



<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>Foundations and Basic Commitments</b>	<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>
<b>SUBSECTION:</b>	<b>The Dignity of Person</b>	<b>June 26, 1995</b>
<b>POLICY NAME:</b>	<b>Resuscitation of Terminally Ill Students</b>	<b>LAST REVISED:</b>
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Our Judeo-Christian heritage holds that life is the gift of a loving God and that each human being is made in the image and likeness of God. As Christians we also celebrate the fact that we have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and are called to share eternal life. We see life as a sacred trust over which we can claim stewardship, but not absolute dominion. Faithful stewardship over life requires us to preserve and promote it, to take care of our own health and to seek necessary medical care for others.

The disabled person (whether the disability be the result of a congenital handicap, chronic illness or accident or from mental or physical deficiency and whatever the severity of the disability) is a fully human subject with the corresponding innate, sacred inviolable rights. This statement is based upon the firm recognition of the fact that a human being possesses a unique dignity and an independent value from the moment of conception and in every stage of development, whatever his or her physical condition. This principle, which stems from the upright conscience of humanity, must be made the inviolable basis of legislation and society.

*Vatican Statement on the International Year of Disabled Persons 1981*

While we are not obligated to use extraordinary means or means that are either useless or unduly burdensome to prolong life, the Wellington Catholic District School Board emphatically recognizes and promotes the dignity and value of human life and that it is clearly wrong to cause the death of anyone. We all have an obligation to take all ordinary means to protect and preserve our own lives and the lives of others.