

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Background

Catholic schools work closely with the home and the parish to support parents, who are the primary educators of their children and are responsible for the education and faith formation of their children.

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools have a mission to fully integrate the Catholic faith and its teachings into all aspects of the school, permeating the physical environment, culture, relationships, curricular/extracurricular activities, and religious practices (both inside and outside of formal religious education classes).

The explicit religious education programming, offered in each grade from kindergarten to grade 12, sits at the heart of the mission of Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools. It is the mandate of the Division to ensure that all students receive explicit instruction in Religious education.

“For her part, the Catholic Church has the duty to educate “especially because she has the responsibility of announcing the way of salvation to all, of communicating the life of Christ to those who believe, and, in her unfailing solicitude, of assisting all to be able to come to the fullness of this life.” The Identity Of The Catholic School For A Culture Of Dialogue. Congregation for Catholic Education, 25 January 2022

Procedures

1. The provisions of Section 58 of the *Education Act* will apply with respect to religious instruction.
2. The religious education program will include both formal classroom instruction and religious celebrations.
3. All schools shall follow the Religious Studies Program designated by the Division and approved by the Archbishop of Edmonton.
4. The Principal ensures that religious studies occurs at all grade levels and/or years of school.
 - 4.1. All students shall take a religious studies course per grade.
 - 4.2. Instructional time for religious studies courses shall be:
 - 4.2.1. Elementary classes: 120 – 150 minutes per week;
 - 4.2.2. Junior high classes: 75 – 100 hours per school year;

- 4.2.3. Senior high classes: Three (3) or five (5) credits per course for: Religious Studies- Roman Catholic 15, 25, 35 and Religions of the World 35.
5. Parents may request that their child be exempt from religious education programs by submitting a formal written request to the school principal.
 6. Alternate activities are to be provided for students who absent themselves from the classroom during religious education programming.

Reference: Section 58, *Education Act*

Reference: Education Act, SA 2012, c E-0.3

Alberta Human Rights Act

Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act

Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12