

## Frequently Asked Questions

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<b>Does my child have to be Catholic in order to attend a Catholic school?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally, children attending Catholic Schools are baptized Roman Catholic.</li> <li>• If a parent is baptized Roman Catholic, their child may be enrolled in HWCDSB. The parent must show their baptismal certificate to complete registration.</li> <li>• There is a non-Catholic admission process.</li> <li>• Families must speak with the principal of their home school to discuss the process.</li> </ul>
<b>Will my child receive support from an Educational Assistant?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Assistants are allocated by the Board to the school based on student needs.</li> </ul>
<b>What will my child wear to school?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Catholic school children wear uniforms. School personnel will provide parents with ordering information at registration.</li> </ul>
<b>When will my child's Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meeting take place?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principal will schedule the IPRC meeting after your child has been in school for a period of time. This will provide school staff with the opportunity to gain a better understanding of your child's strengths and needs.</li> </ul>
<b>When will my child receive an Individual Education Plan (IEP)?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your child is identified as exceptional through an IPRC meeting, an IEP must be completed within 30 school days from the date of the IPRC.</li> </ul>
<b>May I visit the school with my child prior to school entry?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally, most Principals encourage school visits in the spring. Please contact the school to arrange a date.</li> <li>• During the visit, some parents choose to take pictures of the school environment and school staff to support the transition to school in September.</li> </ul>
<b>Will specialized transportation be provided?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board may provide specialized transportation to and from the home school within the catchment area.</li> <li>• A doctor's note will be required.</li> </ul>
<b>How many other students will be in my child's class?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the board philosophy states, HWCDSB supports an inclusive educational environment. All children regardless of their strengths and needs are in the same classroom.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the Ministry of Education, Kindergarten classes typically have an educator team of a certificated Ontario teacher and a Designated Early Childhood Educator (DECE) and these class sizes are typically up to 26 students.</li> <li>• When there is no DECE, the Kindergarten class would have a teacher and up to 16 students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What class supports are available for children with epilepsy who suffer multiple seizures per day?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parents are responsible for informing the school principal upon registration of the child’s medical needs. Parents must request intervention for medical needs (anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma) through the documentation forms at this link. <a href="https://www.hwcdsb.ca/support/childyouthhealth/">https://www.hwcdsb.ca/support/childyouthhealth/</a></li> <li>• A Plan of Care is created for each student with a medical condition. The child’s physician and parents/guardians will be involved in creating this plan with board staff.</li> <li>• School staff should be made aware of the child’s medical needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I registered my child at a Catholic school in September 2020, but decided to put the registration process on hold this year due to the situation with COVID-19. Do I need to reapply now?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent should contact the home school to review registration information and provide current information</li> <li>• The school Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) will contact the parent to schedule an intake meeting to review any new developments and information over the last year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>My child has a hard time with a lot of children in a classroom. How can we help him/her get more comfortable with this situation?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a common experience for children who are transitioning to school.</li> <li>• Please discuss this concern with the classroom teacher, DECE, Special Education Resource Teacher and Central Resource Teacher at your home school to develop strategies.</li> <li>• Should an intake meeting be recommended for your child, this should be a point of discussion at your child’s intake meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I find out when the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meetings are? How do I join? How many people from 1 family can attend the meeting?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This information can be found on HWCDSB website. <a href="https://www.hwcdsb.ca/board/seac/">https://www.hwcdsb.ca/board/seac/</a></li> <li>• SEAC information can be found in section 4.0 of the HWCDSB Special Education Programs and Services. <a href="https://www.hwcdsb.ca/support/specialeducation/">https://www.hwcdsb.ca/support/specialeducation/</a></li> <li>• Parents are welcome to attend and participate as a spectator at the meeting. These are meetings to share and discuss information related to Special</li> </ul>

	<p>Education Services and Programs related to HWCDSB. This is <u>not</u> a meeting to discuss your child's specific concerns. If you have concerns about your child, please address them at the school with the principal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These meetings are currently being held virtually. Please request an invitation by contacting Mrs. Kovach's office.</li> <li>• To become a committee member, you must belong to and be nominated by a supporting community group as their representative.</li> </ul>
<p><b>My child is unable to walk independently, but is able to use a walker. Will there be someone at the school to assist him/her?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A compliment of Education Assistants (EA) are allotted to each school based on student needs.</li> <li>• Each school is responsible for prioritizing student needs and allocating EAs accordingly.</li> <li>• Appropriate referrals can be made to School-Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) to access services from occupational therapist and/or physio therapist if applicable. These services are provided in-school to help students attend school, participate in school routines, and receive instruction in publicly funded education settings. There may be a waitlist for services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>My child has a private ABA therapist and a private SLP. Would they be permitted in the class at any time?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HWCDSB does <u>not</u> allow private therapists into the school to conduct treatment or therapy.</li> <li>• HWCDSB does have Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) and Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBA) who can communicate with private therapists to help support the child in school.</li> <li>• Parents may invite private therapists to attend school meetings. Parents are encouraged to share reports with the school that may assist in the development of the child's IEP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>My child has ASD. What are the specifics when it comes to the classroom conditions in this situation?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every school has a Special Education Resource Teacher on staff. The board also has support staff, such as Central Resource Teachers, Speech Language Pathologists, Psychologists, Psychometrists, Social Workers, Applied Behaviour Analysis team (BCBA, ABA Special Assignment Resource Teacher, ABA facilitators) and Multi-disciplinary Team EAs.</li> <li>• Each child has unique strengths and needs. School staff will review reports at school entry and complete assessments as needed.</li> <li>• An individual education plan will be developed for that child that will include environmental</li> </ul>

	<p>accommodations. This program is implemented within the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Does my child need a diagnosis at school entry?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some children do not have a specific diagnosis when they enter school, however families may be discussing a possible diagnosis with their Developmental Pediatrician.</li> <li>• Regardless of whether there is a diagnosis, families are encouraged to share reports or assessments that will help in planning of the transition to school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I submit my child's documents from the ABA Therapist and Music Therapist?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please follow the instructions in the parent letter that you received with the "Tell Us About Your Child" form.</li> <li>• Use the same link to upload reports.</li> <li>• Families should receive an email to let them know the information was successfully uploaded.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I sent the "Tell Us About Your Child" form to the board. How do I know if it was received?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If it was uploaded through the link, an email receipt would have been sent.</li> <li>• If it was mailed, please email <a href="mailto:intake@hwcdsb.ca">intake@hwcdsb.ca</a> and board personnel will advise if it was received.</li> </ul>
<p><b>For parents who are unable to print the "Tell Us About Your Child" form, can the parent type their name instead of a true signature?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The form will be accepted with a typed name.</li> <li>• A signature will be required at a later date.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The resource teacher at my child's daycare submitted the form on behalf of the family. Is that ok?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, that is acceptable.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I have speech concerns about my child. What should I do?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please initiate a referral with Early Words prior to June 15th.</li> <li>• Share these concerns with the home school at registration.</li> <li>• There will be a board SLP at the intake meeting to discuss any speech and language concerns.</li> <li>• If you have further questions, contact the manager of Speech, Language and Hearing (Mrs. Torsney)</li> </ul>