

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Racism is a We Problem

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love.” – Nelson Mandela

In the midst of the recent senseless, unjust and tragic deaths, most notably in the USA, Notre Dame is committed to continuing its efforts towards combating racism, inequality and injustice.

The systemic challenges that come with being associated with numerous marginalized groups, including minority ethnic groups, indigenous peoples, LGBTQIA+, the homeless, and those suffering from mental health, while working to continually educate ourselves and the exceptional young minds that make up our student body is ongoing. Much of our approach is built into our ethos (see attached) and should be prevalent in our day to day practices, especially those centered on relationships.

We acknowledge that the challenge is enduring and, despite our intervention strategies over the years, remains present in all areas of society, including schools. Moving forward, education will be a key catalyst as we continually seek for and implement ways and methods to combat the ignorance that is often prevalent when it comes to how we speak or act towards others, especially those individuals and groups deemed marginalized. We must be intrepid in our pursuit of truth and justice and open to addressing those important issues with staff and students (and others), with the goal of seeking out more effective ways to be as respectful, accepting, kind, tolerant, compassionate, and as just as possible to all those created in God’s image.

It is not enough to be non-racist; we must be antiracist and understand the difference. Worthwhile change starts with us individually; let us be the change we want to see in others. The greatest form of leadership is still leadership by example. We, at Notre Dame, stand in solidarity with those individuals and groups who may feel disrespected and, at times, even persecuted. We must continually honor our raison d’être by looking after each other, especially those who may, at different times in their lives, find it difficult to look after themselves.

Pope Francis reminds us that “We cannot close our eyes to any form of racism or exclusion, while pretending to defend the sacredness of every human life.”

Let’s work together to always know, love and serve God by demonstrating our faith in action in our thoughts, through our words and, most importantly, by our actions.

Notre Dame Regional High School

Our Vision

We are a welcoming school that honors and celebrates diversity within our **community**, built on our Catholic faith. We inspire our students in the pursuit of excellence in the development of their God-given talents in order to Know, Love and Serve God within society.

Our Mission Statement

To educate the whole student – Body, Mind & Spirit – **that fosters the formation of Christian leaders, responsible citizens** and life-long learners in a Catholic environment.

Our Core Values

Knowledge Our journey to know God and self is strengthened through academic excellence.

Love We are committed to loving the Lord our God with all our hearts, all our souls and all our minds, **and to loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

Service With Jesus Christ as our model, we serve our own community and **respond to the needs of the greater community through prayer and good works.**

Excellence As members of the Notre Dame community we strive to do our best. This commitment to excellence manifests itself in a strong work ethic, **determination and persistence to succeed.**

Community We foster **healthy relationships** between all members of our Notre Dame community – students, staff, parents, pastors, parishes and alumni.

Respect We believe **respect is the core of all relationships.**

A message from the Superintendent of our Catholic schools, Deacon Henk Luyten.

Promoting Anti-racism

Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese are firmly committed to preventing racism and all forms of bullying and harassment. The recent events around the world have demonstrated that all levels of society, including schools, must recognize that promoting anti-racism is the responsibility of all people. The opportunity for continuing education and growth in this area is particularly important for our young people, who are our future. This obligation is reinforced by the recent statements published by both the [Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) and our own [Archbishop Michael Miller](#). In light of this, all are encouraged to read both of these documents and become more familiar with the [Church's social teachings on racism](#). Please refer to the CISVA [Harassment and Bullying Prevention Policy](#) if you experience any form of racism in our schools.

CISVA continues to educate our young people regarding the inequities that exist for people of colour and the poor and marginalized. Racism and injustice are topics that need to be discussed not only in the classroom but also between parents and children. These [resources](#) can provide parents with the opportunity to simply have a conversation about each person being made in the image and likeness of God and treating all people with dignity.