 2019](#)

[Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, Religious Education](#)

[Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document](#)

[Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, Fully Alive \(Grades 1-8\)](#)

YCDSB, *Human Reproduction: A Resource Document in Family Life Education for the Classroom Teacher*, 2003.

YCDSB, *Introduction to Family Life Education*, 2005.

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