

# ***Principle Educational Guidelines***

## ***Section XII of the General Operating Bylaws of the Orangeville Christian School Society***

The basis of the Corporation is the Bible, which is the Word of God. The Corporation believes that the Lord God, by graciously giving us the Scriptures, has revealed to Christians ordering principles intensely relevant to education, and mandates Christians to bring the whole Word of God to bear in all its power upon education. Therefore we confess:

12.01 Life

That human life in its entirety is religion, for God created humanity to serve Him everywhere. He requires us to educate our children for this purpose.

12.02 Bible

That the Bible as the written Word of God is the Truth by which the Holy Spirit enlightens and renews our understanding of God, ourselves, our neighbours, and the world, and is the infallible authority by which He directs and governs all our activities, including the education of our children.

12.03 Creation

That the world in its origin, gracious preservation and ultimate restoration, is the work of the Triune God with the glorification of His name as its purpose. Therefore, the world can only be understood rightly in its relationship to Him.

12.04 Human Kind

That humans, (and therefore also the child), were created in the image of God to enjoy covenant fellowship with their Creator and to reflect Him in their person and works. Humans were commanded to exercise dominion over the world in strict and loving obedience to God, and to interpret all reality in accordance with His norms.

12.05 Sin

That sin is disobedience to God's will and that, in Adam, all people by sinning forsook their office and task, estranged themselves from God and their neighbour, and brought God's curse upon creation. As a result, humanity became corrupt in heart, and blind to the true meaning of life. Consequently, sinful people repress and misuse the knowledge of God which confronts them in creation and Scripture.

12.06 Christ

That Jesus Christ, the living Lord, who is truly God and fully man, of whom the Scriptures testify, is reconciling the world to God and redeems the sinner's life in its entirety by grace through faith in Jesus' substitutionary death on a cross and bodily resurrection, and through the Holy Spirit, our hearts, minds and lives are renewed and enabled to love God and our neighbour, and to know rightly God, ourselves, and the world.

12.07 Kingdom

That the kingdom of God encompasses all of life. Christ as the ruler of this kingdom makes life, including education, possible and meaningful. In obedience to Christ, we reject any attempt to withdraw any area of life from the divine commandment to love the Lord with all our heart and mind.

12.08 Purpose of Education

That the purpose of Christian Education is to develop within the child a discerning mind, and to direct and guide his/her growth in Truth so that he/she may be better equipped to live the Christian life in God's world.

12.09 Parents

That God has given parents the privilege and responsibility to nurture and educate their children. Therefore, Christian parents ought to enrol their children in, and provide for, a school which provides God-centered learning.

12.10 The Child

That the child, entrusted by God to parents, needs guidance, correction, and instruction. Children of believing parents share in the promise of the covenant, and as such, are entitled to Christian Education.

12.11 Teachers

That teachers fulfill a parental responsibility while educating the child in the school with an authority and calling from God. Teachers are accountable to God and to the Christian school community in the exercise of their unique pedagogical responsibility within the classroom.

12.12 The Christian School

That the Christian School is a faithful response of all believers to God's covenant promises and demands addressed to the whole Christian community. In accordance with legitimate standards and provisions, such schools possess the freedom to function in education in complete and voluntary submission to Christ.