



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Learning and Living in Faith*

## **POLICY – PO202**

### **Blessings, Openings and Anniversaries**

Area: Governance  
Source: Superintendent of Education – Policy Development  
Approved: February 10, 2020  
Revised: January 26, 2026

#### **1. Introduction**

The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) recognizes the importance of celebrating significant school events with the support of the Board and the presence of members of the larger school community. Rooted in the Catholic faith, these events serve as meaningful opportunities to recognize the spiritual, historical, and educational significance of Catholic education.

#### **2. Definitions**

Nil

#### **3. Purpose**

This policy and its accompanying administrative procedures outline how the Board supports the celebration of important school events and milestones.

#### **4. Application / Scope**

This policy applies to new school openings, major additions or renovations, significant school anniversaries (e.g., 25th, 50th, 100th), blessings of new facilities, chapels, or sacred spaces.

#### **5. Principles**

5.1 The Board recognizes that:

5.1.1 local school communities can best determine how to celebrate milestones and anniversaries;

- 5.1.2 celebrations of significant school milestones and anniversaries provide an opportunity to honour the long-standing history of Catholic education and should be celebrated in a way that reflects the faith traditions, beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church;
- 5.1.3 celebrations will showcase the schools and foster a sense of community, gratitude, and stewardship.

## **6. Requirements**

- 6.1 The Director of Education shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and to amend them thereafter as the need may arise.
- 6.2 All blessings and major school celebrations must include a liturgical component (e.g., Mass, Liturgy of the Word).
- 6.3 Schools must submit a proposal for any major celebration (e.g., 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, new school opening) to the Director of Education or designate for approval.
- 6.4 Celebrations must include recognition of the school's history, including its founding patron saint, and contributions to Catholic education.
- 6.5 All Openings, Anniversaries, and significant school events must include the Board approved Land Acknowledgement.
- 6.6 All significant celebrations should be planned by a committee established by the principal in conjunction with the Board of Trustees in accordance with administrative procedures attendant to this policy.

## **7. Sources**

Nil

## **8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures**

- 8.1 [Blessings and Official Openings Administrative Procedure \(AP202-1\)](#)
- 8.2 [Celebration of School Anniversaries Administrative Procedure \(AP202-2\)](#)