

ELK ISLAND  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS

## Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School

9622 Sherridon Drive  
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta T8L 1W7  
Phone: 998-3716 Fax: 998-7413

**School Web Site:** <http://olaschool.eics.ab.ca>

Principal: Mr. L. Monaghan Assistant Principal: Mrs. S. Lindbeck  
[lornem@eics.ab.ca](mailto:lornem@eics.ab.ca) [shaunal@eics.ab.ca](mailto:shaunal@eics.ab.ca)

Dear Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School Community,

As of June 1, 2015, amendments in Bill 10 to the School Act stated that *if one or more students attending a school operated by a board request a staff member employed by the board for support to establish a voluntary student organization, or to lead an activity intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging* that a school must support this request. It is important to note that this Bill is law, and as such, Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School is required to follow this legislation.

Our school has proactively established the initial framework to support such a student group in our inclusive Catholic community culture. This group is designed to support a variety of diversity and justice issues, including activities that support students belonging to sexual minorities. In particular, within our Religious Education program, students will provide leadership and receive support to continue to build inclusive communities, aligned with our Catholic social teachings.

In order to promote inclusion and a safe and caring environment, the group may:

1. Provide leadership in building up our inclusive Catholic community, provide for *safe, caring and inclusive environments* - where everyone belongs.
2. Advocate and support social justice through *education and awareness* about diversity.
3. Promote inclusion to *effect positive social change, aligned with Catholic social teachings*.
4. Engage in counselling and peer support, understanding that students belonging to sexual minorities are often part of an "at risk" group that deserves special care and attention, address other discrimination and align supports as necessary to support students who may feel isolated based on body image, race, culture, language, performance in school, social anxiety/lack of social connection, or other individual attributes.
5. The level of support will vary depending on individual needs.

This group will include at least one member of the staff as facilitator utilizing clear guidelines for students that include a structure for safety and confidentiality and focus on advocacy and support.

It is the responsibility of parents to discuss with their child the purpose and nature of this club, whether their child wishes to become a member or not, and their child's obligation to both refrain from bullying behaviour and contribute to a safe learning school environment that respects diversity.

For further information please view the following Alberta Education link regarding Bill 10  
<https://education.alberta.ca/departments/policy/amendmentstobill10/>  
or contact our Principal, Lorne Monaghan at [lornem@eics.ab.ca](mailto:lornem@eics.ab.ca) or 780-998-3716.