

ACCESSIBILITY:

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Name of Student: _____ School: _____

Exemption Requested for Faith Activities in Grade: _____

Date of Request for Exemption of Faith Activities: _____

EDUCATION ACT PROVISION

Subsection 42(13) of the Education Act provides for an exemption for a “program or course of study in religious education” for a “person who is qualified to be a resident pupil in respect of a secondary school operated by a public board who attends a secondary school operated by a Roman Catholic board.”

REQUEST APPROVED?

Yes: The request for this exemption has been approved.

- The above-named student will not be required to take part in faith activities (activities of a religious nature with a substantial component of ritual and prayer at the above-noted school). In this regard, he/she will not be required to take part in school masses, religious retreats and/or other activities of a religious nature with a substantial component of ritual and prayer, unless he/she so chooses to attend. In these circumstances, the above-named student is to report to the Main Office during faith activities in order to ensure proper supervision. Please recognize that there will not be any alteration in the religious or moral education that infused the remainder of the student’s timetable and school observances.
- Please note that this exemption only applies to ‘Open Access’ students who meet the qualifications in the above provision. It is understood that the above-named student is qualified to be a resident pupil in respect of a secondary school operated by a public board.
- In light of the above information, the student qualifies for the exemption under subsection 42(13) of the Education Act.

No: The request for this exemption has been declined.

- The above-named student does not qualify for the exemption under subsection 42(13) of the Education Act. The Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) cannot comply with your request to have him/her exempted from faith activities (activities of a religious nature with a substantial component of ritual and prayer).
- Please note that this exemption only applies to ‘Open Access’ students who meet the qualifications in the above provision. I understand that the above-named student is a Catholic student who attended _____ (name of the Catholic elementary school). It is also understood that the above-named student does not qualify to be a resident pupil in respect of a secondary school operated by a public board.

- The religious exemptions and requirements for the full duration of the student's enrolment at the school include the following:
 - The student will enroll in a Religious Education Course in each of the four years. All Religious Education Courses are approved by the appropriate Catholic authority. The Government of Ontario recognizes that Religious Education Course credits count towards a secondary graduation diploma.
 - The student will participate in retreats that may occur during the first four years that he/she attends school. The retreats normally take place during the school day, but may take place off school property.
 - The student will participate in the prayer and liturgical life of the school. Catholic students are expected to participate fully as mandated by their sacramental Baptism

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM MANDATE

Notwithstanding any possible exemptions, the historical mandate of the Catholic school system in Ontario is to model the entire syllabus of the school on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Throughout the province, Catholic school boards have been using the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations as a foundation reflective of the vision of all learners, our rootedness in a distinctive Christian anthropology and view of the world, and a renewed sense of the distinctiveness and purpose that is a publicly-funded Catholic education. As such, the WCDSB holds expectations for all students admitted. The following quote from the letter issued to parents upon registration clearly explains our expectations in this regard. We expect:

"All students in our schools will participate in the prayer life and in the liturgical life of the school. Catholic students are expected to participate fully as mandated by their sacramental Baptism. Non-Catholic students are expected to participate to the extent that they can. It is not the intention of the WCDSB to proselytize, however, for supervision, safety, and community reasons, the entire school participates in all religious events that occur during the school year."

At WCDSB, religious and moral education is not, and must not, be one subject among many in the student's timetable; it infuses all classes and materials during the school day.

The Board has the expectation that all students admitted to the Catholic system will benefit from these values and teachings. It is the Board's view that such values and teachings are important in forming our learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world.

Name of Principal

Name of School

Date

Disclaimer

Information on this form is collected pursuant to the board's responsibilities set out in the Education Act and protected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Information on this form will be used to administer the Secondary Admissions Program. Questions should be directed to the school principal.

To be Completed by: School Principal

Description of Use: Original: Parent/Guardian. Copies: 1. Director of Education; 2. Superintendent of Schools; 3. Main Office. (Retain: until Superseded)