

FAMILY LIFE / HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Background

The District believes that the purpose of Family Life and Human Sexuality education is to help students acquire factual knowledge, skills and attitudes which will result in behaviour that contributes to the well-being of the individual, the family and society. The teachings of the Catholic Church will be the basis for the Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum. Parents have the primary responsibility to assist their children in developing moral values. The District will support and supplement parents' efforts in these areas. The District recognizes the importance of making students aware of moral implications in terms of Christian sexual and social responsibility.

Procedures

1. Foundational principles of the Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum include the following:
 - 1.1 The sanctity of human life which recognizes the inherent dignity of the human person from conception until death
 - 1.2 Chastity, the virtue that calls all human beings to express their sexuality with purity of body and mind
 - 1.3 Respect for and dignity of all human persons regardless of their gender, race, belief system, sexual orientation or family circumstance
 - 1.4 Social relationships characterized by generosity, mutual respect and service to others, especially the poor, marginalized and oppressed
2. All teachers new to teaching the Human Sexuality component of the Family Life program must take an in-service prior to teaching the curriculum.
3. One component of the Program of Studies is education regarding the medical facts of Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV and AIDS. Teachers must be familiar with and refer to on an ongoing basis the current documents on these issues provided by the District, the Diocese and the Vatican.
4. The Program of Studies provides a list of resources to use in teaching these courses.
 - 4.1 Prior to using any other resources, administrators and teachers will seek approval from the Director of Religious Education.
 - 4.2 This approval must be obtained well in advance of teaching the courses.
5. All students are expected to take the Family Life and Human Sexuality courses in grades 4 to 12 within the Religious Education program.

- 5.1 Parents who do not wish their children to be taught the human sexuality component of Family Life may opt out after consultation with the Principal and presenting their request in writing to the Principal.
- 5.2 Principals will provide alternative learning experiences for those students who have been exempted from human sexuality instruction by their parents.
6. Instruction in the human sexuality component of the program in grades 4 to 9 will take place in the spring, preferably after Easter since relationships have been well established between students and teachers at that time. This supports a more comfortable discussion of sensitive issues.
7. Parents must be informed of the timing for instruction in the human sexuality component of the program.
 - 7.1 Letters must be sent out to parents in September and again at least one (1) month prior to beginning instruction.
 - 7.2 Principals will provide opportunities for parents to review all resources and to access in-depth information on the courses being taught.
8. In keeping with this Administrative Procedure all principals are expected to monitor external groups offering resources or interacting with students so that these individuals are aware of and respect the parameters within which we work. This would include the need for other public sector groups to participate in the Catholic Perspectives in-service offered by the Religious Education team.

Approval Date: June 14, 2018

Reference: Sections 16.2, 18, 20, 39, 50.1, 59, 60, 61, 113 School Act
 Alberta Bill of Rights
 Alberta Human Rights Act
 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982
 Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act
 Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
 Code of Canon Law #796-806
 General Directory for Catechesis #259 and #265
 The Canadian Catholic Bishops "Pastoral Letter to Young People on Chastity"
 The Canadian Catholic Bishops "Pastoral Ministry to Young People with Same-Sex Attraction"
 The Alberta Bishops "A Resource for an Inclusive Community" (2001)
 John Paul II. Theology of the Body. Pauline Books and Media Press, 1997