

AP309 A – APPENDIX SCSBA PASTORAL RESPONSE TO TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

November 5, 2015

The Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards' Association (SCSBA) is committed to ensuring Catholic schools are safe and inclusive environments where student success is a priority and everyone feels included, protected, and respected. It is well known that when students do not feel safe or valued, it undermines their learning and well-being.

Our schools share a foundational belief that all children are loved by God, created in God's image, and individually unique. As such, all human beings are inherently sacred and must be treated with dignity and respect. Our schools have a mission to help students grow as children of God in all aspects of their person: physically, academically, socially, emotionally, morally, and spiritually.

1. The Catholic Church teaches that:
 - 1.1. respect for the human person entails respect for the rights that flow from their dignity as a person (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1930)
 - 1.2. respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that "everyone" should look upon their neighbour (without exception) as another self, above all bearing in mind their life and the means necessary for living with dignity. (CCC #1931)
 - 1.3. with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of unjust discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, language or religion is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent. (CCC #2358)

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Education has produced a document entitled *Deepening the Discussion: Gender and Sexual Diversity*, designed to assist individuals and communities as they respond to the needs of students and families who are gender and/or sexually diverse (GSD).

In order to support Catholic schools and Catholic school boards in fulfilling our shared obligation to promote the dignity, respect, and equity of students who are gender and sexually diverse, the SCSBA encourages the use of this comprehensive ministry document with the following provisions:

- Practices and processes in schools will be in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Please consult with your Division's Religious Education Coordinator, or designate, as determined by your Director of Education.
- The establishment of student alliances for gender and sexual diversity will take place in accordance with *SCSBA Student Alliances for Gender and Sexual Diversity – Formation Protocol*

For further support, school divisions are encouraged to refer to the SCSBA document **Caring for Students and Staff: Creating an Atmosphere of Trust and Respect Around Issues of Sexual Orientation**.

- References:** Caring for Students and Staff: Creating an Atmosphere of Trust and Respect Around Issues of Sexual Orientation
Catechism of the Catholic Church
Deepening the Discussion: Gender and Sexual Diversity, *Saskatchewan Ministry of Education 2015*
SCSBA Student Alliances for Gender and Sexual Diversity – Formation Protocol