



COMMUNITY PLEDGE

JANUARY 2025

INTRODUCTION

John Knox Christian School ("JKCS") was founded by members of the Christian Reformed Church in 1959 and strives to be part of a supportive structure that includes Christian homes and Bible-believing, Christian churches. Our main purpose is found in the greatest commandments given to us in the Holy Bible: "Love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27, NIV).

This Community Pledge articulates the Christian culture and worldview that the JKCS community practices today and aspires to practice in the future. This document outlines our foundational theological principles, our Biblical attitudes and practices, and a summary of our Biblical perspective and Christian worldview taught in current cultural topics.

FOUNDATIONAL THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

Parents, board members, members, and employees must support, believe in, and abide by JKCS's statement of faith, which is *By-Law Number 1: A By-law: Relating Generally to the John Knox Christian School Society of Mississauga* ("By-law No. 1" – See *Below*) in its entirety. Should one parent not believe this statement, then s/he must agree to not agitate against the foundational beliefs and perspectives.

BIBLICAL ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES

The JKCS Community Pledge requires a commitment on the part of all parents, board members, members, and employees to embody attitudes and to practice actions identified in the Bible as virtues, and to avoid those portrayed as destructive.

The JKCS parents, board members, members, and employees commit themselves to:

- participation in and support for a Christian, Bible-believing church;
- cultivate Christian virtues, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, humility, forgiveness, peacemaking, mercy, and justice¹
- live exemplary lives characterized by honesty, civility, truthfulness, generosity, and integrity²
- communicate in ways that build others up, according to their needs, for the benefit of all³
- treat all persons with respect and dignity, and uphold their God-given worth from conception to death⁴
- be responsible citizens both locally and globally who respect authorities, and contribute to the welfare of creation and society⁵
- exercise careful judgment in all lifestyle choices, and take responsibility for personal choices and their impact on others⁶

OUR BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE AND WORLDVIEW ON CURRENT CULTURAL TOPICS

With the previous Biblical attitudes and practices in mind, we can cultivate a healthy community life when it comes to cultural conversations. The following paragraphs are intended to clarify the JKCS position on current cultural topics which will be reviewed as new cultural topics emerge.

Our parents, board members, members, and employees understand the statements found below form the Christian worldview that will be communicated to students through our curriculum, our interactions, and our perspectives at appropriate times. We understand that life is a journey of recognizing our fallen nature. We all wrestle with temptation and sin. We are saved by grace alone through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a result, our community needs to journey patiently through these topics.

¹ Micah 6:8; Galatians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:12-17.

² Exodus 20:16; Leviticus 19:11; Proverbs 12:19; Matthew 5:33-37; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9.

³ Proverbs 25:11; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

⁴ Genesis 1:27-28; Psalm 139:13-16; Proverbs 23:22; Matthew 19:14.

⁵ Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8:5-8; Romans 13:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9; 1 Peter 2:13-17.

⁶ Proverbs 4:20-27; Romans 14:13,19; 1 Corinthians 8:9,12-13, 10:23-24; Ephesians 5:15-16.

a. Gender Identity

Genesis 1:27 tells us, “So God created humankind in His image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.” God created two genders, male or female, which is determined biologically** at conception (**with the rare exceptions of an intersex birth).

Biological gender reflects the image of God. The rejection of biological gender denies God’s original design. We also understand that within the reality of our brokenness, some people will struggle with their gender identity. This becomes an opportunity for the JKCS community to journey together in our brokenness to pursue holiness and restoration that has been purchased for us through Jesus’ sacrifice.

b. Sexual Orientation

“...The Creator made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.’” Matthew 19: 4-6

God blessed them, and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth...” Genesis 1:28a

The relationship between husband and wife was designed by God to reflect unity physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Sexual activity was designed for a heterosexual, monogamous marriage exclusively. Any form of sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and a woman—including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, and pornography—is contrary to God’s design for marriage and harmful to the spiritual health of those involved.

c. Sexual Purity

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 reminds us, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we have told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects

this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.”

We understand that culture, especially the media, shares messages around sexuality that are constantly bombarding us. The statistics highlighting the use of pornography today are showing that millions of people are regularly viewing porn sites.

We are called to holiness based on God’s good plan. Ephesians 5:1-3 directs us to “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love...But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity... because these are improper for God’s holy people.”

d. Creation

We recognize that Christians will have a variety of beliefs regarding the age of the earth, literal days of creation, and other beliefs about creation. Genesis 1:1 tells us, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” and this truth will be taught throughout all grade levels, proclaiming the majesty of our amazing Creator. Evolution can be a complex topic. Macroevolution (large scale evolution that results in the formation of new species) is inconsistent with the Genesis account of creation where it describes God creating different kinds of species. Microevolution (verifiable changes over time within a species as it adapts to its environment), on the other hand, is consistent with the Bible and is a well-documented fact that has been proven scientifically.

e. Contextualization and Infallibility of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:15-16 tells us, “... and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ...”

It is important for our community to read Scripture and ensure that the context of a passage is taken into consideration. At JKCS, any contextualization of Scripture must be done in pursuit of the truth of the majesty of God and the infallibility of Scripture, thereby upholding any miraculous works as described in the Bible. We strive to ensure that we are educating our students to have an awe and wonder of our God.

f. Racism

Revelation 7:9 tells us, “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.”

God created all people in His image. As Christ’s ambassadors, we are called to love and treat equally all of His image-bearers, regardless of race or ethnicity. Therefore, the JKCS Community as a whole will not tolerate any words or actions that harm others or reflect racism of any kind.

While we understand that a history of racism has implications on today’s culture, our focus remains on the unity we have in Christ as we celebrate our differences in our diverse membership. Our identity is found in Jesus Christ, and our faith in Him is what unites us. As Christians, we acknowledge that the only path to peace with God and the rest of humanity is through the sacrifice made by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

g. Digital Citizenship

Psalms 119:37 tells us, “Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.”

Our students are trained at age-appropriate levels about their online footprint, online safety, the critical need for moderation, and modeling Christ’s love on online platforms. While technology is a powerful tool that helps us ignite wonder for God, neighbour, and creation; a balanced approach to technology usage is wise.

As Christ followers we must navigate the Internet’s wealth of entertainment and information with discernment. As a community we must find our identity and satisfaction in Christ and not, for example, through social media, gaming or entertainment platforms.

We strongly encourage healthy limits to technology device usage.

h. Kingdom Generosity

1 Timothy 6: 17 – 19 tells us, “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to

put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

All that we have and own are gifts from our God. We are stewards of the money and possessions that God has entrusted to us. Our human tendency can distract us and cause us to think that wealth and material possessions will bring happiness, ensure a good life, and satisfy our souls. We are called to follow Jesus above our culture. God commanded us to love our neighbour and be a blessing inside and outside of the JKCS community. In Acts 20:35, Jesus states, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." As a community, we encourage each other to cultivate a culture of serving through giving of time, talents, and resources.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMITMENT

Our school is in partnership with families and churches. We believe that church, home, and school work together in an effort to educate our youth in a Christian school community.

This JKCS Community Pledge is designed to define the culture and beliefs of John Knox Christian School. Ensuring that the integrity of our community is upheld may at times involve holding one another accountable to the mutual commitments outlined in this pledge.

JKCS is committed to caring for our community in a spirit of love and honesty. May the Lord be honoured through all of our interactions as we strive to worship Him in all areas of life.

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

I, _____, have read this community pledge and agree with its contents.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**JOHN KNOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY
BY-LAW NUMBER 1
A BY-LAW RELATING GENERALLY TO THE
FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF
JOHN KNOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL -
SOCIETY OF MISSISSAUGA (The “Corporation”)**

1.00 Introduction

As a community of Christian parents, teachers and supporters, drawn together from many churches, we believe that we have been called to provide an education for our children which acknowledges the sovereignty of God, the Lordship of Christ, the authority of God's Word, and the power of the Holy Spirit in all of life. We are committed to involvement in all aspects of our school, which includes sharing the financial responsibility for its operation and providing a multi use facility as is necessary for the school's needs, growth and excellence, so as to become a visible Christian presence in the community.

2.00 Mission

The primary mission of John Knox Christian School is to Ignite wonder for God, Neighbour, and Creation.

3.00 Basic Christian Principles

Believing that the Lord God, by graciously giving us the Scriptures, has revealed to His people ordering principles relevant to education, and mandates us to bring the whole Word of God to bear in all its power upon education, we confess:

3.01 LIFE: Human life in its entirety is spiritual, since God created us to serve Him everywhere. This requires us to educate our children for His service.

3.02 BIBLE: The Bible as the written Word of God is the truth by which the Holy Spirit enlightens our understanding of God, ourselves and the world, and the infallible authority by which He directs and governs all our activities, including the education of our children.

3.03 CREATION: We can understand the world rightly only in its relation to God, because the world, in its origin, gracious preservation and ultimate restoration is the work of the Triune God, and since the glorification of His Name is its purpose.

3.04 HUMANS: We were created in the image of God to enjoy covenantal fellowship with our Creator and to reflect in our person and works the excellencies of our Maker, and were instructed to exercise dominion over the world in strict and loving obedience to God, and to interpret all reality in accordance with His design and law.

3.05 SIN: Sin is disobedience of God's law, and we, by sinning, forsook our office and task, estranged ourselves from God and our neighbour, and brought God's curse upon the creation.

As a result, we have become corrupt in heart and blind to the true meaning of life, and repress and misuse the knowledge of God which confronts us in creation and Scripture.

3.06 CHRIST: Jesus Christ, of whom the Scriptures testify, Who is truly God and fully man, has reconciled the world to God and redeems our life in its entirety. Through His Spirit He renews our hearts to love God and our neighbour, and redirects our understanding to know rightly God, ourselves and the world.

3.07 THE KINGDOM OF GOD: The Kingdom of God is His present and future, righteous and universal reign through Jesus Christ. This reign of grace and power makes education possible and meaningful. In obedience to Christ we submit in every area of life to His commandment to love the Lord with all our heart and mind.

3.08 PURPOSE OF EDUCATION: The purpose of Christian education is to direct and guide the children to commit their hearts to Christ the Truth, to attain understanding, wisdom and righteousness, to perform competent and responsible service to the Lord in church, state and society.

3.09 MARRIAGE: Marriage is the exclusive union between one man and one woman as created by God, which points to the relationship between Christ and His Church.

3.10 GENDER: Humanity was created male and female and our sexuality as male and female is integral to our being made in the image of God. We are called to accept and embrace our created biological and genetic sex.

3.11 PARENTS: God has given parents the responsibility to nurture and educate their children. Therefore, parents should establish and maintain schools. The Christian school is an institution established and controlled by an association of Christian believers, to function in education in total and voluntary submission to Christ, the King.

3.12 THE STUDENT: The student as a child, entrusted by God to parents, need ordering, correction and instruction. Children of the Christian home are a heritage of the Lord and share in the promises and the demands of the covenant. Hence they ought to receive Christian education.

3.13 THE TEACHER: Teachers, as servants of God, exercise authority in the performance of their office in educating the children in the school.