



Policy Manual – Students

S.P.05 – Fully Alive Family Life Program

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.

POLICY STATEMENT

The *Fully Alive* family life program, sponsored and developed with the approval of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) is the only approved program for the instruction of students Grades 1 through Grade 8 in any area of family life curriculum in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. This includes the instruction of students on the expectations of the *Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Health and Physical Education (2019)* related to the Human Development and Sexual Health topic.

At the beginning of each school year, the school will make parents/guardians aware of the expectations of the *Fully Alive* program. In addition, classroom teachers will provide information to parents/guardians at the start of each of the five themes of *Fully Alive* that clearly identifies the content of the lessons to be covered during that theme.

The Board further affirms that parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children and that they may withdraw their children from specific instruction in the *Fully Alive* family life program upon written request to the school principal. Schools will work with parents/guardians to provide appropriate supervision for students withdrawn from instruction in this area.

Purpose

The *Fully Alive* program is intended to transmit a distinctively Catholic view of human life, sexuality, marriage, and family. The program's goal is to complement the efforts of families and to support what parents/guardians are doing at home. The entire program, from Grades 1 through Grade 8, is designed to encourage children to become the people God wants them to be – to be fully alive.

The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE), on behalf of the ACBO, will provide resources and parent information letters regarding the *Fully Alive* family life program. Religion and Family Life curriculum staff will ensure the most up to date information, approved by the ACBO, regarding the *Fully Alive* program are brought to the Board for approval. This will include updates to the lessons outlined in the program, letters to parents/guardians, etc.

Full information about *Fully Alive* is available on the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario website: (www.acbo.on.ca).

Responsibility

Superintendent of Education, Religion & Family Life

Regulations

PPM No. 162: Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8, 2019*

Related Board Policies

S.P.04 – Religious Education JK-12

Related Board Committee

Religion, Family Life and Faith Formation

Policy Review Date

BM Original Policy Approved November 19, 2019, 7 November 2023

To be reviewed every five years