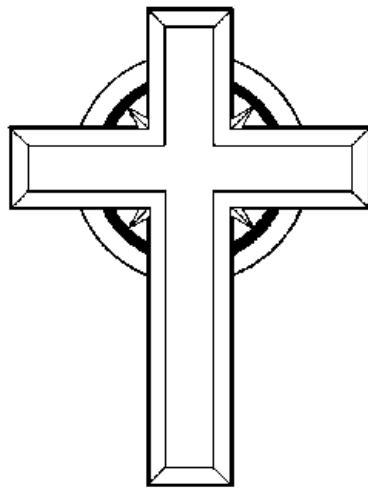


Section 1

**SERVING FAMILIES IN THE
LOVE OF CHRIST**



“All who believed were together and had all things in common...and day by day the Lord added to their number.”

Acts 2:44-47

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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SECTION 1: CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS – SERVING FAMILIES IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Catholic School Councils are a gift to the Catholic school community. These councils are a structure within which parents, staff, students, parish, and Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) representatives are afforded the opportunity to exercise their own vocation as parents and people of faith. Council members have the opportunity to influence that path on which children journey towards realizing the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and ultimately, a vocation of Christ-like service in the world beyond school.

In keeping with the inspirational model of the very first Christian communities of believers, Catholic School Councils rely on the presence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to reveal and to mobilize the diverse gifts and talents of all community members. Prayer, fellowship and open deliberation in combination can assure all members that they have a role to play and that their contributions will be valued.

PURPOSE

The purpose of a Catholic School Council is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

A Catholic School Council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations, in accordance with the policy and regulation, to the principal of the school and to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

POLICY

The Catholic School Council is established by Board Policy 4.01, in accordance with Ministry of Education Regulations 612/00 and 298. Catholic School Councils shall promote the vision and values and the sacramental life and Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, and be faithful to its mission.

ESTABLISHMENT

It is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that each school under its supervision shall have a Catholic School Council, advisory in nature, and governed by the Education Act, the regulations thereunder, and the policies and regulations of the Board.

“At this time in the evolution of education in Ontario, it is essential that Catholic School Councils recognize the religious dimension of their call to service, and that they be fully committed to the preservation of a Christ-centred system of education.”

(Council of Ontario Separate Schools, 1995)

DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

VALUES, MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS OF THE BOARD

The Values, Mission and Vision statements of the Board (see below) were developed by trustees, teachers, parents/guardians and pastors. These statements clearly articulate the strong commitment of all parties to a Catholic philosophy of, and practice in, education.

Catholic School Councils have a special responsibility to keep this purpose foremost in all of their deliberations and activities.

VALUES STATEMENT

We believe:

- that our Catholic faith, as expressed through gospel values, is the driving force in our community of learners,
- that our Board strives to be a Christ-centred system where all may work and learn in a supportive, meaningful and respect-filled environment,
- that the parishes and schools are visible expressions of our Catholic faith community,
- that parents/guardians, as the primary educators, should be active partners in their child's learning,
- that education is a continuous growth process which fosters a love of learning,
- that all partners in our Catholic school system are responsible for providing a safe, caring, learning environment for our students,
- that, through the active process of Catholic education, learners can grow in faith and become literate problem solvers and decision makers who contribute to the common good,
- that each individual within the community has a continual obligation to learn and grow spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, morally and socially to better serve one another and the greater society,
- that as good stewards, members of our Catholic school system have an obligation to make responsible use of all the resources available to them.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the family and church, is to provide, in a responsible manner, a Catholic education which develops the spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching the community.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is to:

1. define, promote, teach and practice Catholic faith life and education in our schools in co-operation with our parishes,
2. collaborate with family and the Church in the clarification and definition of expectations of spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social and physical capabilities of students upon exit from our system,
3. strive to meet individual student needs through appropriate and effective program delivery and evaluation,
4. fund essential services and programs in a fiscally responsible manner,
5. encourage open and continuous dialogue and increased involvement among all our partners in education by promoting openness to all operations and accountabilities,
6. ensure a safe, caring and enjoyable learning and working environment for all.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils, an organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Catholic Education, is to foster open communication and engage parental involvement at all levels. Through training programs and a strong focus on serving families in the love of Christ, the Central Committee provides a network for local school councils to share ideas, enrich the educational environment and reach our common goal..... The betterment of Catholic education in Ontario.