

# A Parent's Guide to the Process of Admission

## of Non-Catholic Children in Halton Catholic Elementary Schools

### Admission Policy

In May, 2011, the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) revised its [Policy I-22, Admission to Schools, Elementary and Secondary](http://bit.ly/Policy-I-22) ([bit.ly/Policy-I-22](http://bit.ly/Policy-I-22)). While the previous policy stated that a child enrolling in Halton Catholic elementary schools must be baptized in the Catholic Church, the current policy now states that in situations where a child is not baptized in the Catholic Church, approval for admission may be granted if at least one parent is baptized in the Catholic Church.

### Pastor's Letter of Support

If a child does not meet the requirement for admission because the child and/or one of the parents does not have a Roman or Eastern Rite Catholic baptismal certificate, the parents should arrange to meet with the Catholic Parish Priest in that school's jurisdiction and commit to having the child baptized or, if already baptized in another Christian faith, to have their child receive a Full Communion with the Catholic Church.

A Pastor's letter of support may be offered when parents demonstrate a sincere commitment to becoming Catholic, and to raising their child(ren) Catholic in their Parish community.

With the support of the Catholic Parish Priest, the Director of Education may make a determination to approve the admission of a non-Catholic child on a conditional basis.

The approval would be granted for one (1) school year in order to give the family an opportunity to initiate and complete the process of preparation, culminating in the child(ren) being baptized or receiving Full Communion of the Roman Catholic Church.



### Frequently Asked Questions

**I and/or my spouse is Catholic, however we do not have a copy of the baptismal certificate. What should we do?**

If one or both parents are Catholic, but you do not have a copy of the baptismal certificate, you must contact the Parish where the baptism took place to obtain a copy of the document, or contact your current Catholic Parish Priest for further direction.

**Our family is Orthodox, and our child was baptized in the Orthodox Church. Should we meet with the Catholic Parish Priest?**

No. Orthodox families wishing to have their child(ren) registered in a Catholic School System are asked to complete a form available at the school, acknowledging that your child(ren) will participate in all religious programs and activities, up to and including sacramental preparation at the school. It is further understood that your child(ren) would not be expected to participate in the sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation, which are celebrated at the time of baptism in the Orthodox Church.

You should also provide a copy of the acknowledgement form to your respective Orthodox Parish Priest.

**My child was baptized in the United Church, however his/her baptismal certificate indicates the Catholic Church.**

Some baptismal certificates issued by the United Church will often state that they have been issued by the Catholic Church. To meet our Board's admission requirements, the baptismal certificate must indicate Roman Catholic, or one of the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church (see the back of this page for details).

If you have further questions regarding our Policy on Admissions, please contact the office of the Director of Education at: (905) 632-6300, ext. 115.

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### Rites of the Catholic Church

Only children who have been baptized in the Catholic Church, either in the Latin (Roman) Rite, or in the Eastern Rite, may be admitted as students in Halton Catholic elementary schools. Approval for admission may be granted if at least one parent is baptized in the Catholic Church.

### The following is a list of the world's Eastern Rite Churches:

- Alexandrian Rite
  - Coptic Rite (Egyptian)
  - Ethiopian Rite
  
- Antiochene Liturgical Tradition
  - Maronite Syrian
  - Syro-Malankara
  
- Armenian Rite
  
- Byzantine Rite
  - Albanian
  - Bulgarian
  - Byelorussian
  - Greek
  - Greek-Melkite (Syria)
  - Hungarian
  - Italo-Albanian
  - Macedonian Greek
  - Romanian
  - Russian
  - Ruthenian
  - Slovak
  - Ukrainian



Not sure where your Parish is located? Check out a list of our Parishes and Associate Schools here: [bit.ly/HCDSBParishes](http://bit.ly/HCDSBParishes)

### The Mission of Catholic Education in Ontario

Catholic schools under *Section 93 of the British North America Act* are established to provide Catholic education to children of Catholic parents.

The mission of our schools is to pass on the Catholic faith to the children attending our Catholic schools through the provision of quality Catholic education.

### The Mission of HCDSB

The Halton Catholic District School Board, in partnership with home and Church, is dedicated to providing excellence in Catholic education by developing Christ-centred individuals enabled to transform society.

### Our Vision Statement

The Halton Catholic District School Board is a model learning community, widely recognized as distinctively Catholic, providing exceptional education, while nurturing the call to love and to serve as a people of faith, living out God's plan.

For more information, please contact the office of the Director of Education:

### Catholic Education Centre

802 Drury Lane  
Burlington, ON, L7R 2Y2  
Phone: 905-632-6300  
Fax: 905-632-4568



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