

**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
SECTION D: STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

MANDATORY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSES	POLICY
EFFECTIVE: 2000 12 01 / 2013 04 23 / 2019 04 23	

POLICY STATEMENT:

As an educational partner with parents and the Catholic Church, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board believes that the spiritual dimension is an essential component in the development of our students. Therefore, it is important that teaching staff have adequate knowledge of Catholic teachings and the proper formation and attitude to foster the spiritual growth of students through religious education courses.

POLICY GOALS:

1. To ensure new teachers shall take the Religious Education in Catholic Schools Part I course, or equivalent, within the first two years of employment with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board.
2. To ensure newly appointed principals and vice principals shall have the Religious Education in Catholic Schools Part I course, or equivalent, at the time of their appointment and are encouraged to pursue Religious Education Specialist.
3. To ensure newly appointed Department Heads, Consultants, and Special Assignment Teachers shall have the Religious Education in Catholic Schools Part I course, or equivalent, within the first two years of appointment and are encouraged to pursue Religious Education Specialist.

DEFINITIONS:

Religious Education in Catholic Schools Part I – This course supports the on-going commitment of Catholic teachers to religious literacy, personal and communal renewal and the building of faith community in our Catholic schools. The foundational component of in-depth scripture study, coupled with faith development, liturgical celebration and ethical studies through the Catholic lens enables teachers to make faith connections within themselves and within their classroom curriculum. The integration of an informed faith with teaching practice enables teachers to support the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations in a professional and powerful way.

Religious Education Specialist – The focus of this course is the call received through Baptism to be leaders and ministers of the faith. Through a close examination of the Judeo-Christian call to witness to the love of the living God at work in the world, this course calls Catholic educators to fulfill their Baptismal promise to be the light of Christ in their vocations as Catholic teachers and Catholic leaders. The course teaches an awareness which enables Catholic educators to make faith connections within themselves, within the classroom curriculum and within the school.