

School, Community, and Home Relations 11140 School and Parish Relationships	Administrative Application	
	Last Reviewed /Approved on:	October 29, 2024
	References:	Spanish Bishops' Conference (CEE), Spain, 2024 Policy 12 – Role of the Director Policy 17 – Catholic School Community Councils
	Status:	Operational

Preamble

“Education is, above all, an act of hope in those before us, ... in their possibilities to change and contribute to the renewal of society ... Everyone has the right to education, no one should be excluded,” [Pope Francis] said. ... “And never forget,” he added, “that the creation of relationships of justice among peoples, the capacity for solidarity towards the needy, and the care of the common home will pass through the hearts, minds, and hands of those who are being educated today...Education is not possible without betting on freedom, opening the way to social friendship and the culture of encounter,” he said.

“Education is a choral work, which always requires collaboration and networking; never remain alone, avoid self-referentiality.”¹

Relationships between school, home, and parish communities must receive continuous affirmation and development to nurture the faith life of the child.

Application

The Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) recognizes the importance of the relationship that must exist between parishes and schools. The Board seeks to enhance the quality of these relationships through a variety of practices.

1. The Board affirms and supports appropriate Archdiocesan involvement in major decisions affecting our educational community.
2. All **Catholic School Community Councils** (CSCCs) shall provide constitutional opportunity for a parish member (from within a school attendance area or connected to a school) to sit on their council by appointment.
 - a. The selection of the parish representative shall occur through collaboration with the parish priest or designate.

¹ Pope: Education is an act of hope for a better society,
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-02/pope-education-is-an-act-of-hope-for-a-better-society.html>

3. The school administrator shall work with the parish team to provide opportunities for students to grow their faith through an active connection to their local Parish.

This checklist assists in building the essential relationship between the Catholic school and parish. The checklist provided below, while not comprehensive, is a guideline for meetings between pastors and principals.

Application

1. Bridging Between School and Parish

- a. For the principal:
 - i. Introduce the pastor/pastoral team to staff.
 - ii. Introduce the pastor/pastoral team to students.
 - iii. Invite the Pastoral Team to staff meetings and socials.
 - iv. Invite the Pastoral Team to attend and/or be a part of staff retreats and liturgies.
 - v. Respect pastor and principal workloads.
 - vi. Explore helping relationships with the parish.
- b. For the Pastor:
 - i. Introduce principal to parish staff.
 - ii. Invite principal to some pastoral council meetings.
 - iii. Explore helping relationships with the school.

2. Liturgical Celebrations considerations:

- a. Eucharistic liturgies are to be celebrated in schools and the Catholic Education Centre
- b. School Opening liturgy.
- c. Thanksgiving celebration (optional), All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Advent celebrations, Christmas celebration (celebrated either the last week before Christmas break or when we return after the break), New Year/Epiphany celebration (optional), Lent celebrations, Easter and Pentecost celebrations, school patron saint, June liturgy, year-end liturgy, graduation/farewell liturgy.

- d. Liturgies of the Word or Eucharist are to be included when planning staff and student retreats.
- e. Engage pastoral teams in meetings with teachers when planning liturgies.
- f. Occasional involvement in parish Sunday celebrations.

3. Sacramental Preparation

- a. Sacramental preparations belong to the parish – school staff may assist outside of classroom times and curricular teaching minutes - schools do not teach sacramental prep. outside of the curricular outcomes.
- b. Define school duties regarding such things as pastoral team visits and passing on parish communications to families.
- c. Define parish duties.
- d. Coordinate school and parish programs: resources, timing.
- e. Meetings of teachers and parish coordinators.
- f. Time should be provided for Pastor and Pastoral Team classroom visits.
- g. Sacraments celebration communications including, dates, times and duties, may be provided through school channels.
- h. Coordinate with pastoral teams and local area clergy in preparing for celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation at school, and/or at parish.

4. Communication

- a. Include relevant parish announcements in school communications.
- b. - Meet with your pastoral team in June to coordinate parish and school calendars and plan the next school year in advance as priest workload is increasing).
- c. Include relevant school announcements in parish bulletins.
- d. Introduce Pastor/Pastoral Team through the school communications at the start of the school year.
- e. List schools, principals, and vice-principals in parish bulletins.
- f. List school duties in sacramental preparation programs.
- g. Schools to pray for parishes and parishes invited to include schools in Prayers of the Faithful.

5. **Catholic School Community Council (CSCC) Parish Representative**

The principal and pastor or designate will discuss the suitability of candidates for the appointed position of Parish Representative on the Catholic School Community Council.