



**Catholic Family Life Program
200.03**

Adopted:	June 23, 2020
Last Reviewed/Revised:	N/A
Responsibility:	Superintendent of Education for School Effectiveness
Next Scheduled Review:	TBA

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is committed to supporting young people with a vision of human life, marriage, family, and sexuality based on the tenets of our Catholic faith. Amid an ever-changing world, our students require a Catholic vision of who they are and how they are meant to live. The Bishops of Ontario have embraced this mission through their ongoing commitment to, and involvement with “Fully Alive,” the Family Life program used in Catholic Elementary schools and the Religious Education courses used in Catholic high schools. The Brant Haldimand Catholic District School Board recognizes the importance of providing our students with knowledge and moral guidance to help them better understand themselves and others, and ultimately develop a closer relationship with God. Through this policy, the Board affirms its expectation that all students shall have the opportunity to participate in a Family Life education program throughout their elementary and secondary school years. It is the policy of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board to provide a program in Catholic Family Life education to all students in its schools.

APPLICATION AND SCOPE:

All students of the Board shall have the opportunity to participate in Catholic Family Life education programs.

1.1 Elementary

- 1.1.1 “Fully Alive” is the approved Family Life education program to be used in Elementary schools of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.
- 1.1.2 A summary of the “Fully Alive” education program including an approximate timeline of when specific units are to be taught shall be shared with parents on an annual basis.
- 1.1.3 Family Life Unit letters shall be forwarded to parents prior to the beginning of each theme outlining what topics will be covered, and suggestions for parental involvement.

1.2 Secondary

- 1.2.1 Family Life education shall be taught as a strand within the Religious Education program using the Curriculum Expectations outlined in the Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document for Religious Education (2016).

1.3 Elementary/Secondary

- 1.3.1 A parent or guardian may submit a request in writing to the Principal that his/her child be exempted from the units that teach Human Development and Sexual Health.

REFERENCES:

- Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, [Statement from Bishop Ronald P. Fabbro](#)
- [Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, Family Life Education](#)
- Institute for Catholic Education, [Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#)
- Ministry of Education, [Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8, 2019](#)
- [Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document, Grades 1-8, Religious Education](#)
- [Ontario Catholic Secondary Curriculum Policy Document](#)
- [Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, Fully Alive \(Grades 1-8\)](#)



FORMS:

- There are no forms attached to this policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

1.0 Reporting Requirements

1.1 Director of Education:

- 1.1.1 To oversee compliance of the Catholic Family Life Program Policy.
- 1.1.2 To ensure that programs in Catholic Family Life education used in schools within the Board comply with Diocesan guidelines.

1.2 Superintendent of Education:

- 1.2.1 To ensure that appropriate funds are allocated for the provision of Catholic Family Life education resources.
- 1.2.2 To ensure that Catholic Family Life education sessions are offered annually on an as needed basis.

1.3 Student Achievement Consultant: Religion and Family Life:

- 1.3.1 To provide leadership in the provision of Catholic Family Life education programs.
- 1.3.2 To support teachers in the delivery of Catholic Family Life education programs.

1.4 Principals:

- 1.4.1 To monitor the delivery of Catholic Family Life education programs.
- 1.4.2 To work in partnership with teachers in the delivery of Catholic Family Life education programs and follow up with parents where necessary.

1.5 Teachers:

- 1.5.1 To teach the Catholic Family Life education program using only the prescribed curriculum and resources, which includes approved presenters for staff and/or students.
- 1.5.2 To integrate Catholic values and teachings in all subject areas.
- 1.5.3 To share a summary of the Fully Alive education program including an approximate timeline of when specific units are to be taught with parents annually.
- 1.5.4 To send Family Life Unit letters to parents prior to the beginning of each theme outlining what topics will be covered and suggestions for parent involvement.

1.6 Parents:

- 1.6.1 To become familiar with the Family Life education program to enhance their ability to discuss their child(ren)'s learning.
- 1.6.2 To communicate with their child's teachers.
- 1.6.3 To ask relevant questions about their children's progress.