

# Elementary School Curriculum



**PROTESTANT  
MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**LEVEL 4**

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MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
LEVEL 4**

Approved by the Comité protestant  
of the Conseil supérieur  
de l'éducation, February 1982

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*A new course of study called Protestant Moral and Religious Education — Level 4 is being issued in conformity with Section 3 of the Regulation Respecting the Basis of Elementary School and Pre-school Organization. I am pleased to confirm that it has received the approval of the Comité protestant of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, and I hereby authorize this course for use in all schools offering Protestant Moral and Religious Education. The authorization will take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1986.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Claude Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

*Claude Ryan  
Minister of Education*

## **PREFACE**

One of the distinctive dimensions of public education in Québec has been, and still is, the confessionality of its educational system. Although the use of the word "confessional" to describe the system is recent, the reality to which it refers goes back to the very beginnings of public education in this province. The challenge facing legislators and educators alike was that of instituting one educational system which respected both religious and cultural diversity. This challenge was met by legislation which gave to the religious minority the right to dissent from the majority and set up schools which reflected its own values and traditions. This fundamental right, which makes it possible to have freedom of religion rather than freedom from religion, is one that is deeply rooted in the traditions, the laws and the experience of the people of Québec.

# THE REVISED PROGRAMME OF MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## INTRODUCTION

This programme is intended for students in the Protestant elementary schools of Québec. The pluralism inherent in Protestantism, which precludes indoctrination, makes it possible to design the programme in such a manner as to respect both the aims of Protestant education and the conscience of the non-Protestant school population. Protestant values and attitudes are meant to be transmitted in the Protestant school but commitment to Protestant theology belongs more properly to the home and the church.

Moral and religious education is inevitably more than the teaching of prescribed units of knowledge. It also involves attitudes and skills. As such it aims to create an atmosphere of caring and sharing and of recognizing each person's self-worth and society's worth. It is hoped that the programme will help the child to begin to develop a value structure of his own and to begin to acquire skills helpful to life in a rapidly changing world.

## FORMAT

A common format has been adopted to describe all levels of the programme. The format features a hierarchical development from the general to the specific: Theme → Topic → General Objective → Terminal Objective → Intermediate Objective → Content Outline.

In order to facilitate a complete understanding of the programme described in the following pages, a definition of terms follows:

<b>Theme</b>	A thematic approach to curriculum design has been retained to structure and define each level of the programme. Providing a focus for each year of study, the themes also reflect the developmental nature of the entire programme.
<b>Topic</b>	Whereas the theme provides the focus for an entire grade level, the topic headings define more clearly the content to be examined in each of the modules which make up the year's work.
<b>General Objective</b>	The general objective provides a statement of intent and reflects the aim of a particular module of study.
<b>Terminal Objectives</b>	The terminal objectives flow from the general objective and indicate in more specific terms the anticipated development expected in the students over a given period of time.
<b>Intermediate Objectives</b>	Stated in behavioural terms the intermediate objectives describe learning activities which foster the attainment of the terminal objective.
<b>Content Outline</b>	The content outline provides a listing of topics for examination when addressing each intermediate objective. This listing serves as the basis for further elaboration by the subject teacher.

The programme for each level of the elementary school is organized into three modules, namely: The Judaeo-Christian Story, Celebration and Relationships. These interrelated modules may be used sequentially or concurrently. They are seen and conceived as complementary and therefore all three are required units of study.

The Level Four programme focuses on the ways people interact and how they work together in community.

## **LEVEL 4**

### **MODULE 1**

#### **THE JUDAEO-CHRISTIAN STORY**

Whether it be through the play, the myth, the legend or the story, we see the externalizing of the inner realities of man through his stories. Each tradition has its own stories; indeed, the tradition itself is usually passed down through its story. Elders with wisdom have always told stories to youngsters who seem to listen with a fascination that has remained unchanged over the eons of time. Man seems to need to tell and to listen to stories. Children live in stories.

In the Protestant tradition, chief among the stories are those found in the Bible; indeed, it has been the essence of this tradition that each man know the Bible story for himself. For little ones there are many stories by which they may learn about the traditions of their ancestors and discover something of their own identity. The beauty of the story is that each child has the opportunity to derive his own sense of the meaning of life from it.

The programme for level four focuses on people "Working Together" in community. Many of the stories recommended for use tell of the ways people organized and set rules to facilitate their coming together to form a community.

THEME: **Working Together**  
 TOPIC: **The Judaeo-Christian Story**

LEVEL: 4  
 MODULE: 1

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: **To acquire a knowledge of the traditions and an awareness of the values of the Judaeo-Christian story as they pertain to people working together in community**

TERMINAL OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES	CONTENT
<p>The student will be able to:</p> <p>1.0 appreciate the importance of co-operating within a group, as illustrated in the stories of Moses and his community</p> <p>2.0 become aware of the importance of caring for each individual in a group</p> <p>3.0 appreciate the importance of caring, contributing to and co-operating within a group as illustrated in the teachings of Jesus</p>	<p>The student will be able to:</p> <p>1.1 retell (role-play, draw, dramatize, recount, discuss, ) the story of how Moses succeeded in keeping his people together as a community</p> <p>1.2 express his understanding of some of the rules for living as stated in the Ten Commandments</p> <p>2.1 explain the importance of the benediction of Moses to the people of Israel</p> <p>3.1 explain his understanding of some of the rules for living as found in the teachings of Jesus</p>	<p>1.1.1 <b>Story of Moses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The Israelites find food (Exod. 16: 1-16)</li> <li>— The water from the rock (Exod. 17: 1-7)</li> <li>— The Ark of the Covenant (Exod. 25: 1-40)</li> <li>— The making of the golden calf (Exod. 32: 1-24)</li> <li>— The renewed promise (Exod. 34: 1-16)</li> <li>— The departure from Sinai (Numbers 10: 11-13)</li> </ul> <p>1.2.1 — The Ten Commandments (Deut. 5: 6-21; Exod. 20: 1-17)</p> <p>2.1.1 Benediction of Moses (Numbers 6: 22-26)</p> <p>3.1.1 <b>Teachings of Jesus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The unforgiving debtor (Matt. 18: 23-35)</li> <li>— The two great commandments and the Good Samaritan (Mark 12: 28-33; Luke 10: 25-37)</li> <li>— Jesus tells us to love our enemies (Matt. 5: 43-48)</li> <li>— Golden Rule (Matt. 7: 12)</li> <li>— Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha (Luke 10: 38-42)</li> </ul>

## LEVEL 4

### MODULE 2

#### CELEBRATION

In the preface of her book *World Religions for the Classroom*, Dr. Dorothy Dixon states "Religion in its broadest sense then becomes the way people relate themselves individually and corporately to the Ultimate or supreme meaning in their lives".<sup>1</sup> It is important, in the school setting, to contribute to the development of an awareness of the ways in which man relates to the "supreme meaning" in his life. This nurtures the child's innate tendency to wonder at the mystery of life with a view to developing an attitude of respect for his own traditions and for the traditions of others.

The use of celebration is an appropriate and educationally effective way of revealing to children how people relate to the "Ultimate or supreme meaning". Through celebration it is possible to develop a sympathetic awareness of the significance of activities which form part of their everyday experience. Learning about such festivals and religious holidays and participating in them in a manner which respects fully both the individual conscience of the pupil and the tradition of his family can result in a deeper understanding of who he is as an individual, as a member of a tradition and as a human being.

Another aspect of celebration that must not be overlooked is that it is an essential part of the enjoyment of life. Children can experience the wonder of the changing seasons, the thrill of a birthday and something of the universal significance of holidays and festivals.

In Level Four the students will examine the role that ritual plays in celebration.

<sup>1</sup> Dorothy Dixon, *World Religions in the Classroom* (West Mystic, Conn.: Twenty-third Publications, 1975), p. 10.

THEME: **Working Together**  
 TOPIC: **Celebration**

LEVEL: 4  
 MODULE: 2

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: **To acquire a knowledge of various forms of community celebration and an awareness of the role that ritual plays in helping us to celebrate**

TERMINAL OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES	CONTENT
<p>The student will be able to:</p> <p>1.0 demonstrate an appreciation of the ritual practices of various secular and religious events</p>	<p>The student will be able to:</p> <p>1.1 participate in the specific ritual practices connected with at least 2 secular events through such means as drama, movement, art and discussion</p> <p>1.2 describe the specific ritual practices connected with at least 2 religious events through such means as drama, movement, art and discussion</p> <p>* Additional rituals according to the composition and the nature of the class may be considered</p>	<p><b>Rituals help us to celebrate special events</b></p> <p>1.1.1 <b>Secular events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) initiations (advancement from Brownies to Guides, Cubs to Scouts)</li> <li>b) special situations             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— flag raising</li> <li>— national anthem</li> <li>— appropriate attire</li> <li>— wearing or removing headgear</li> <li>— appropriate behaviour</li> <li>— etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) family traditions             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— customs</li> <li>— practices</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>1.2.1 <b>Religious events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) blessings             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— greetings and farewells</li> <li>— giving thanks for food</li> <li>— praying</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) veneration             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— bowing</li> <li>— kissing</li> <li>— kneeling</li> <li>— etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) initiations             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— giving a child his name (e.g. baptism)</li> <li>— etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>d) family observances of special days or events             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Christmas</li> <li>— Easter</li> <li>— Thanksgiving</li> <li>— Hallowe'en</li> <li>— *</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## **LEVEL 4**

### **MODULE 3**

#### **RELATIONSHIPS**

Consistent with the Protestant tradition of critical inquiry and emphasis on the individual, this Module presents human growth and development in a context of independent thought and an attitude of responsibility and respect towards self and others.

This unit, therefore, is intended to help the child towards the stage of making value choices for himself. With this ultimate aim in mind information appropriate to his level of development is provided and an effort is made to contribute significantly to an attitude of positive self-regard.

To the nine-year old, relationships with others are very important. This Module therefore focuses on the ways in which people organize, set rules and accept responsibilities in order to facilitate their "Working together" in community.

THEME: **Working Together**

TOPIC: **Relationships**

LEVEL: 4

MODULE: 3

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: **To learn of his responsibilities in relationships with others and of his uniqueness as an individual**

TERMINAL OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES	CONTENT
<p>The student will be able to:</p> <p>1.0 express an attitude of respect for himself and the miracle of human procreation</p> <p>2.0 demonstrate an awareness of his growing responsibility as an individual in group interaction</p>	<p>The student will be able to:</p> <p>1.1 describe how to care for the human body</p> <p>1.2 explain in simple terms how growth occurs</p> <p>1.3 discuss the ways each of us can develop his/her own particular abilities</p> <p>2.1 describe how rules help people in a group</p> <p>2.2 list, tell, draw, etc. some of the rules of the home, of the school and of the community</p>	<p><b>The Miracle that is me</b></p> <p>1.1.1 <b>Caring for my body:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— cleanliness</li><li>— good nutrition</li><li>— sleep</li><li>— exercise</li></ul> <p>1.2.1 <b>Learning how my body develops:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— review of correct terminology for the reproductive system</li><li>— the biological time clock</li><li>— how hormones affect our growth</li><li>— ovulation and menstruation in the female</li><li>— sperm production in the male</li></ul> <p>1.3.1 <b>Being myself:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— practising manners and courtesy</li><li>— accepting praise, criticism</li><li>— giving praise, criticism</li><li>— knowing my capabilities and limitations</li><li>— recognizing feelings such as success, failure, responsibility</li></ul> <p>2.1.1 <b>We make rules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— to help us get along with others</li><li>— to work and play together</li></ul> <p>2.2.1 <b>We have different kinds of rules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— at home for parents, children, guests</li><li>— at school for classroom, group work, free play, entire school</li><li>— in the community for parks, stores, streets, etc.</li></ul>

TERMINAL OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES	CONTENT
	2.3 list and describe some of his responsibilities	2.3.1 <b>We have responsibilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— setting rules for ourselves</li> <li>— accepting (following) rules in school, at home, etc.</li> <li>— doing things on our own (gift of "free work", useful tasks)</li> <li>— doing things with others</li> <li>— being a follower; being a leader</li> <li>— sharing; caring</li> </ul>

## EVALUATION

The evaluation of student progress toward desired objectives is essential if teachers are to help students learn. Subject matter, instructional activities and strategies are to no avail if teachers have no systematic way of assessing the individual's performance or rating the effectiveness and appropriateness of particular methods or items of content. When teachers evaluate student progress, they are judging whether certain changes have occurred, or certain objectives have (at least to some extent) been attained.

The question of why and when students should be evaluated can be clarified by examining the two types of evaluation that form the basis of the teaching/learning process:

- Formative evaluation takes place almost daily in the classroom and responds to the immediate needs of the individual student. Such evaluation provides the student with specific feedback as to the degree to which certain skills and knowledge have been mastered. Formative evaluation is used to determine how well the student is progressing toward attaining specific objectives (i.e. Intermediate Objectives) and helps to pinpoint areas of misunderstanding, thus allowing the teacher to take action accordingly.
- Summative evaluation takes place at the end of a unit, module or at other specified times. Whereas formative evaluation provides feedback as to what is to be learned, summative evaluation provides feedback as to what has been learned, and to what extent objectives (i.e. Terminal Objectives) have been attained.

The objectives stated for each level of the Moral and Religious Education programme identify what is to be evaluated. Stated in cognitive and affective terms, the objectives not only present the knowledge and skills to be mastered, but also indicate the attitudes and values that will foster their attainment.

Evaluation in the cognitive domain lends itself easily to various forms of oral and written assessment. The key to evaluating the affective domain lies in the realm of teacher observation. Although the acquisition of certain values and attitudes cannot be accurately measured, teacher observation of work habits, classroom participation and involvement form an important part of the evaluation procedure. The student must also be encouraged to take responsibility for his own development by providing feedback to his peers and by evaluating his own progress.\*

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\* A more detailed discussion of the aims and objectives of evaluation, as well as suggested methods, can be found in the Curriculum Guide accompanying this programme (Document No. 65-1410A) and in the "General Policy for Educational Evaluation" (Document No. 16-7500A).

