

Example Catholic School Board Response to School Act 16.1 - GSAs-QSAs-Diversity Clubs

The following is an extract from the St. Albert Catholic School Board [Administrative Procedure 359 - Safe and Caring Learning Environments for Students](#), dated March 4, 2016, starting at page 5, **Procedures**, paragraph 4:

4. Students clubs or groups seeking to address matters involving sexual identity will normally be established at the grades 7 – 12 level. Students who wish to address matters involving sexual identity through a student organization will do so by approaching the Principal who will use District services and the LIFE Framework (Appendix 1) to determine the scope of support required (advocacy, peer support, counselling). Principals will be legislatively supported in their capacity to make such decisions through the application of Section 20(c) of the School Act.

4.1. The principal, in consultation with other district staff will approve or amend the request based upon its capacity to uphold the sanctity of human life through acts of justice / social action while upholding Catholic teaching on social relationships. The principal will use the LIFE Framework as a mechanism to determine the kind of school based support that will be used for students.

4.2. The principal must establish the supervisory and educational authority of the activity through the designation of a staff advisor who will monitor and support the student group.

4.3. The principal must clarify the objectives of the group with the staff advisor before meeting with students.

4.4. The principal must provide in-service for staff advisors regarding the purpose for the student group and how the group can be supported.

4.5. The principal must approve materials used within the student group and maintain supervision over conversations that support the intent of FOIPP legislation within the province.

4.6. The staff advisor must be present for all meetings from beginning to end and use the mission, vision, and core values of the district, Catholic teaching on social relationships and the Church's definition of chastity as a basis for advising students within their work. When matters arise within these groups that necessitate the intervention of outside agencies, these may be involved subject to their capacity to support the intention of this administrative procedure.

4.7. Student groups that further the intent of this administrative procedure must through their activities demonstrate an understanding and respect for the sanctity of human life, respect for the human person, Catholic teaching on social relationships, and Church teaching on chastity as outlined within this procedure. This implies that full cooperation with the expectations of the staff supervisor is of paramount importance. Failure to work cooperatively with staff supervisors in order to contribute to a positive environment within the group or school community, will result in individual participation within the group being restricted, or the dissolving of the group itself.

4.8. A name for student groups seeking to further respect for the human person will be approved by the principal, in consultation with the superintendent, will incorporate language in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic church, and will respect the intent of this administrative procedure.

4.9. A general notice will be provided to all schools in a student handbook or through a letter addressed to parents indicating that students may be organizing Diversity clubs at the school in the future.

4.10. If a Diversity club is formed in a school, notification of the formation of the club will be sent to all parents (not naming of any students involved in the formation of the clubs). This notification will include the responsibility of parents to discuss with their child the purpose and nature of the club, whether their child wishes to become a member and their child's obligation to both refrain from bullying behavior and contribute to a safe learning school environment that respects diversity. At all times, parents are invited to converse with the school regarding the intention of the Diversity club.

Evergreen Catholic School Board follows similar principles and text found in [Administrative Procedure 160 - Safe and Caring Schools](#).