



Provision of a Safe & Caring School Environment at Calvin Christian School

We appreciate Alberta Education's concern for the safety and well-being of Alberta students. As educators we share the goal of providing safe, respectful environments for students, staff, and community members. Further, as educators in a Christian school it is our conviction, based on God's Word recorded in the Holy Bible, that all human life has inestimable value, and therefore that everyone should be treated with care and respect at all times.

Alberta school boards are responsible for understanding their local contexts and for developing policies and procedures, within legislated frameworks, that best meet the needs of their communities. Our Board takes this responsibility very seriously. The following information regarding the structure and context of our school must be considered in order to understand the manner in which our mandate to provide positive learning environments is implemented.

Calvin Christian School is organized under the auspices of the Netherlands Reformed Congregations of southern Alberta, and its stated purpose is to provide the members of that denomination with the opportunity "to enrol their children in a school wherein not only all religious instruction, but also all academic and practical instruction for daily life, is based on the unchangeable and infallible truth of the Word of God, which truth is clearly expressed in the Three Forms of Unity of the Reformed Faith as established by the Synod of Dordt in 1618-1619." Further, our purpose is "to provide the children of the aforementioned parents with an education that is based upon God's Word while meeting the curriculum requirements prescribed by Alberta Education in so far as these requirements are agreeable with God's Word and the Three Forms of Unity." It will be clear from these statements that our ultimate guide and authority is based on the Word of God found in the Holy Bible.

The "Principles" included in our attached Policy indicate several areas of Biblical belief and practice related to provision of safe, caring and respectful environments. One way to summarize these beliefs might be to say that while we recognize the inherent dignity of all humans, and affirm the *equal value* of every person, we also recognize that not all are *equivalent*. Therefore, Biblical distinctions such as those between children and their parents, as well as between men and women, must be maintained. These distinctions are part of a consistent Christian worldview, and respect for individuals within such categories is part of how we show our care for them. Further, the maintenance and development of the structure provided by our foundational worldview is an important factor in ensuring safety for all.

By sending their children to our school, parents have expressed their desire for education in an environment guided by God's Word and Reformed Christian standards. Our enrolment policy and staff code of conduct, along with other portions of our Bylaws, policies, and handbook, demonstrate that the same principles underlie every part of our operation. To act against these beliefs, then, would not only be contrary to God's Word, but would deny our accountability to the school community that instituted our school specifically to ensure that education will be provided in accordance with Biblical principles.

We are grateful that our school has been able to provide decades of excellent education in service to our supporting community and to our province and society. Alberta is recognized internationally for the plurality of educational options it offers for its children and parents. This diversity, which provides strength and integrity to the entire system, is founded on ideals of local governance

responsive to the needs and perspectives of supporting parents and communities. All Alberta school boards seek the welfare and safety of the students under their care, and must be able to do so consistently with their fundamental beliefs. Our attached policy and code of conduct demonstrate our commitment to providing a safe, caring, and respectful educational environment while remaining true to the Biblical worldview that animates our educational philosophy.

Links to the CCS policy and code of conduct may be found here:

- [CCS Safe & Caring School Policy](#)
- [CCS Student Code of Conduct](#)

Note: several provisions of the *School Act* related to this policy are currently being challenged in the courts as unconstitutional. Consequently, this policy will be subject to continuing review.