

Fort McMurray Catholic Schools Operating Policies and Procedures

OP 603 – Child Care Services – Relationship with Families

Policy

The Catholic Board of Education recognizes that the family has the primary responsibility for their children's well-being and development and that families have a right to fully participate in their child's program.

Child care programs operated in Catholic School will establish respectful, honest communication and joint decision-making with families.

Procedures and Directives

The Deputy-Superintendent shall ensure that relationships with families of children in Fort McMurray Catholic School Child Care Programs are supportive and respectful.

Child Care programs shall:

- a. work in partnership with families and respect their beliefs and expertise in their child-rearing role as primary caregivers by:
 - i. Supporting the important child-rearing role of families in the children's lives;
 - ii. Incorporating effective communication strategies with families to facilitate positive, respectful relationships.
 - iii. Respecting the diversity of children and families which the program serves. d. Demonstrate respect for children's home language(s).
 - iv. Demonstrating appreciation for the contributions of families to the children, program, and community.
- b. implement clear, simple practices that promote regular exchange of information with families by:
 - i. Providing opportunities for families to share and exchange information with the child care program
 - ii. Providing families with a clear intake and orientation process before their children begin care.
 - iii. Promoting regular communication between the family and program.

- iv. Providing opportunities for families to be involved in programming for their children.
 - v. Consulting with families about proposed policy/practice and program changes that may affect them.
 - vi. Implementing a social media policy that defines monitoring and intention, and meets the program's outcomes.
 - vii. Protecting the confidentiality of children, families, and colleagues.
- c. Child care programs support families through parental involvement, sharing of resources, and providing information regarding additional supports for their children by:
- i. Inviting parents to participate in field trips and/or off-site excursions with their children.
 - ii. Inviting parents to spend time in the program.
 - iii. Providing opportunities for families to develop relationships with each other.
 - iv. Providing information to families about programs and services offered by other community and social organizations.
 - v. Acting as facilitators for families in locating, contacting, and accessing specific supports for their children.
 - vi. Sharing information about a child only with parental consent

References:

- Alberta School Act, Paragraph 123
- Board Governance Policy 10 – Board Linkage with Catholic Faith Community
- Board Governance Policy 11 – Board Linkage with Other Organizations
- Board Governance Policy 13 – Policy Development Process
- Executive Policy 4 – Treatment of Students and Parents
- Executive Policy 16 – School Councils

Cross References:

- Operating Policy 321 – Student Records
- Alberta Freedom of Information Privacy Act

Approval by Superintendent of Schools

- 15 February 2015

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- 15 February 2015