

POLICY 17: SCHOOL FACILITIES

To conform with our Catholic teaching, a Catholic School has a distinct and unique identity and philosophy. It is defined and characterized as being Christ-centred, an instrument of the Church, focused on the development of the whole human person, committed to the enculturation of life and faith, and permeated in every aspect by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In short, a Catholic school is one in which God, God's truth and God's life permeate every aspect of school life.

In light of this teaching, and seeking to work cooperatively with our Provincial Government, the Member Boards of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), and our Bishop, we identify the following Fundamental Principles which provide the foundation for building Catholic schools in the Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division to allow full permeation of Christ's teachings.

1. Freestanding Catholic Schools are the first choice for Catholic Educational facilities. In these freestanding facilities, Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division will encourage community partnerships, provided they are in concert with the Division's goal to provide the full opportunity for the permeation of Catholic values and beliefs.
2. When the Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division wishes to establish a Catholic school, where none has previously existed, interim facilities may be arranged. If students are to be housed in surplus space in a public school, the space must be renovated to allow for a separate Catholic entity including separate administrative suite, library, classrooms, entrance, and chapel, where space permits. There should also be a commitment from the Ministry of Infrastructure for the provision of a stand-alone Catholic school.
3. A third party partnership will be encouraged only if the third party involved is deemed agreeable and beneficial to both parties. This partnership should enhance the programming opportunities for the Catholic school students. The partnership could involve a third party managing its space and providing Career and Technology Studies (CTS) or other specialized programming to the partners.
4. The Board will not allow encroachment by a public school or encroach into a public school wing should either party require permanent space.

Reference: ACSTA Catholic School Facilities in Alberta – Fundamental Principles, Processes and Guidelines.

Reviewed: June 2012, June 2018, January 2025