

## ACCESSIBILITY:

To request this file in large print, please email [aoda@wcdsb.ca](mailto:aoda@wcdsb.ca) or call (519) 578-3660.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Legal Surname

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Legal First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Current Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## PRINCIPAL PREPARATION PRIOR TO PARENT MEETING:

- Verify Tax Designation of student: Public or Catholic/Open Access Student/Exceptional Circumstance
- Review student index card, credit counselling, attendance
- Review Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations and how they align with emerging global competencies
- Review key considerations in support of Catholic Education (page 2)
- Have copy of letter "Religious Education Exemption, Acknowledgement" (APA002-01F) available

## SCRIPT FOR DISCERNMENT PROCESS

### Exemption - Religious Education Course/Faith Activity (yearly requests)

1. Begin by describing your school.
2. **Religious Education Course Exemption:** In our discussions with parents, we are always invitational and faith based, respectful of the dignity of parents and children. Thank parent(s) for coming in and taking the time to meet, as you explore their reasons for bringing forward their request.
  - a. What is your understanding of the Religious Education Course?
  
  - b. Is it a course selection/preference issue?
3. **Faith Activity Exemption** (from events that are substantively Catholic in nature such as Masses, retreats, etc.)
  - a. What is your understanding of the faith activities?
  
  - b. Are you concerned that your son/daughter may not be prepared for retreats or liturgies?
4. In the Catholic school, religion infuses every subject area, all assessment and all other aspects of the life of the school; religious education infuses all academic areas and programs.
5. In summary, we believe being a student at this school is being a part of a culture which is inclusive and respects the dignity of all. It is our hope that children will benefit from the full and engaging experience that is Catholic Education.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSES:

1. Developing a relationship with God
2. Universal Virtues
3. Celebrate Sacraments where God powerfully and grace-fully calls us to behave in certain ways
4. Environmental education and stewardship
5. Social justice and outreach
6. Anti-bullying education and responsible citizenship
7. Conflict resolution relationship building
8. Resiliency, empowerment and overcoming adversity
9. Antidiscrimination education
10. Healthy living
11. Leadership opportunities
12. Ethics and morality and informed decision making
13. Building self-esteem and recognition of dignity and personal gifts
14. Other school based programming

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO FAITH ACTIVITIES (I.E. MASSES, LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS, RETREATS, ETC.):

1. Liturgies are often integrated into all subject areas (i.e. Remembrance Day, etc.)
2. Prayer and liturgy are embedded in all school activities (curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular)
3. School Masses are celebrated and infused in activities of school
4. Celebrate and encourage Universal Virtues
5. Realize our Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
6. Safe Schools Initiatives
7. Inclusive Education
8. Exploring and celebrating other world religions
9. Community building and relationship building
10. Peer relationship building
11. Reflection and goal setting

### 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 School Admissions Program. Questions regarding the collection of this information should be directed to the school principal.

To be Completed by: Secondary Principal  
Description of Use: Original: Main Office (Retain: until Superseded)