



## HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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### RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

The Halton Catholic District School Board (the Board) believes in the dignity of all people and their equality as children of God. The Board recognizes the importance of freedom of religion and strives to recognize value and honour the many customs, traditions and beliefs that make up the Catholic community. Freedom of religion is an individual right and a collective responsibility. The Board commits to work with the community it serves to foster an inclusive learning environment that promotes acceptance and protects individuals from discrimination and harassment on the basis of their religion. In accordance with the Catholic Church's teachings, it is the policy of the Board to provide, in all its operations, an educational environment which promotes and supports diversity within its Catholic community as well as the equal attainment of life opportunities for all students, staff, parents and other members of that community.

The Halton Catholic District School Board is committed to the values of freedom of religion and freedom from discriminatory or harassing behaviours based on religion and will take all reasonable steps to provide religious accommodations within the legal rights afforded to the Catholic school system. Students requesting religious accommodations within these rights are asked to provide the form below completed by parents / guardians. It is recognized that the attached list of religious holy days is not exhaustive. On the form, please specify the accommodation needs relating to religious observances, including holy days on which they will be absent from school. Where possible this form should be handed in at the beginning of each school year to ensure that scheduling of major evaluations, such as tests, assignments or examinations, takes the religious observances into consideration.

The Board is committed to providing an environment that is inclusive and that is free of barriers based on creed (religion). Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the principles of dignity, individualization, and inclusion. The Board will work cooperatively, and in a spirit of respect, with all partners in the accommodation process.