

# Core Values

## A Call to Discipleship

*We take to heart the great commandment of Jesus Christ: "...love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength; and love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22)*

*Hence we value persons, community, responsibility, and learning.*



FORT McMURRAY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**Gratitude** is our response of joy to the good we receive and encounter. It turns us to God. It creates a spontaneous desire to share. It habitually celebrates God's image and goodness in every person. It leads us to value and love persons. That is why it is the basis for compassion.

**Compassion** is the active awareness that God wants us to be a community, to live in communion with each other. It leads us to value community. It shares God's compassion for all persons and all of creation. It is a deep passion and commitment to build justice and love in the Body of Christ.

**Justice** enables us to live responsibly. It habitually gives to God, others, and ourselves what is due. Justice is based on gratitude and compassion. It is our response to what God's Spirit asks in every moment. This virtue forms our conscience and leads us to wisdom.

**Wisdom** enables us to value learning. It is a virtue or strength given by the Holy Spirit. With wisdom, we sense how everything is connected to God's mystery.

## Core Values & Virtues

Christian character is one's habitual attitude and behaviour towards God, others, and self. It consists of developed strengths called virtues.

Four virtues flow out of our four core values: gratitude, compassion, justice, and wisdom.

Person	➔	Gratitude
Community	➔	Compassion
Responsibility	➔	Justice
Learning	➔	Wisdom



## We Value

- Persons
- Community
- Responsibility
- Learning



# We Value Persons

*“Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Matthew 22)*

We respect the unique value, dignity, mission, and gifts that God gives each person in our school community. Each student is invited and challenged to grow to his or her full potential.

rewards or punishments. Instead, we encourage them to find the intrinsic values in their behaviour or action. Our assessment practices encourage students in this process.

school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual’s reputation.

Valuing persons, we educate our students to appreciate the dignity of others regardless of disability, race, creed, culture, nationality, religion, sexual or gender orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Following the model of Jesus, we see teaching as a sacred calling. We respect the vocation and gifts of each staff member. We ensure them effective working conditions and life-long learning opportunities.



Bullying behaviour, in any form, is not acceptable, as it contravenes our mission and values. Bullying is defined as reported and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more individuals in the

We support them in their development and struggles, responding to their learning styles and educational needs.

Consequently, our discipline and assessment practices respect each student’s uniqueness and well-being. We regard our students as persons with free will. Assisting them in developing virtue and character, we encourage self-reliance. We lead them away from dependence on extrinsic incentives such as





# We Value Community

***“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Corinthians 12: 27)***

Our faith in God as Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—reveals that to be a person is to be in community. We see our schools and classrooms as communities created by faith. Frequent prayer nurtures our communion with God and each other.

We value life-giving relationships. Our students are encouraged to grow from dependence to independence to

interdependence.

Fort McMurray Catholic schools connect and open our students to the world. We educate students to value the common good in local, provincial, national, and global communities. Above all, our schools connect us to the universal church.

Throughout the District, our staff forms a community of

interdependent educators, strengthened by their affiliation with professional organizations.

The parents and caregivers of our students are an essential part of our larger school community. Collaborating with them, we need and benefit from their support and participation. Their presence and involvement in District Schools is encouraged and welcomed.

# We Value Learning

***“... the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:10)***

We embrace learning as a value. God is truth and wisdom; the Spirit of Christ leads us into all truth. We lead our students into a wisdom and knowledge of God and the world. Truth, knowledge, reason, and methods of critical inquiry are essential to the Catholic mind. Whatever is true, good, and beautiful is embraced as permeated by Christ's Spirit. All pedagogical, educational, and discipline methods that lead our students into truth are embraced.

Our students are called to be disciples and lifelong learners. Their responsibility is to learn to their fullest potential. We support and encourage their interests, questions, hard work and breakthroughs. We challenge them and work to remedy behaviours harmful to learning. We respond to staff needs for effective working conditions, adequate resources, professional development, and fair remuneration. These support their vocation and serve the common good of the students and the community.

Finally, we are a learning institution. Our staff, in an ongoing and collaborative way, engage in professional development. Consistent with our four core values, we strive to improve our service to students, parents and our community.





# We Value Responsibility

## Relationships and Community

***“This is the greatest and first commandment: you shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself.” (Matthew 22)***

We believe each person has the ability to respond to Christ's call. We expect students and staff to act in the spirit of Jesus Christ; this is their responsibility. Our practices of assessment and discipline educate students to take responsibility for their learning and the consequences of their actions. Ethical assessment promotes virtue and character by focusing on natural consequences.

We believe that following Christ entails responsibility for both our personal well-being and that of our relationships and community.

***“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)***

God is the source of all life-giving relationships. We are called to respect and grow in them. Our approach to discipline supports attitudes and behaviours that build relationships and community.

We expect students and staff to contribute to building a classroom and school community. Fort McMurray Catholic Schools address and seek to remedy, without delay, the behaviours that harm the community. We encourage responsible and respectful attitudes towards property and the creation that God gives us.

District staff and parents hold a sacred authority from God to carry out their vocations. We expect students to be polite, courteous, responsive, and supportive of the efforts of their teachers and parents. We encourage teachers and staff to exercise their authority as Christ does, in a just, effective, serving, and compassionate way.

Our responsibility for relationships extends to persons near and far who may be poor in a variety of ways. Our schools are places that proactively welcome and enrich the disadvantaged and marginalized. We challenge the greed, consumerism, and self-centered individualism present in secular culture.

## Personal Well-being

***“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16***

God, through Christ, gives us body, mind, emotions, will, and spirit. We are called to respect these gifts. Our practice of discipline promotes personal well-being and self-care. It also addresses and seeks to remedy, without delay, harmful behaviours.

In a similar spirit, we encourage and support the self-care and wellbeing of our staff.

