

Living Sky School Division No. 202

Administrative Procedure (AP) Manual



Procedure Name: Religious, Spiritual, and Cultural Education			
Procedure Type:	Programs and Curriculum	Implementation Date:	JUL 23, 2014
Procedure Number:	6.04	Last Approval Date:	JAN 10, 2024
Procedure Owner:	Superintendent of Learning	Last Reviewed:	DEC 18, 2023
Legal Reference(s):	<i>The Education Act – Sections 140.5</i> <i>The Education Regulations – Section 13</i>		

Background

Living Sky School Division (LSKYSD) recognizes the pluralistic nature of Canadian society and therefore supports an approach, in the context of the provincial curriculum, to religion and spirituality that is sensitive to and encouraging of the presentation of an equitable and representative cross section of points of view.

Recognizing that prejudice and discrimination do exist in Canadian society, Living Sky School Division supports educational activities related to religious, spiritual, and cultural practices that reflect the cultural diversity of our communities and support an environment that is positive and spiritually safe. This acknowledges the diversity of values and practices of students and parents of all faiths.

Living Sky School Division supports religious education as provided for in the Education Act. The division recognizes the Hutterian Brethren practices regarding the education of their children. Furthermore, the division acknowledges the agreement between the two Associate Schools, Meadow Lake Christian Academy and Heritage Christian School. The division acknowledges the original agreement that resulted in St. Vital Catholic School becoming part of the division.

Scope

This procedure guides staff in the spiritual, religious, and cultural aspects of education in schools and the classroom.

Procedures

1. A school community council (SCC) may recommend to the director of education and board of education that religious education be included in its school's program. The content, delivery, and organization of the program recommended must follow guidelines as provided in provincial legislation and regulations.
2. Any religious program offered in the schools of LSKYSD shall require the approval of the board of education.
3. In any of the public schools in LSKYSD, a student who does not wish to participate in the religious program must present their principal with written parental or guardian consent for exemption from the religious program. In St. Vital Catholic School, all students are expected to participate in the religious program.
4. The principal must ensure that any students exempted from participation in the religious program shall be provided with an alternative educational program appropriate to their grade placement and achievement level.



5. St. Vital Catholic Advisory Committee shall guide the religious education programming as according to the letter of intent signed by LSKYSD and the committee. Students who attend St. Vital are required to participate in religious studies.
6. Heritage Christian and Meadow Lake Christian Academy shall provide a Christian religious program in accordance with their respective operating agreements with LSKYSD. Students who attend these schools are expected to participate in these programs.
7. Living Sky School Division believes in the importance of the religious, spiritual, and cultural heritage in Canada and supports the traditional role of spirituality in society and in education. Working within the established curriculum, the division encourages schools to develop in students:
 - a. a respect for family, religion, and culture in a pluralistic society;
 - b. an appreciation for and understanding of world religions; and
 - c. where topics of religion or spirituality are covered in core curriculum, the focus shall be on teaching **about** versus teaching **in** a specific religion.
8. Opening activities are to teach, support and encourage the principles and goals of the division and the provincial curriculum (lifelong learners, sense of self, community and place, engaged citizens). Activities are to be inclusive and may include:
 - a. opportunities for quiet personal reflection;
 - b. the singing of "O Canada";
 - c. smudging; or
 - d. the recitation of Treaty Land Acknowledgement.
9. The role of Indigenous history and culture is recognized in Saskatchewan curriculum. Schools are supported in developing instructional plans and school activities to support student understanding of Indigenous history and culture.
10. There is recognition that concerts often have a repertoire of musical selections that has a bias towards Christian beliefs. These musical selections may be used for special performances.

Related

AP 2.01 School Community Councils

AP 6.03 Citizenship

AP 6.17 Hutterite Schools