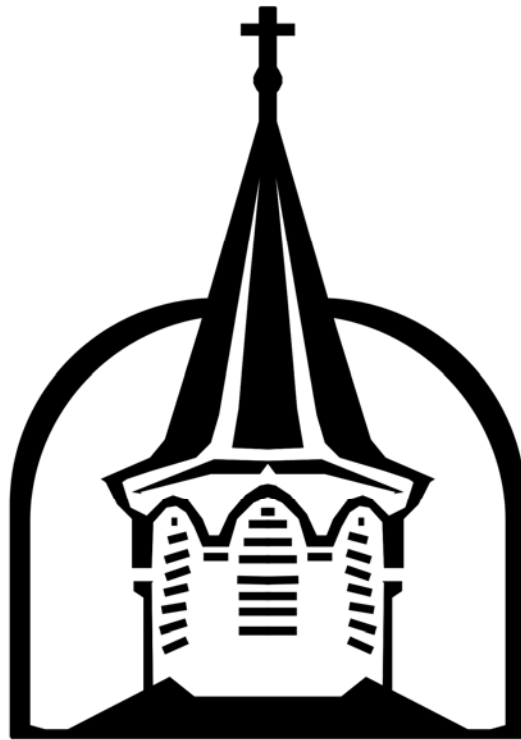


St. Edmund's Elementary School

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Policies and Procedures *Parents' Handbook*

2011-2012



History of St. Edmund's School

St. Edmund's School is the oldest Catholic School on the North Shore, having opened in 1911. At that time the school was run by the dedicated Sisters of the Child Jesus, along with lay teachers and support staff. Originally, the school had 57 students from grades one to twelve. Today, we have almost 200 students from Kindergarten to grade seven. Although the school is nearing its centennial, the mission of St. Edmund's has changed very little – we still focus on the importance of building a faith community.

Our patron saint - Edmund, Bishop of Canterbury - was a model of devotion and academic achievement. He was an English church leader who successively held the posts of Bishop of London, Archbishop of York and Archbishop of Canterbury. The most enduring monument to his life is perhaps the "free grammar school" he founded in his native village of St. Bees. Although the school was to be sometimes at risk in its early years, a school building had been erected by 1588 and a tradition of learning had begun which has continued without break for four centuries. At our own St. Edmund's in North Vancouver we are establishing our own proud tradition of Catholic Education.

In the early days of our school, we were operated entirely by St. Edmund's Parish. Today, school fees and partial funding from the Ministry of Education cover the school's operating costs (although the parish is responsible for the school's capital costs and provides a subsidy each year). St. Edmund's School is a member of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) and is issued with Group 1 classification by the BC Office of Independent Schools. Our school follows the prescribed B.C. Ministry of Education curriculum with the addition of the Archdiocesan religion curriculum. As per Ministry guidelines, all our teachers are certified either through the BC College of Teachers or the Independent Schools Office.

As a Catholic school we share in the mission of the Church and believe that Christ's teaching must be "lived" as well as "taught". Based on this belief, we strive to infuse our religious character into the daily life of the school.

St. Edmund's School presently enrolls approximately 190 students from kindergarten to grade seven, and employs a staff of 17 dedicated individuals.

Prayer to St. Edmund

God, who raised up St. Edmund to be father of the poor and patron of afflicted children, please grant that I may learn from Edmund's example how to love all God's children, however poor or afflicted; that I may become, like him, eyes for the blind, feet for the lame, and a friend to strangers in trouble; and that by this intercession I may be protected from all evil and distress. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



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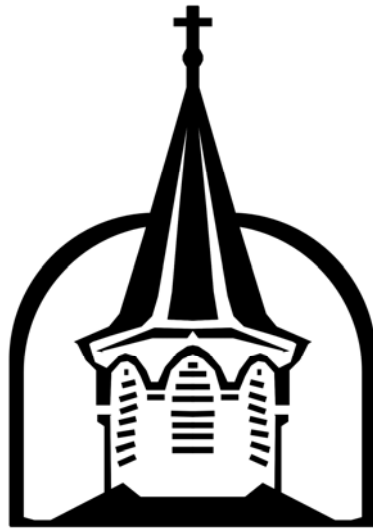
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About this Handbook

*This Handbook provides basic information about St. Edmund's School and outlines some of the more important policies and procedures. In most instances, the Handbook provides a summary only. Occasionally, reference is made to other manuals (**Parent Participation Guide, Parent Association Guide, Registration Package** etc.) that expand on the policies briefly described here. These guides are available through our school web site. Complete CISVA policies and relevant provincial legislation are available through the school secretary (who also has copies of all school documents).*

Use of the term "parent" throughout this Handbook refers to either parent or legal guardian.

We encourage both students and parents to become familiar with the information set out in the Handbook and to refer to it throughout the school year. We also welcome any suggestions you may have for improving the Handbook.



SECTION 1 – PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Words from Pope John Paul II (September 18, 1984, BC Place Stadium)

*I know that some of you go to Catholic schools. Why?
So that you can more readily discover Christ and, in him, the full meaning of life.
So that you can live life to the full. The Church has her schools because she wants to
communicate Christ to you. She wants you to come to full maturity in Him who is the
perfect human being and, at the same time, the Son of God.*

Dear children and young people: Look to Christ.

*When you wonder about the mystery of your life,
look to Christ who explains to you its full meaning. When you wonder about your role in the
future of Canada and the world, look to Christ. He will inspire you to fulfill your potential as
Canadian citizens and as citizens of the world community. When you wonder about the life
to come, look to Christ. Love Him and serve Him in your neighbour now, so that the
fullness of eternal life may one day be yours.*

1. a) A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Catholic School shares in the mission of the Church to proclaim and build the Kingdom of God. As a faith community, we are committed to excellence in Catholicity and in all areas that promote the development of the whole child to his or her full potential. Our focus is to develop Christian leaders, responsible citizens and life-long learners.

At St. Edmund's Elementary, we want to ensure that your child's school experience is a happy one. We will be diligent in creating a Christ-centred environment that stimulates personal development, stresses academic achievement, and offers students a well-rounded extra-curricular program.

We look forward to working with you in nurturing a love of faith and learning in your child.

Michael Field
Principal



1. b) ST. EDMUND'S PHILOSOPHY

As a member of the CISVA, the Philosophy of St. Edmund's School is the same as the larger system we are a part of:

In partnership with the family and the parish, the Catholic school shares in the saving mission of the Church by teaching Christian truth. This is done by promoting the formation of the whole person, which embraces not only intellectual but also physical, emotional, moral and spiritual dimensions of human growth. Intellect, emotions, creative ability and cultural heritage also have a place in the life of the school. Teachers and other staff work toward this goal by their personal witness, motivated by a Christ-centered version of humanity.

1. c) RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The staff and pastor at St. Edmund's are dedicated to teaching the Catholic faith. We build on the foundations established at home and provide a Christian setting where students can grow in the richness of the Catholic faith. This important privilege and responsibility is fulfilled through:

- Regular Prayer, both as a school and as a class
- Daily religion classes, plus the incorporation of a Catholic perspective elsewhere in the curriculum
- Monthly Masses on the first Friday of each month, which are led by different grades under the supervision of the teacher
- Monthly Prayer Services, each of which has a specific theme. Like the Masses, each grade takes a turn preparing and leading a prayer service

We expect full participation in the Christian life and therefore consider that instruction in Catholic and spiritual values are an integral part of our teaching each day of the year. The religion program at St. Edmund's is ***Christ Our Life***, a program prescribed by the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The program follows the liturgical year and incorporates special feast days into the curriculum.

Our school also participates in the following Archdiocesan programs:

- Grade 1 and 3: 'I Am A Gift From God'. This program is meant to teacher children personal safety from a Catholic perspective. It involves an evening meeting for parents in April
- Grade 7: 'Love and Life'. This program deals with adolescent development (again, from a Catholic perspective). There is an evening meeting in June for students and their parents, with separate presentations for the boys and the girls.

1. d) SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

During grade 2, students prepare for their first Confession as well as their first Holy Communion. The First Communion Mass is normally 2 pm the first Sunday in May. Those in Grade 7 prepare for their Confirmation. For Confirmation, students are expected to attend 1) the Archdiocesan Spirit Day a Saturday before Christmas, 2) a school Confirmation retreat in the Spring, 3) a Sunday Mass of Commitment in early February, 4) A Service Project, and 5) the Confirmation Mass an evening in April or May. There are also mandatory meetings for both grade 2 and grade 7 parents regarding the sacramental programs.



1. e) CURRICULUM AND STUDENT PROGRAMS

All teacher's at St. Edmund's follow the curriculum guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education. We are committed to each student reaching their academic potential, through excellence in the classroom, support for struggling learners, and engaging parents in their child's education.

The first Monday of each month, teachers meet as a staff to discuss how to improve instructional programs. This meeting time is crucial any time there is a curriculum change or a new program to be implemented. These school goals are documented in our school growth plan, and revisited on a yearly basis.

Our school provides instruction in the following areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, French, Technology, Library Skills, Physical Education, and Religion. The government-mandated Heath and Personal Planning Course is integrated into our religion program, so those outcomes are taught from a Catholic perspective. Our Fine Arts program includes Music, Art, and (at the intermediate level) Drama.

Two events that are prepared for within school time are our yearly Christmas Play, and our bi-annual trip to Outdoor School. Every second year, our Grade 6 & 7 classes go up to Evan's Lake for a one week period. During this time, students participate in various learning and community-building activities.

1. f) HOMEWORK POLICY

The times below are listed as guidelines established for each grade level to help teachers in assigning work and parents in supervising homework. If children work diligently, they should be able to work within this time frame, unless otherwise advised by the classroom teacher. Please allow a degree of flexibility when applying these time periods.

Parents are the most important motivators and teachers in helping their children develop good study habits at home.

- a. Set a specific time each day for your children to do homework. If there are no school assignments to be done, some other suggestions are;
 - Read to your children if they are younger
 - Have your children read to you
 - Read and discuss the newspaper together
 - Encourage recreational reading
 - Write letters (these could be electronic) to grandparents, friends, etc.
- b. Insist there be no distractions
- c. Help them organize themselves before they start work (all paper, books, and writing materials at hand)



1. f) HOMEWORK POLICY – cont'd

Homework is a skill that needs to be developed gradually over the elementary years so children can work independently by the time they get to high school. Homework at the elementary level consists of work to be completed, studying for tests, and reinforcement of skills learned in class. Projects will also be assigned as an enrichment tool, as well as to help students' develop organizational and long-term planning skills. Students should always challenge themselves to use their time and efforts to produce quality work.

Primary:

Grade	Time
Grade 1	15 Minutes Reading + 10 Minutes of sight words
Grade 2	20 Minutes Reading + 10 Minutes spelling words
Grade 3	30 Minutes + 15 Minutes Reading

The times above are only meant to include weekdays, although students are encouraged to do additional reading on weekends. At the primary level, it is important that reading is a fun experience for your child and that they are not pushed to a frustration level. If a child is consistently reaching the frustration level when working at the time allotments above, please contact the classroom teacher.

Intermediate:

Grade	Time
Grade 4	45 Minutes + 15 Minutes Reading
Grade 5	60 Minutes + 20 Minutes Reading
Grade 6	60 Minutes + 30 Minutes Reading
Grade 7	60 Minutes + 30 Minutes Reading

Please note that homework also has a home reading component which is just as important as the other work assigned. The time above is also meant to include weekends. If a student does not do homework on a weekend, this time should be made up during the week. If older (intermediate) students are absent, they are expected to make efforts to return to school with as much missed work completed as possible.

Each student in Grades 2 – 7 has an individual student planner where homework is recorded and school notices are stored. These planners are a key source of communication between the family and the school, and parents are expected to check them daily. Teachers enforce student use of planners and check them on a regular basis so parents have a tool to track their child's homework completion.



1. g) EXTRA-CURRICULAR

As mentioned earlier, a well-rounded extra-curricular program is a crucial element in a balanced education. At St. Edmund's, the extra-curricular program focuses on Fine Arts and Athletics. In the area of Fine Arts, students have the opportunity to join the school choir, speech arts, or the after school art club. The school choir is curricular for Grades 1 and 2, and extra-curricular for grades 3 to 7. Our Junior and Senior choirs normally attend both the Chancellor Festival and the Centennial Theatre Concert. Often, there are also some additional community performances.

Our after school Art Club runs in the spring, with several sessions dedicated to each age group. During these sessions, the students work on an artistic project which is then put on display at our annual Art Show at the end of May. Student work from curricular art classes is also displayed at the Art Show. Our Speech Arts program includes all students from Kindergarten to Grade 7, with separate festivals for Intermediate and Primary.

The St. Edmund's sports program includes:

Season	Sport	Grades
Fall	Girls Volleyball	5 – 7
	Boys Soccer	5 – 7
Winter	Basketball	5 – 7
	Boys Floor Hockey	5 – 7
Early Spring	Girls Soccer	5 – 7
	Wrestling	2 - 7
Spring	Track and Field	3 - 7

Our school philosophy regarding athletics is based on the following:

- Receiving the opportunity to be part of a team
- Learning teamwork and sportsmanship
- Experiencing growth through competition
- Building their skill level through the grades
- Having a safe environment for all of the above

Our sports program is dependant on the involvement of teachers and parents alike. It is important that all outside coaches understand and commit to our athletic philosophy. Any parent who has some specific background in a sport is encouraged to contribute. Before assuming coaching duties, a parent coach must meet with the principal. At this time, the parent will read and sign the St. Edmund's Coach's Code of Conduct (see the **Parent Participation Guide**).

Occasionally, a student may be placed on a team other than their grade level team in order to maximize opportunities for everyone. This decision will be made through deliberation between the coaches involved, and then approved by the principal.

1. h) GRADE 7 AND STUDENT COUNCIL

At St. Edmund's, Grade 7 students are given specific leadership roles / monitoring duties (under adult supervision). These duties are important for the smooth running of the school's daily operation. There is also an elected student council, consisting of a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. All positions are held by grade 7 students, with the exception of the vice-president (grade 6). In addition, student representatives are elected from grades 3 and up.



1. h) GRADE 7 AND STUDENT COUNCIL – cont'd

The events that the student council coordinates include:

- Agape Candy Drive
- Penny Carnival at Halloween
- Christmas Food Bank Drive
- Sisters of Atonement Shoe Boxes
- Juice Box Recycling Program

The money and donations generated by these events are passed along to worthy Catholic organizations. These organizations include Covenant House, Birthright, Development & Peace, St. Vincent DePaul Society, and the Door is Open. Additionally, the student council sponsors a foster child from El Salvador. Each year the student council funds a project for the whole school community as a part of their legacy (the outdoor benches, school banner, the large cross in the assembly hall, and the framed picture of the Divine Mercy in the foyer).

1. i) SCHOOL AWARDS

At the end of each school year some students are recognized for being excellent models of the behaviours we wish to encourage. The philosophy behind these awards is to 1) affirm those students who have demonstrated such behaviours, and 2) provide a model for other students. For each grade, there is an award for citizenship and for sportsmanship. The criteria for each are as follows:

Citizenship – Given in each class to student(s) who have demonstrated an exemplary model of service to others. Some characteristics include:

- They go 'above and beyond' in their duties
- They take pride in both the 'everyday' jobs, as well as the larger tasks that come up occasionally
- They are helpful on their own initiative
- They do whatever job they are assigned thoroughly and in good spirit
- They are reliable and dependable
- They are good 'classroom citizens' (include everyone, kind, share with others, diffuse conflicts etc.)

Sportsmanship – Given in each class to student(s) who have participated in extra curricular school sports teams with enthusiasm and exhibit a positive attitude towards others. Some characteristics include:

- They are cooperative with their peers and team
- They can switch groups or partners easily
- They participate actively, and follow directions
- They demonstrate inclusive behaviours and encourage others
- They make a constructive contribution to the team / class culture
- They always respect the rules of the game
- They model good conduct in both winning and losing
- They make a serious effort to do their best consistently
- They show determination, and work to overcome setbacks



1. i) SCHOOL AWARDS – cont'd

Grade 7 Awards

Along with the awards given to individual grades, awards are given to the graduating class in recognition of their contribution and hard work during their time at St. Edmund's. The awards are as follows:

Christopher Hurst Award – This award is in memory of a young boy who attended St. Edmund's many years ago. It is given in recognition of a student who has overcome challenges in their pursuits of success at St. Edmund's Elementary.

Father A. Galanti Award – As a tribute to our former Pastor, this award recognizes a male student who has shown particular commitment to St. Edmund's Parish, or the spiritual life of the school. Examples of such contributions include altar serving or volunteer work at a parish level.

Sister Margaret Hickey Award – This award is given in honour of Sister Margaret, the last member of her order to teach at St. Edmund's, who dedicated many years of service to our school. The award is given to a female grade seven student who has been committed to service of the school and parish.

Catholic Women's League Bursary – This academic award is given to one male and one female graduating student who will attend St. Thomas Aquinas High School in the coming year. An amount of \$100 is put towards each winner's fees at St. Thomas Aquinas.

School Wide Citizen Award – This award is given to a grade seven student who, over their years at St. Edmund's school, has demonstrated exemplary citizenship through a positive attitude and dedication to the school community.

School Wide Sportsmanship Award – This award is given to a grade seven student who, over their years at St. Edmund's school, has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship.

Mind, Body, and Spirit Award – This bursary of \$150 is provided by the St. Edmund's Parent's Association. It is awarded to a student who exemplifies well-roundedness in academics, athletics, and spirituality through their involvement in different aspects of school life.

Doris Kaleks Award – This award is named after the long-time Grade 2 teacher of St. Edmund's Elementary. It is given to a student who exemplifies leadership, friendship, and respect for their peers.

Pat Hamilton Award – This award is named after the former principal of St. Edmund's Elementary. It is given to a student who exemplifies achievement in Mathematics.



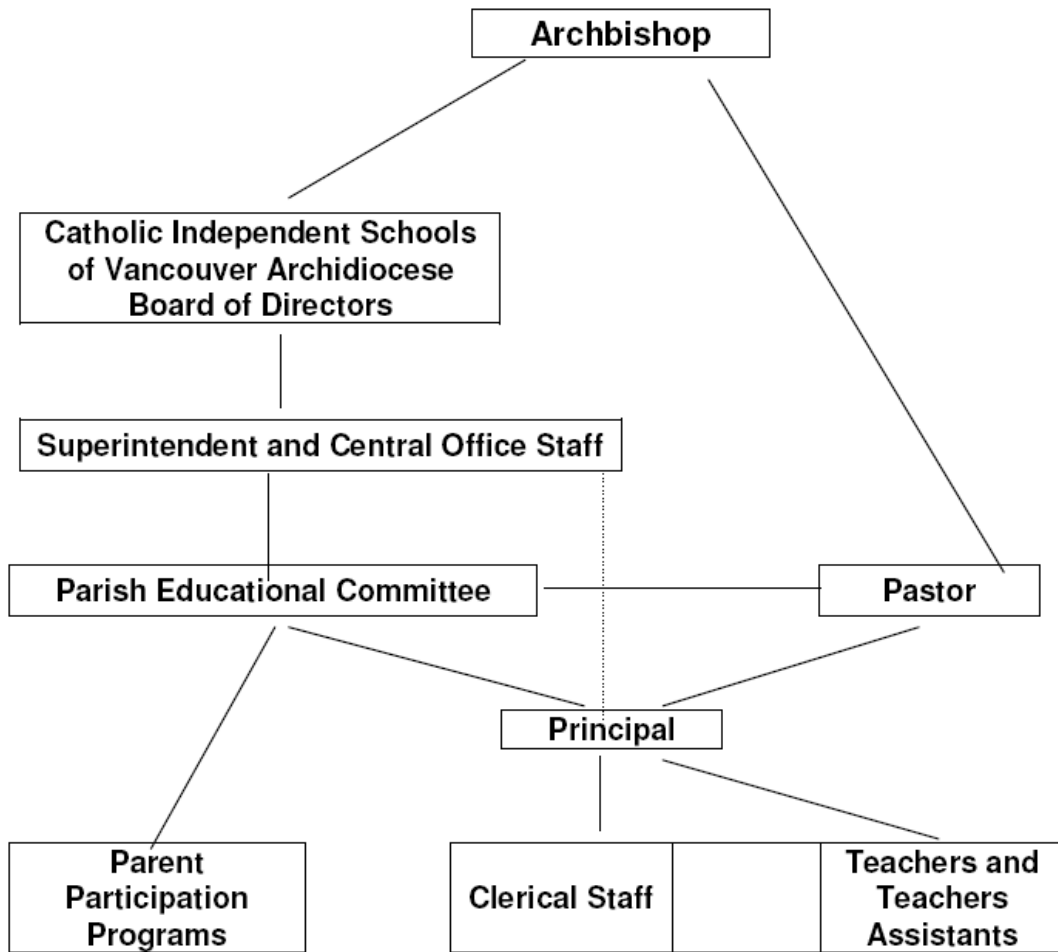
SECTION 2 – ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

2. a) GENERAL

St. Edmund's School is an integral part of St. Edmund's Parish. The school's policy and procedures are determined by the CISVA (Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese), the governing body for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese which sets policies such as tuition fee ranges and priorities for admittance.

The organization that allows parents to have input in the operation of the school is the Parish Education Committee (PEC).

2. b) STRUCTURE OF THE CISVA:





2. b) STRUCTURE OF THE CISVA – cont'd

The Archbishop is the head of the CISVA organization, and is represented by the Board of Directors.

At the school level, the Parish Education Committee is responsible for implementing CISVA Policy (as well as other duties – please see the PEC section).

The principal is responsible for managing the instructional program, as well as student safety. The pastor serves as an advisor on spiritual matters.

2. c) THE PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PEC)

The PEC has seven members – 5 elected by the parish and 2 appointed by the pastor. Parents can have an effective voice in the education of their children through this committee, which meets monthly. The PEC assists the pastor in the following responsibilities as listed in the Archdiocesan Policy Manual:

1. Seeing that the policies of the Society of Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver are carried out in our school.
2. Helping prepare and maintain the budget for the operation and maintenance of the school.
3. Ensuring that proper records are kept for the purposes of claiming government grants and for submitting reports to the Executive Committee.
4. Adhering to the Society's policies with respect to hiring and the renewal and non-renewal of teachers' contracts with the approval of the pastor and in consultation with the principal.
5. Overseeing the day-to-day running of the school in such areas as collection of tuition, payment of operating expenses, maintenance, etc.
6. Ensuring that secure places are provided for confidential and sensitive material.
7. Assuming other duties as are assigned from time to time by the Society.



2. d) THE PARENT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE (PAC)

Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in various aspects of the school through our School Parent Association. All parents of St. Edmund's School students are members. Meetings are held monthly, or as needed. A committee has been formed to oversee the activities and ensure that workloads are distributed evenly. This committee is comprised of 18 people and must be represented by at least one parent from each class.

The executive is elected annually and meetings are held monthly. The executive consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary/treasurer and the parent participation coordinator. Parents can earn participation hours by becoming a class parent and sitting on the PAC. Two parents are required from each grade. The focus of these meetings is generally on planning class-sponsored events (please see the next section).

The Parent' Association also raises money for items that are outside the school budget. In previous years this fundraising has provided computers, playground equipment, a letterpress, building renovations and many other items. We ask that all parents participate with their time, talents and financial support. Whatever we accomplish is for the good of the school and the success of each student.

For a complete job description of the roles within the Parent's Association, as well as all the class

2. e) CLASS EVENTS

The classroom events have a long tradition at St. Edmund's, and have special community and spiritual significance to St. Edmund's School / Parish. All families are expected to work two hours contributing to these events, whether or not they have opted out from the Parent Participation Program. Non-participation in the two mandatory volunteer hours for the PAC classroom events will result in a fine of \$100.00. Below is the list of class events, as well as the Grade(s) assigned to work the event. The Class Events have a long history at St. Edmund's, and have a special spiritual and community To allow everyone a chance to get involved, the events are co-coordinated by different grades. These events and the responsible class parents are listed below.

- Grades 2 & 7: Back to school BBQ in September**
- Grades K & 4: Santa's breakfast in December**
- Grades 1 & 3: First Communion reception in May**
- Grades 5 & 6: Confirmation Reception (May or June)**
- Grade 6: Grade 7 graduation reception**

It is expected that each family will volunteer a small amount of time to make these events a success! Preparations for the classroom event begin as soon as June of the previous school year. Both Class Representatives will meet and contact the different families in their particular grades. Parents will be asked to select different duties preparing for the event, running the event, or cleaning up afterwards.



2. f) SCHOOL STAFF

Principal and Grade Seven Math Teacher	.....	Mr. Mike Field
Secretary	.....	Mrs. Alexis De Freitas
Kindergarten	.....	Mrs. Jasanka Buric / Mrs. Nancy Calamo
Grade One	.....	Miss Kelsey Singer
Grade Two	.....	Miss Barbara Bridge
Grade Three	.....	Mrs. Teresita Landingin
Grade Four	.....	Miss Corinne Ebert
Grade Five	.....	Miss Erika Grossi
Grade Six	.....	Miss Daniela Surian
Grade Seven	.....	Mr. Mark Dotto
Resource Room, Head Teacher	.....	Mrs. Adrienne McAlpine
Music Specialist / Teacher Librarian	.....	Miss. Mallory Schille
FSL Specialist	.....	Miss Katarina Vlasic
Library Administrator	.....	Mrs. Patricia Green
ESL Specialist	.....	Mrs. Karla Kaznowska
Special Education Assistant	.....	Mr. Jason Martin
Special Education Assistant	.....	Miss Casey Leroux
Special Education Assistant	.....	Miss Cassandra Buckley
Special Education Assistant	.....	Miss Marissa Erb
Special Education Assistant	.....	Mrs. Sonia Lapka
Educational Psychologist	.....	Mrs. Sarah Brodrick
Custodian	.....	Mr. Pawel Biernat



SECTION 3 – PARENT INVOLVEMENT

3. a) PARENTS' ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In a Catholic school, the parents, students, teachers and staff form an integral part of the Christian community. The administration, teachers, and parents must work closely together in the formation of their children according to the Gospel. To this end, parents are expected to support the philosophy and policies of St. Edmund's school. Parents indicate this by signing the **Statement of Commitment (Appendix II)** as part of the registration process. One copy is meant to be returned with the registration package, the other is for a family's personal records.

Parents are recognized as the primary educators of their children. We strive to maintain a spirit of trust and cooperation between parents and teachers. Parents should keep in close contact with teachers and not hesitate to contact them regarding their children. It is important that the school is kept advised of any changes to the information on the registration form (such as health information, telephone numbers, and emergency contacts). Parents need to be familiar with the information in this Handbook and do their part to ensure that St. Edmund's policies, procedures and objectives are met.

Parents assist in their child's academic growth and should check the student agenda daily to see that homework and other assignments are completed. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in the operation of the school by participating in school functions and parish fund-raising projects. Parents are expected to attend meetings as required (e.g. Meet the Teacher Night, AGM, Sacramental Meetings, etc.).

3. b) PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Catholic education exists to help parents educate their children in the Faith. The entire school community shares in the responsibility of educating our children and implementing our vision, mission and goals. We encourage parents to take an active role in our school and parish, and we appreciate their support. The Parent Participation Program is an opportunity for building community, giving financial support, and cooperating with each other as we work together for the benefit of our children. The Parent Participation Program also reduces the operational costs of running the school.

As active school community members, parents are expected to participate in various activities of the school. As the work is done in lieu of a Non-Participation Fee, completing the participation hours is not true volunteer work.

The tuition schedule permits lower fees because of work provided through parent participation. Parents are expected to commit a minimum of 20 hours a year to the school. The primary area of parent involvement is fundraising, but other activities are available on a limited basis. Parents can be involved in Bingo, gardening, maintenance work, the school library, or traffic supervision. There are a number of positions which are subsidized (these jobs fulfill a family's 20 hour obligation as well as provide a lower tuition rate). A **Parent Participation Guide** is available with more detailed information included.



3. b) PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM – cont'd

The Parent Participation Program Guide has been created to provide details of the program. Please refer to it for clarification of concerns you might have or to answer questions you might have. Please also see the Parent Participation coordinator to discuss these concerns or suggest ideas for improvement. Contact information has been provided in this handbook.

Other suggestions for parent participation are welcomed and should be given to the Parent Participation Coordinator. (See **Important Contacts** in this handbook) If the full participation commitment is not met, the parents must pay a non-participation fee of \$500 for the balance (see **Fees and Tuition** in this handbook). This \$500 has been split into two \$200 payments for each half of the year, as well as a \$100 payment for the mandatory Class Event. Parents who do not meet their full participation commitment may not be able to register at the same participation rate the following year and may be required to pre-pay a non-participation fee. Parents having difficulty meeting their participation obligation should contact the PEC.

3. c) CLASS PARENTS

For each grade, there are one to two class parents who 1) assist in communication between the school and families, 2) coordinate the appointed class-sponsored event, and 3) help the teacher get parent assistance for a fieldtrip or activity.

Typically, a class parent will phone other parents about any of the organization of the class sponsored event, a school event, or a class activity. If you miss this call, it is very important that the call is returned. The Class Parent is often used to pass along important information such as meeting times and last minute reminders. In addition, Class Parents are responsible for coordinating all the parents of their grade for their sponsored event (see the **Parent Association Committee** section for the list of these events). It is through these class-sponsored events that the school holds important community functions, and how parents fulfill their mandated hours.

Please refer to the **Parent's Association Guide**, as well as the **Parent Participation Guide**, for a more detailed breakdown of the role of Class Parents. Class parents use the St Edmund's Phone Directory (distributed at the beginning of each year) to contact families.



SECTION 4 – ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATION

4. a) ADMISSION POLICY - GENERAL

As part of the admission process, the principal will meet with each new family. From the interview and the information available to them, the pastor, PEC member and principal will decide if the school can meet the needs of the student and if the family and student can meet the school's requirements.

4. b) PRIORITIES FOR ADMITTANCE (CISVA Policy)

For purpose of this policy, "practicing Catholics" means individuals who are registered in a parish and attend Sunday Mass regularly; "active in parish" refers to individuals who support the parish by regularly using envelopes and participating in the work activities required of them by the pastor.

Applications for enrollment will be given preference in the following order:

1. Children presently enrolled at St. Edmund's School provided they and their families meet the school's expectations.
2. Siblings of children already attending St. Edmund's whose parents are practicing Catholics and active in the parish;
3. Children whose parents are practicing Catholics and active in the parish;
4. Siblings of children already attending St. Edmund's whose parents are practicing Catholics active in other parishes;
5. Children whose parents are practicing Catholics coming into the parish, who have been attending Catholic school elsewhere;
6. Children whose parents are practicing Catholics active in other parishes;
7. Children whose parents are either not practicing Catholics or are not active in their parish;
8. Non-Catholics. [Note that enrollment of more than 15% non-Catholics in any grade requires the approval of the CISVA board of directors. Once accepted into the school, non-Catholics need meet only the criteria expected of other students to be readmitted in subsequent years. Siblings of non-Catholics cannot be given priority over Catholics.]



4. c) NEW REGISTRATIONS

Parents who are registering for Kindergarten are to contact the school office and complete a registration form, as well as submit supporting documentation. Registrations for the upcoming school year will be collected from December through to January 31st. After January 31st, families will be contacted for a meeting with the principal. Entrance will be prioritized based on the CISVA criteria listed in the previous section. A child is considered registered once the school office has a complete registration package, supporting documentation, and the initial (non-refundable) deposit of the \$90 registration fee plus the first month's registration. Please see the following section for a complete list.

After January 31st, the school will continue to accept applications for Kindergarten, provided there is space available. Families who have submitted applications for other grades will be contacted after existing parents have had the opportunity to register.

Once registration has been completed, families will be placed in parent participation jobs. For the criteria for participation jobs that qualify for subsidized tuition, please refer to the Subsidized tuition section (6f).

4. d) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Parents who are returning must attend the Annual General Meeting at the end of February / beginning of March each year. In addition to receiving information regarding new school policies, parents will pick up their registration packages that evening. Approximately three weeks later, there will be a registration evening where parents will drop off their completed registration packages. Submitting the package may be done anytime between 6 to 8 pm of that evening – members of the PEC will be there to assist you. Registration packages cannot be accepted until all necessary supporting documents have been submitted. The **Registration Package** is available separately from the school office. Parents should submit the following with their registration:

- Registration Form
- Privacy Form
- Pastor's Authorization Form
- Parent Participation Program (PPP) Job Selection Form
- Bingo Participation Form
- Statement of Commitment - school copy
- Student Emergency Identification Form (
- Medical Alert Information Sheet
- Legal Residency of Parent – Form A
- Non-refundable registration fee of \$90 (includes emergency fee) and September tuition
- Nine Post-Dated Tuition Cheques for the school year
 - 9 post-dated tuition cheques (1 for each month, from October 1st through to June 1st)
- Three Parent Participation Program Cheques dated January 1st
 - Two \$200 cheques (one cheque for the 10 hours in the first half of the school year, another for the 10 hours in the second half of the school year).
 - One \$100 cheque for the mandatory class event
- If you decide to opt out of the community building of the Parent Participation Program**, 1 cheque for \$400.00 (Parent Participation Hours) and one for \$100 (mandatory class event). Note: all families must be involved in their classroom event, even if they decide to opt out of the parent participation program.



4. d) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS – cont.

New families are asked to submit the following additional documentation:

- Photocopy of Birth certificate of the child
- Photocopy of Child Citizenship cards (if a Canadian Citizen)
- Photocopy of Permanent Resident Card (if the family are Permanent Residents)
- Photocopy of Baptismal certificate (if the child is a Catholic)
- Immunization History
- Copy of report card from previous school (if child is transferring from another school)
- If applicable, copies of medical reports pertaining to school achievement (pediatrics, psychological, audiology, etc.)
- Photocopy of BC Care Card

4. e) HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

In response to the Ministry of Education's requirements that home-schooled students be registered with a public or independent school, St. Edmund's will register a maximum of 10 home-schooled students per year. The families of these students will be provided with the services and facilities required by the Ministry. Applications for home-schooling must be made in person. The principal is responsible for administering the home school program.

In a family intends to return to St. Edmund's after a year of home-schooling, it is expected that the family will discuss arrangements with the principal. However, a discussion with the principal does not guarantee that a place will be held for the home-schooled student.

SECTION 5 – COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL

5. a) INFORMATION TO PARENTS

Openly discussing an individual student's needs and promptly addressing any concerns regarding the student's development helps ensure the student's continued progress and success. The school and the home operate together to provide the best possible learning situation.

There are two very important **mandatory** meetings during the school year – a **Meet the Teacher** evening held in September and the school's **Annual General Meeting** usually held in February. At these meetings, we review policies and any changes made from previous years, discuss goals for the coming year, and introduce new staff and the PEC. In addition, individual classroom teachers give an outline of the academic program and expectations for their particular grade. Other meetings may be scheduled during the year to keep parents informed. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to express your feedback on how to better improve our school community.

Parents with children in Grades 2 and/or 7 must attend all parent meetings and activities associated with the Sacramental programs (First Communion and Confirmation) taught in those grades.

We send home a school Newsletter once a month with the oldest child in each family. The newsletter contains various reports, opportunities to earn participation hours, and a regularly updated calendar with important dates to remember. Please read it carefully. Extra copies are available in the office. The newsletters can also be downloaded from our website at www.stedmunds.ca. In addition, it is recommended that parents check the web site weekly for additional updates.



5. b) REPORTING

To communicate your child's progress in a formal, documented manner, St. Edmund's sends home report cards at the end of each term. Below is a list of the approximate times report cards are sent:

Term 1	.....	November
Term 2	.....	March
Term 3	.....	June

The staff at St. Edmund's uses the reporting policy mandated by the CISVA, which was arrived at after much discussion and deliberation. Each report includes both a checklist and anecdotal comments. The checklist consists of a list of curricular outcomes for each subject, and a student is marked in one of five boxes:

- Exceeding Expectations
- Fully Meeting Expectations
- Generally Meeting Expectations
- Minimally Meeting Expectations
- Not Yet Within Expectations

A Kindergarten student's report would not include 'Exceeding Expectations'. All student's achievement on these outcomes is criterion referenced, which means each student's work is measured against a pre-determined standard. Overall, there is information about a student's strengths, successes, and achievements, as well as challenges and concerns. Each report ends with a summary of goals and a plan of action. For Grades 4 – 7, letter grades are assigned for all core subjects.

For the first two reports, parents are to sign the report and return it to the school. At the end of the school year, the final report card is sent home with the first and second term reports for parents to keep. One week after reports are sent home, parents are to attend student-led conferences with the classroom teacher (term 1 and term 2). Other interviews may be scheduled at the request of either the teacher or the parent.

5. c) STUDENT PROMOTION

We encourage individual, continuous progress of students. However, in extraordinary situations where a student's social, emotional, or intellectual development is significantly above or below average expectations for that age level, the principal, teacher and parent will meet to decide on the most appropriate placement for the student.

5. d) STUDENT RECORDS

St. Edmund's School complies with Ministry of Education Policies regarding student records. Each student file contains all the reports from the time that student joined St. Edmund's. A student transferring from another school must provide two previous years' report cards, plus (if they have one) the student's Individual Education Plan. When a student transfers from St. Edmund's to another school, their file is sent to the new school. At the end of grade 7, the student file is sent to the high school the student will be attending.

In the case of a student who has had psycho-educational testing, the psycho-educational test is filed separately. Such a report requires the signed consent of the parent to be sent to another school.



5. e) PERSONAL INFORMATION AND PRIVACY

All personal information will be safeguarded according to provincially legislated standards. The school will not disclose personal information to parties not directly involved in school management or the supervision of students, without written authorization from that student's parent. The school will securely store all personal information whether electronic or hard copy.

Each year, the school does release a 'student directory' to all families. This directory allows class parents (and other families) to contact people regarding school related events. In addition, photographs of students may appear on the school web site or other promotional materials. If a parent objects to this use of their contact information or their child's image, they do not have to sign the 'Personal Information and Privacy Statement'. **(Appendix I of this handbook)**

Any concerns or complaints about how your or your child's personal information is collected, stored or used should be raised verbally or in writing with the principal who is the school's "Privacy Manager".

5. f) FAMILY / GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

At the time of registration, the school collects all necessary family information and contacts (through the registration form and the emergency release form). It is vitally important that the school has correct and up-to-date family information (both in everyday and emergency circumstances). If there are any changes in phone number, address, place of work, or emergency contact information, it is a parent's responsibility to immediately inform the school office in writing.

Any changes in medical information must also be reported to the school office. If this new information includes administering medication, or certain procedures on the part of staff, parents must see the 'medication' section of this policy manual.

5. g) TEMPORARY CHANGE IN GUARDIANSHIP / CUSTODY

If your child will be staying somewhere other than the family home, or if you are away and another family member is taking care of your children for any length of time, please provide us with the appropriate information (an alternate phone number, address, the name of the guardian and any change in pick-up) for that period. If there is a change in a custody arrangement, registered copies of court custody documents must be submitted to the school office.

5. h) SCHOOL LOGO

All official school correspondence is marked with the official church letterhead of St. Edmund's Elementary. No other use of the official school letterhead is permitted. The 'Thunderbird' Logo is also the property of the school. Explicit permission from either the principal or the PEC must be received before school letterhead or any school logo is used.



5. i) COMMUNICATING COMPLAINTS/CONCERNS

Our central governing body, the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese, has developed a policy for dealing with complaints. This policy is outlined below, but full details are available in the office. When such issues do arise, the concerned parties are expected to work towards the resolution of the issue in a Christian manner, respecting each other's point of view. All parties involved must maintain confidentiality with respect to all information surrounding the particular issue.

The following summarizes the steps which must be followed:

1. The issue must first be dealt with by the persons involved. Meaningful communication must be established at the outset with both parties clearly identifying the issue in dispute. Parties must be open to discussion and make an honest attempt to resolve the issue (keeping in mind that resolution usually involves compromise).
2. If the issue cannot be resolved, the matter must be brought to the attention of the principal of the school. The principal will clarify the issue, and determine the appropriate policy to be applied. The policies followed will be school and CISVA guidelines. If the issue at hand is confidential, or relates to school policy, the principal should be contacted first.
3. If the principal's resolution is not accepted, the matter may be appealed to the Education Committee. This appeal must be submitted in writing no more than seven days after the principal's decision has been received. The Education Committee will notify the parents and principal of its decision within seven days of meeting.
4. The Board of Directors may consider an appeal of the Education Committee's decision for reasons which the board considers valid and appropriate.
5. Complete details of the policy are available in the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese Policy Handbook (available online through the [CISVA](#) website or at the school office).



SECTION 6 – FUNDING, FEES AND TUITION

6. a) FUNDING

St. Edmund's School has three sources of funding:

- A Provincial Government Grant equal to 50 % of the operating grant per student received by the North Vancouver public school system the previous year;
- Tuition fees
- St. Edmund's Parish subsidy

As tuition fees and government grants do not cover the cost of running the school, participation in fund-raising is vital to ensure our school operates successfully.

6. b) REGISTRATION / EMERGENCY FEE

A non-refundable registration fee of \$90 per child must be paid each year at the time of registration. This fee helps offset the administrative costs of the registration process, and also includes an annual emergency fee. This fee is used to add and renew school emergency supplies for each student every year (please see the EMERGENCY SUPPLIES section). Please note that a family must pay their \$90 fee immediately upon registration, no matter when students enter the school.

Incomplete packages will be returned to you so please check your package carefully before leaving it at the office. The Registration Checklist (Appendix IV of this handbook) has been created to assist you in returning everything required for registration. Please use this valuable tool.

To guarantee placement for your child/children for the school year, complete packages must be received by the registration deadline (normally two – three weeks after the AGM).

6. c) STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

An activity/book fee is due on September 1. This fee helps offset the cost of activities such as field trips, skating, and gymnastics. This activity fee can vary in different grades, depending on the number of activities. In grade 7, the activity fee is highest due to all the graduation and Confirmation activities.

6. d) TUITION FEES

Tuition fees are set by the PEC according to CISVA policy, and are reviewed each year. Monthly tuition fees vary for contributing parishioners, non-contributing or non-parishioners, and non-Catholics as set out on the following page:



6. d) TUITION FEES – cont'd

	One Child	Two or more Children
Category 1 Participating Parishioner (Bingo)	\$180.00	\$345.00
Category 2 Participating Parishioner (Non-Bingo)	\$180.00 + \$55.00 =\$235.00	\$342.00 +\$80.00 =\$425.00
Category 3 Non-participating Parishioner (Bingo)	\$180.00 +\$30.00 =\$210.00	\$345.00 +\$45.00 =\$390.00
Category 4 Non-participating parishioner (Non-Bingo)	\$180.00 +\$55.00 +\$30.00 =\$265.00	\$342.00 +\$80.00 +\$30.00 =\$470.00
Category 5 Non-catholic Participating (Bingo)	\$280.00	\$500.00
Category 6 Non-catholic (Non-Bingo)	\$280.00 +\$55.00 =\$335.00	\$500.00 +\$80.00 =\$580.00

DEFINITIONS OF TUITION CATEGORIES:

Category 1 & 2 (St. Edmund's Parishioner)

For purpose of admission to the school, your family is considered to be a member of this parish if you are:

- A registered parishioner in St. Edmund's
- Attend the Parish liturgical celebrations (both Mass and Sacraments)
- Use the Parish Sunday Envelopes on a regular basis.

Category 3 & 4 (Non-Participating parishioners or member of other parishes)

- Authorized by your own pastor to attend this school.

Category 5 & 6 (Non-Catholic)

- Not a member of any Catholic parish

Please include in your registration package 10 post-dated cheques (dated the first day of the month). Your cheques should be dated from Sept. 1st through to June 1st.

Please note that there is an annual \$500 non-participation fee for those families who elect to opt-out of the Parent Participation Program.



6 e) SUBSIDIZED TUITION

Certain participation jobs require considerably more than the required 22 hours of parent participation. These jobs include:

- Weekly or bi-weekly Bingo positions
- Pizza Lunch Coordinator
- Library Duties
- Office Coverage

Please refer to the *Parent Participation Manual* for complete job descriptions. As these positions require time above and beyond regular participation jobs, parents who are in these positions pay a reduced tuition rate.

Participation in a subsidized job entitles a family to a \$55 reduction in their school fees (per month) for one child, and \$80 reduction (per month) for two children. These are tuition categories 1, 3, and 5 (designated as 'doing Bingo') on the tuition chart. Please note there are several Bingo positions which are fewer hours than regular Bingo jobs – these are non-subsidized positions. Families in these positions would pay the regular tuition rate.

As there are sometimes more applicants for these jobs than there are positions available, candidates are selected on the following criteria:

1. Parents who have specific qualifications for the position. For example, public speaking skills for Bingo caller, library experience for library duties.
2. Parents that currently hold a 'non-subsidized' Bingo position. It is recommended that those candidates who requested a subsidized job, but could not be placed in one, should accept the non-subsidized Bingo as their participation job. This would provide training and give a family priority for a subsidized job.
3. Incoming new parents, who are requesting Bingo / other subsidized job at their first opportunity.
4. Existing parents in the school who are new applicants to Bingo or other subsidized positions.

As all the subsidized positions have a need for experienced people, parents of younger children may be given priority over candidates who will only be in the school one or two years. The Parish Education Committee also reserves the right to use discretion when assigning subsidized positions.

6 f) TUITION ASSISTANCE

Some limited financial assistance may be available for families whose financial situation is such that they are unable to pay full tuition fees. Preference will be given to families who are registered with and actively involved in either St. Edmund's or St. Paul's parish.



6. e) TUITION FEE PAYMENT

A family can choose to pay their tuition fees in one of two ways:

1. In one cheque dated September 1st. Paying the full annual tuition up front grants families a 2% reduction in their fees.
2. In ten equal payments, with each cheque dated the first of each month (from September through June).

(In the event you change banks before your post-dated cheques are cleared, please send replacement cheques prior to their validation date)

The amount of each family's tuition cheques are determined by the category they are in. If a family is in a subsidized category (e.g. Catholic, Bingo), they are asked to verify this category by submitting the necessary paperwork at the time of registration (Pastor's form, Bingo form). Receiving the Bingo subsidy is contingent on a parent being present for their assigned shift (as verified by the supervisor's report). Otherwise, a family will be invoiced for the subsidized amount.

Due to the continuing expenses of the school, certain procedures are necessary. In the event that a deposited cheque is returned by the School's bank, families are still responsible for the amount of the returned cheque, plus a \$20 service fee. Any unpaid bills or delinquent fees will result in a letter from the school's Bookkeeper, and be added to a family's balance. To have a place in the school guaranteed the following school year, any outstanding debt must be paid before Registration in March.

If a family is admitted to St. Edmund's after the school year has begun, tuition is to include the month of transfer. In the event a family decides to take an extended leave during the school year, tuition must be paid for the absent months to reserve a place for the child upon return.

6. f) NON-PARTICIPATION FEE

The main goal of the Parent Participation Program is to build a school community together. Ideally, each family would be able to fulfill their assigned time commitment. However, we recognize that not every family will be in a position to fulfill the required 22 participation hours per year. In such circumstances, a family may elect to pay a \$400 per year non-participation fee, which is in addition to the tuition fee. This payment is required with your registration package.

For all other parents, two \$200 Parent Participation Program Cheques dated January 1st should be included in the registration package. One cheque will be for the 10 hours in the first half of the school year, and the other is for the 10 hours in the second half of the school year. If a family fails to fulfill their 10 hour allotment for one half of the year, one of the cheques will be cashed.

In addition, all families must submit a single \$100 cheque for the mandatory class event. Please note that even those families opting out of the parent participation program must include this cheque with their registration package. A family will forfeit this fee if they do not participate in their class event.



6. g) INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES

For those students who are not Canadian citizens, there is no government grant provided from the Ministry of Education. In such cases, fees are calculated on the appropriate category plus the government grant. At the time of registration, all regular documentation must be submitted (with the exception of a BC Care Card and proof of Citizenship). For international students to be admitted to St. Edmund's, a parent or guardian must be living with the child.

SECTION 7 – SCHOOL PROCEDURES

7. a) SCHOOL AND OFFICE HOURS

08:25	Playground supervision begins*
08:45	School Bell
10:30	Morning Recess
10:50	Return to Class
11:30	Dismissal of Morning Kindergarten
12:00	Lunchtime* - Wednesdays are Pizza Days!
12:15	Afternoon Kindergarten begins
12:30	Afternoon Recess
12:50	Classes Resume
3:00	Dismissal
03:20	Playground supervision ends*

* A member of the teaching staff provides playground supervision of students before, during, and after school. For safety reasons, students are not allowed to leave the school grounds without permission from the teacher on duty.

On the first Monday of each month students are dismissed at 1:00 pm so that Division meetings can take place. In order to minimize the loss of instructional time, there is no lunch-break on early dismissal days. However, morning recess is extended to 30 minutes.

7. b) STUDENT PICK-UP AND DISMISSAL

Students are not to leave the school grounds for any reason (other than dismissal) without permission from a parent (either written or given in person). When coming to pick up your child, please report to the office. Please try to schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments after school hours whenever possible.

All primary children should be picked up by an adult. In the case where this adult is not the usual caregiver, the school must be informed. If this adult is not someone normally recognized by school personnel, then parents are responsible for introducing this person to the school office beforehand. For the sake of student safety, children will not be released to unauthorized adults.



7. c) VISITORS / CLASSROOM DELIVERIES

For the safety of our students, all visitors to the school must enter through the front door and report to the office. All visitors will be asked to sign in, and some visitors will be asked to wear an identifying badge. It is vitally important for school safety that visitors are regulated. For this reason, parents should not enter through the back door, even if they have a pre-arranged appointment with a teacher.

7. d) VALUABLES / CELL PHONES

Although students are consistently supervised, an elementary school is largely an open environment and valuables are not secure. Therefore, students are strongly discouraged from bringing valuable items to school. Specifically, students should not bring large sums of money to school.

Personal entertainment systems or other electronic devices must not be brought to school. They are not only at risk to be stolen, but also a distraction in a learning environment. If a student is bringing a cell phone to and from school, they must have submitted a signed 'cell phone policy' form to their teacher. Once at school, the student is responsible for giving the cell phone to the teacher. This cell phone may be collected by the student at the end of the day.

Bringing electronics to school will result in confiscation of the item. The item will be returned once the parent approaches the office and is informed of the infraction. Further violations may result in confiscation of the item until the end of June.

Unfortunately, the school cannot accept responsibility for lost or stolen property.

7. e) PARKING LOT PROCEDURES

For the sake of student safety, and well as allowing smooth traffic flow, it is very important that regulations are followed. The following actions are not permitted:

1. Stopping on either side of the main gate on 6th street. If cars park in this area, then it makes it more difficult for oncoming cars to see children. There are '**no stopping**' and '**no parking**' signs as a reminder.
2. Exceeding the posted speed limit of 30 km/hr. The hours of this limit are 8:00 – 5:00 pm. If you witness any drivers speeding around the school area, please inform the office – they will be reported to the RCMP liaison officer.
3. Double-parking, as the road becomes blocked and it inconveniences other motorists
4. Sounding your horn to attract your child's attention – a child will often run into the street at the sound without looking for cars.
5. Parking along Mahon Avenue in front of the school. This area is meant for Fire vehicles in the event of a fire. In case of an emergency, this area needs to be clear. The street is regularly patrolled and parking in unauthorized areas can result in parking fines.

Repeat offenders to the traffic laws will be documented by the school office and followed up with the North Vancouver Police Department.



7. f) SCHOOL CLOSURES

If weather conditions are hazardous, the principal (in consultation with local principals) will decide whether or not to close the school. In the event of a morning closure there will be an announcement on Radio CKNW 980 AM. The phoning parent for each class will call to ensure everyone is informed of the school closure. Where practical, staff members will arrive at school to help supervise those students present.

If weather conditions become hazardous during school hours, the school will remain open, but will contact parents to pick up their children. Classroom teachers will remain until the last student in the class is picked up or until dismissed by the principal.

7. g) ATTENDANCE

As outlined in the School Act, children are required to be in attendance at school during normal instructional periods. Removing children for vacation trips other than at school breaks is disruptive to a child's learning. The benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot be entirely regained. Therefore, such absences are strongly discouraged. Where such absences are unavoidable, please try to provide as much advance notice as possible to both the office and the classroom teacher.

As a Group 1 Independent School, St. Edmund's receives government grants for each full time student. For a student to be considered full time, he or she must be in attendance 135 class days per year prior to May 15 (unless absences are the result of sickness and explained in a note). Failure to attend the required number of days will result in a proportionate loss of government funding for the student. As parents/guardians are responsible for students' attendance at school, they must reimburse the school for any amount lost for this reason. In the case of a medical reason, parents will not be assessed (provided a note is sent).

7. h) NOTES FROM HOME

Parents must notify the school by 9:00 AM if a student will be absent that day. On returning to school after an absence, the student must bring a note, signed by the parent and setting out the date and reason for the absence. Absentee forms for this purpose are available at the office. (**Appendix III of this handbook**). Where a note is not provided, the school secretary will contact the parent to request one. Each classroom teacher keeps an attendance register, which is submitted to the office each day and entered into the computer. This information is audited for the Ministry of Education for funding purposes. The auditor requires notes from parents for any and all student absences.

7. i) TARDINESS

Regular attendance and punctuality are very important to every student's success. Parents are asked to cooperate in ensuring that their child attends regularly and on time. Continual tardiness is disruptive to the start of the day, not only for the student, but also for the teachers and the class.

Students assemble in the small hall every morning at 8:45 am. The principal makes any morning announcements, which are then followed by Morning Prayer. This early morning school activity is a very important part of the student's day (which is missed when students are late). Students should arrive at school no later than 8:45 am. Otherwise, they are marked late on the attendance form



7. j) FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an integral part of the curriculum and an extension of what is being taught in the classroom. The school requires that all activities outside the school/parish site be selected, planned, organized and conducted in the context of the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional or physical development of students and the safety and security of all participants. Parents must provide a signed consent form for their child to attend any trip, outing, or extra curricular activity.

This consent form should be the specific permission form sent from the school for that particular activity. Payment for most field trips is collected at the beginning of the school year as the activity fee (see the section under **Student Activity Fee**). However, permission forms are sent home 2 – 3 weeks before the actual date of the event.

7. k) PIZZA PROGRAM / LUNCH PROCEDURES

Parents are strongly discouraged from dropping off lunches, as it is disruptive to school routines. Additionally, parents should not take their children home for lunch on a frequent basis. Lunchtime is one of the few opportunities in the day a child has to interact with their peers in a supervised, unstructured environment. This time is important for social development and relationship-forming.

Every Wednesday Pizza is offered for lunch, along with chocolate milk and chips. To participate in the program, parents must submit the order form (with post-dated cheques) by the late September deadline.

7. l) SCHOOL PROPERTY

The school lends out such materials as textbooks, library books, team uniforms, and various other materials so students can participate fully in different curricular and extra-curricular activities. Such materials have a number, and which student is given which number is recorded. The condition of such materials is also recorded. It is expected that students will return what was lent to them (with the correct number, and in similar condition). If these supplies are not returned, or damaged, the family is responsible for the cost of replacement or repair.

If a student damages other equipment or property through carelessness or vandalism, families are also responsible for the cost. In such cases, an invoice is mailed to the family and the cost is added to the family's balance.

7. m) PARTY INVITATIONS

Part of our education in forming Christian community is to teach sensitivity to others' feelings and inclusive behaviour. Almost nothing is more divisive in the classroom community than one or two children being left out when a party is being planned. We ask that you be sensitive to this. It is recommended that party invitations be done over the phone or mailed rather than handed out on school property.



7. n) HEALTHY EATING

St. Edmund's School tried to encourage a healthy lifestyle through good eating habits and being active. Some examples of how the school promotes such behaviour include:

1. The 'Eat Well, Play Well Olympics'
2. The annual Walkathon
3. Nutrition in the curriculum
4. Physical Education Classes
5. Extra-curricular Athletics / Intramurals

However, as in any elementary school, exceptions do arise. These exceptions include:

- a. Birthday Parties – parents will sometimes bring in a treat for their child's class on their birthday
- b. Class Parties – a class will sometimes have a party just before Christmas, the last day of school, etc.
- c. Dances – Grade 6 & 7 dances typically have goodies and refreshments
- d. Other School Events – such as a) the Walkathon Picnic and b) the Sports Day lunch. As such days are special occasions for students, the school does provide a treat (such as a hamburger or popsicle).

In these circumstances, the school asks that parents assist in 1) limiting the portions of treats that are served, and 2) providing some healthy options (e.g. juice as well as pop). In addition, parents are asked to provide lunches that are as healthy as possible (please avoid fast food, food with many preservatives, etc.).

SECTION 8 – SCHOOL UNIFORM

8. a) SCHOOL UNIFORM

At St. Edmund's School, there is a mandatory school uniform. The reasons for such a policy are the following:

Respect for both the individual and school is manifested by a mind-set of "dressing up" for school. Therefore, the dress code has an impact on a student's attitude as well as their behaviour. A neat personal appearance reflects a positive image of our school to the community. It also helps to reduce differences among children in regard to fashion.

The St. Edmund's dress code is based on modesty, neatness, cleanliness and safety. Students are expected to arrive and leave school in uniform each day. Families are responsible for keeping their child's uniform neat and clean in appearance. If clothes get torn or stained, they must be repaired or replaced.



8. a) SCHOOL UNIFORM – cont'd

The dress code applies to all students during school hours or at school sponsored activities. Each month there may be a "dress up day" where students may wear clothes connected to the dress up theme. Notification will be sent home for these "dress up days".

Girls - grades K – 3

White Blouse, short or long sleeved
(with a dress shirt collar)
Navy blue box pleat tunic
Navy blue knee socks/
Navy blue tights
Red Crested St. Edmund's sweater
Black (low heeled) dress shoes

Boys - grades K - 7

White dress shirt *(with a proper collar)*,
short or long sleeved
Navy blue dress pants
Navy blue socks
Navy blue Crested St. Edmund's
sweater Black dress shoes

Girls - grades 4-7

White Blouse, short or long sleeved
(with a dress shirt collar)
Navy blue box pleat skirt
Navy blue knee socks/
Navy blue tights
Red Crested St. Edmund's sweater
Black (low heeled) dress shoes

Gym strip for Girls and Boys

(Available year round through the
school)
Yellow Crested St. Edmund's T-shirt
Navy blue St. Edmund's gym shorts
White gym socks
Non-marking gym shoes

St. Edmund's Crested white short sleeved golf shirt may be worn in May, June and September. On very hot days, students may also be permitted to wear their gym strip during class. In such circumstances, the principal must give explicit permission for students to wear gym strip instead of their uniform.

The following rules also apply to the St. Edmund's School dress Code;

1. Jewelry must be subdued in nature. Only stud earrings are permitted.
2. Make-up is not to be worn.

8. b) UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

St. Edmund's exclusive uniform supplier is **Cambridge & Company**, located at 135 – 1305 Welch Street. North Vancouver, BC. Telephone: (604) 924 – 9309. www.cambridgeuniforms.com

Skirts, tunics, and sweaters must be purchased from the supplier above. Parents should buy pants and dress shirts from Cambridge, but may go to other clothing outlets provided that colour and quality standards are met. School gym strip is to be purchased through the school office (not through Cambridge & Company).



8. b) UNIFORM SUPPLIERS – cont.

Note that the school sells clean, used uniforms at a reduced rate. Please contact the school office for information on our uniform recycling program. Donations of used uniforms are always much appreciated.

The school uniform should be clean, neat and presentable. **All items should be labeled with the child's name** to help identify them should they end up in the Lost and Found.

8. c) PERSONAL GROOMING

In the best interest of all students, staff and families, it is strongly recommended that students refrain from sharing any personal items i.e. hats, combs, and brushes. We ask that parents regularly re-enforce this suggestion. This will greatly assist in maintaining a hygienic environment at our school. Parents can also assist by providing regular checks at home for head lice and other contagious annoyances.

SECTION 9 – DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY

9. a) STUDENT DISCIPLINE

As Catholic educators we are ever mindful of the dignity and worth of all. We believe that any discipline policy must promote a sense of empowerment and self worth.

At St. Edmund's our discipline philosophy is based around our Catholicity. Therefore, the focus is more on beliefs, as opposed to rules.

Each disciplinary incident involves the teacher or principal walking a student through the following questions:

- 1) What do we believe?
- 2) Do you believe that?
- 3) If you believe it, what do you need to change?
- 4) What does that say about you?

Afterwards, where appropriate, the student is asked to 'make it right' (by word and deed) in a meaningful way. This allows the student to compensate for any offence against the class beliefs. There is normally a consequence in line with compensating for the student's actions. Following these steps not only hold a child accountable for their behaviour, but also develops an understanding of the Christian moral code emphasized at our school.



9. b) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

The classroom teacher has primary responsibility for correcting and documenting unacceptable behaviour and minor incidents. While following the Restitution Framework, disciplinary actions may increase as follows:

1. Verbal reminder
2. Conference with teacher (with possible consequences to 'make it right')
3. Conference with Principal and/or parents
4. After school detention, or an extended 'time out' during school
5. Sending the child home, with the missed class time made up on a weekend.
6. Repeated incidents warrant a behaviour contract, which outlines clear expectations and consequences. The behaviour contract is signed by the student, a parent, the teacher, and the principal.

9. d) SERIOUS INCIDENTS

The aim of the school is to encourage the development of self-discipline on the part of the student. However, when an incident is serious and other students are put at risk, it is more important for the behaviour to be corrected quickly. Parents will be contacted in such cases. As stated in the **Statement of Commitment (Appendix II)**, it is the responsibility of the parents to support the school in discipline matters and to follow-up the plan of action with their children.

Parents will be asked to cooperate with the school in finding ways to encourage the student to behave in a reasonable manner. If, together, school administration and parents, are unsuccessful in altering the behaviour pattern the family may be asked to withdraw the student from school for a specified period of time.

Such cases may include, but are not limited to: fighting, theft; vandalism, defiance, disrespect; as well as persistent and serious intimidation / harassment. The principal will inform the Pastor and the Parent Education Committee chairperson in such cases. The child will not be readmitted to classes without a Parent/Teacher/Principal conference. In order for the child to be re-admitted to class, the following must occur:

1. Students must accept responsibility for their misconduct(s).
2. Students must accept, and follow through with, consequences established by the school.
3. Students must demonstrate firm purpose of amendment.
4. Parents/guardians of students must accept and support the disciplinary decision(s) of the Administration.

It is important to note that the school has the definitive authority to investigate infractions and determine consequences for students who refuse to comply with school policies and regulations. This authority to investigate includes, but is not limited to, searching lockers and backpacks.

Appeals of school disciplinary decisions follow the same procedure as other complaints. Please see the Communicating Complaints / Concerns section of this policy manual.



9. e) APPEALS OF DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS

Parents may appeal a student's suspension or expulsion according to the following CISVA policy guidelines:

1. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the PEC within 7 days after the principal's decision has been communicated to the parent.
2. On receiving the appeal, the PEC will form a subcommittee which must always include the pastor. The subcommittee will review the documentation of the incident and arrange for input from the parties involved. Following this, the sub-committee will make recommendations *in camera* to the PEC. The PEC will notify all parties, in writing, of its decision within 7 days. If the decision involves disciplinary action, the PEC must consult with the Superintendent before implementing its recommendations.
3. The PEC's decision may be appealed to the CISVA Board of Directors who reserves the right to resolve the issue through investigation or through the formation of an appeal committee. The appellant must prepare a written submission to the Board to be delivered to the Superintendent's Office within 14 days of the PEC communicating its decision. The Board's decision shall be final.

Full details of the CISVA appeals procedure are available through the school secretary.

9. f) ABUSE DISCLOSURE

In circumstances where abuse against a child is suspected, school personnel will contact the Ministry of Children and Families directly. A social worker will then contact the family or guardian directly. No private information regarding the case will be released by the school (except to proper personnel). The school is obliged to cooperate fully with such an investigation.

SECTION 10 – EMERGENCY INFORMATION

10. a) MEDICATION

Parents must inform the school about a student's medical condition or problem that could require emergency action by the staff. Parents must also inform the school if the student regularly takes medication during school hours.

Parents are responsible for administering medication to their children. When possible, medication should be administered outside school hours. If this is not possible, parents should come to the school and administer it. In extreme circumstances, medication can be administered by the school staff but only when a "Request for the Administration of Medication" form is completed and signed by the parent and the prescribing physician. This form is available from the school office.



10. a) MEDICATION – cont.

Students who require inhalers, Benadryl, or EpiPens must supply the school with these items which will be kept in a central location in the office. Parents are responsible for ensuring that the medication is current. Students with EpiPens will have their pictures posted in key areas of the school (staff room and individual classroom) for emergency identification purposes.

Parents must inform the school of any changes to their child's medication needs.

10. b) STUDENT EMERGENCIES / INJURIES

If a student is injured at school or on a school-sponsored event and a staff member considers that the student needs emergency medical attention, the school will attempt (when possible) to contact the parent. If a parent can not be reached or is unable to come, the school may exercise discretion to call an ambulance, at the parent's expense.

It is imperative that parents keep the office advised of current phone numbers and emergency contacts.

10. c) EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

The Emergency Preparedness Committee prepares emergency supplies for every student and staff member. These supplies include health and safety items and basic food products. The emergency supplies are securely stored outside the building.

10. d) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Over the years, St. Edmund's School has worked to prepare for a possible emergency, such as an earthquake. School staff have developed emergency response procedures including:

- Designation of staff for response functions
- Regular first aid training of staff
- School-wide emergency response and evacuation drills
- Preparation of student identification cards
- Assembling of class comfort kits and first response materials
- Procedures for the safe release of students after a major emergency
- Provisions for care and shelter for those who must remain on site.

Forms for student ID and emergency release are updated each fall, but can be downloaded from the school website or obtained from the school office. It is vitally important that these forms are completed and returned to the school – please ensure that the school office has a copy on file. In addition, if there have been any changes to your emergency information, please submit an updated copy.



10. d) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES – cont.

An Emergency Planning Committee consisting of parent volunteers and a staff liaison has been in operation for a number of years. This committee meets three or four times a year for planning purposes and organizes work bees to purchase, prepare, inventory, store and restock emergency response resources as per plans. All parents are invited to join this committee, either as standing members or as auxiliary members to help at planned work bees. Please see the ***Parent Participation Guide*** for more details on the role of parent volunteers.

In the event of a major earthquake or disaster, the following rules apply:

- DO NOT call the school. The phone line must remain open for outgoing emergency calls.
- Radio station CKNW – 980AM will provide information and directions.
- DO come to the school if you are able to offer assistance.
- Refrain from driving to the school, as the school's access routes and street entrances MUST remain clear for emergency vehicles. Either walk or park away from the school.
- Once it is safe to travel, go to the Student Release Station to pick up your child and any other child for whom you are assuming responsibility. Adults taking a child from the school grounds under these circumstances must sign a release form. To sign this release, the adult must be designated caregivers by a child's parent or guardian.

In the event of an emergency, students are expected to follow the direction of school staff. Students will be evacuated from the building according to the Ministry of Education Guidelines and attendance will be taken. Please remember that the emergency release of students is a time consuming process that requires patience, cooperation, and calm behaviour.

10. d) CRISIS PROCEDURES

An example of a crisis would be a vehicle accident, an assault, a bomb threat, or the death of a member of the community. In such circumstances, the principal will make the judgment as to how to inform the community. In cases where families should be informed before arriving to school that day, the class moms will phone as many families as possible. The remaining families will be informed when they arrive at school. In less urgent circumstances, parents will be informed via a notice directly from the principal.

In most cases, it may not be necessary to inform parents by a letter from the principal, and the school will deal only with those families directly affected. The school has a Crisis Plan in place, with school personnel supported by members of the Emergency Planning Committee.

When you hear of a family is coping with the sudden loss of a parent, or other tragic circumstance, please inform the principal as soon as possible. The school will assist in networking among the community to help organize a support system for the family.



CALENDAR 2011 – 2012

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

2011

SCHOOL HOLIDAY	DATE
Schools open for students (Tuesday)	Sept 6
Thanksgiving Day (Monday - Holiday)	Oct 10
Remembrance Day (Holiday)	Nov 11
Schools close for Christmas vacation	Fri Dec 16

2012

SCHOOL HOLIDAY	DATE
Schools reopen after Christmas vacation	Mon Jan 3
Schools close for Spring Break	Fri Mar 16
Schools reopen after Spring Break	Mon Mar 26
Good Friday (Holiday)	Apr 6
Easter Monday (Holiday)	Apr 9
Victoria Day Holiday (Monday)	May 21
Last day for students - Elementary	Wed 27



SCHOOL EVENTS BY MONTH

September:

- Gr. 7 Mass of Leadership
- Student Council Elections
- Back to School BBQ
- Meet the Teacher Night

October:

- Walkathon
- Living Rosary
- Penny Carnival
- Student Photos

November:

- St. Edmund's Feast Day
- Remembrance Day Prayer Service
- Term 1 Report Cards
- Parent / Teacher / Student Conferences

December:

- Santa's Breakfast
- Christmas Concert
- Summerhill Choir Performances
- Christmas Prayer Service

January:

- Primary Speech Arts

February:

- Shrove Tuesday
- Ash Wednesday Mass
- Gr. 2 Parent Sacrament Meeting
- After School Art Begins
- FSA Exams (Gr. 4 & 7)
- Valentine's Day Prayer Service
- Mass of Enrollment (Gr. 7)
- Primary Track Meet
- 100 Days of School
- Annual General Meeting (Registration Package Pick-up)
- Skating (Primary and Intermediate)

March:

- Ready Set Learn / Open House
- Registration Evening
- Gr. 2 First Confession and Reception
- Gr. 7 Parent Sacrament Meeting
- Confirmation Retreat
- Seder Meal
- Term 2 Report Cards
- Parent / Teacher / Student Conferences
- Stations of the Cross

April:

- Outdoor School (Gr. 6 & 7) – bi-annual
- 'Gift From God' Parent Meeting (Gr. 1 & 3)
- Gym Sense Gymnastics
- Friar's Invitational Track Meet
- 'Fly Market'
- Class Photos

May:

- First Communion Mass & Reception
- Crowning of Mary Tea
- Mother's Day Brunch
- Confirmation Mass & Reception (Gr. 7)
- Art Show
- Track and Field Meet (Day 1)

June:

- Kindergarten / New Parent Welcome
- Track and Field Meet (Day 2)
- Sports Day
- Love & Life (Gr. 7)
- National Aboriginal Day
- Grade 7 Graduation Mass & Awards
- School Awards Ceremony
- Grade 7 Graduation Reception
- Term 3 Report Cards



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Principal – **Michael Field**
PEC Chairperson – **Michael Coyne**
Parent Association Chairperson – **Wendy Alnuweiri**
Parent Participation Coordinator – **Wendy Alnuweiri**
Emergency Committee Chairperson – **Rio Coupal**
Bingo Coordinator – **Michael Ferguson**

CLASSROOM TELEPHONE PARENTS

Phoning parents are available to answer questions about classroom activities and assist the classroom teacher in coordinating volunteers for different class functions. They also phone parents to remind them of important dates.

- Grade Kindergarten –
- Grade 1 –
- Grade 2 –
- Grade 3 –
- Grade 4 –
- Grade 5 –
- Grade 6 –
- Grade 7 –

For contact information, please see the family phone directory.

Additional Notes:



APPENDIX I

PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY POLICY

SAMPLE COPY

The Collection, Use, Storage and Release of Personal Information

Safeguarding your confidentiality and protecting your personal information is a fundamental concern for Edmund's Elementary. The school is committed to meeting or exceeding the privacy standards established by the BC Personal Information and Protection Act governing the collection, use, disclosure and storage of personal information.

To ensure you are informed we have developed the following form. Please initial on the line beside each statement and sign the bottom of the page.

Student Personal Information

_____ initial

I consent to having St. Edmund's Elementary collect personal information that may include student identification information, birth certificate, legal guardianship, court orders if applicable, parents work numbers and e-mail address, behavioural, academic and health information, most recent report card, emergency contact name and number, doctor's and dentists' names and numbers, health insurance number and any similar information needed for registration. *This information is required in order to apply for registration for your child at this school and to assist the school in making an informed decision regarding acceptance. It will also allow the school to respond immediately to an emergency. For more information, the privacy manager for St. Edmund's is the Principal of the school and may be reached at 604.988 7364.*

_____ initial

I consent to having photographs and work samples of my child(ren) used by St. Edmund's School in a yearbook, newsletters.

_____ initial

I consent to having my children's pictures on our school website. Names will not be attached to pictures.

_____ initial

I consent to the use of my information if the school prepares family phone lists or class phone lists for different purposes.

Parent Personal Information

St. Edmund's School acknowledges that there will be no disclosure of personal information to unauthorized personnel or third parties who are not directly involved in school management or the care, supervision and instruction of your child(ren) at this school, unless written authorization from a parent or legal guardian is provided to the school. The school will store all electronic and hard copy parent and student personal information securely.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____



APPENDIX II

PARENT / GUARDIAN STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

SAMPLE COPY

Family Name: _____

PHILOSOPHY

“Motivated by a Christ-centred vision of humanity and human history, our school promotes the formation of the whole person. Such formation embraces not only intellectual, but also physical, emotional, moral and spiritual dimensions of human growth. Intellect, emotions, creative ability and cultural heritage have a place in the life of the school. Human knowledge and skills are recognized as precious in themselves, but find their deepest meaning in God’s plan for creation.” From **PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF B.C.** by Catholic Bishops of B.C.

Partners (home, school, parish) in Catholic Education must work together to provide an environment where faith and learning go hand in hand leading the young people to be the best they can be.

The following statements support the goals and philosophy of our Catholic school and need to be accepted and supported by all members of the community. **Read them carefully. They ask you to make a commitment to the values and ideals of our school community.** If you have any questions or concerns regarding this commitment form, please bring them to the Principal, Pastor or the Chairperson of the Parish Education Committee who will gladly discuss them with you.

By returning the signed statement with your completed application, you accept the responsibility of this commitment.

- a. Parents and guardians agree that they and their families will exhibit conduct consistent with Catholic denominational standards. The determination of whether any conduct contravenes these standards is the right of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese
- b. All students are required to participate in our religious education curricular and co-curricular programs including liturgical celebrations, retreats, prayer, etc.
- c. Parent/Guardians are expected to support the Religious Education Program and participate in it as required. I.e: Grade 7 students will participate in Sunday Mass and write a journal as part of the Grade 7 Confirmation program. **All** students will participate in school Masses.
- d. Regular school attendance and full participation in all aspects of the academic program of the school are required of every student. Each student is expected to strive toward the development of his/her full academic potential.



- e. **Each family is expected to support and participate in the fund-raising activities of the parish/school. This means each family shares in the responsibility of educating our Catholic children.**
- f. Each student is expected to know and follow school policies on behaviour.
- g. Parents/Guardians are expected to know and support school policy and procedures.
- h. Parents/Guardians are expected to attend the Meet The Teacher Night and the Annual General Meeting, which will focus on the philosophy and goals of our school. Both these meetings are mandatory attendance for at least one parent/guardian.**
- i. Parents/Guardians agree to accept the responsibility for the cost of tuition, supplies and other school activities.
- j. If any of these conditions are not met the school reserves the right to: refuse admission, or remove the student from the school.
- k. Please sign both copies. Keep one and return the other with your application.**

Please sign and return with your school registration.

I have read and understand the above expectations and commitments and I hereby accept them as stated.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date



APPENDIX III



St. Edmund's
545 Mahon Avenue North Vancouver BC V7M 2R7
Website – www.stedmunds.ca
Telephone (604) 988-7364
Fax (604) 988-7350

Absentee/Tardiness Form

SAMPLE COPY

Date: _____

St. Edmund's Elementary School

Please excuse _____ Grade _____

For being late / absent on _____

As he/she was _____

Sincerely,

Parent Signature