

Risk Appetite Statement – Waterloo Catholic District School Board

Introduction

As disciples of Christ, our mission is to educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world. In fulfilling our mission, we recognize that responsible risk-taking is essential to innovation, continuous improvement, and achieving strategic goals.

Guiding Principles

Our approach to risk is grounded in:

- Catholic values and teachings
- Commitment to student achievement and well-being
- Stewardship of public resources
- Transparency and accountability
- Respecting legislation and priorities of the provincial government
- Meeting expectations of students, families, staff, and the public

Risk Appetite by Strategic Area

- **Student Safety and Well-being**
Very Low Appetite – We will address known risks that could compromise the physical, emotional, or spiritual safety of students and staff.
- **Catholic Identity and Faith Formation**
Low Appetite – We are cautious about risks that may affect the integrity of our Catholic mission, religious education, and spiritual development.
- **Educational Excellence and Innovation**
Moderate Appetite – We support innovative practices and pedagogies that enhance learning outcomes, provided risks are well understood and managed and risk is contained.

- **Technology**
Very Low Appetite – We will ensure students and staff have access to modern technology and learning platforms with high levels of security to safeguard privacy and defend against cyber attacks.
- **Financial Management and Compliance**
Very Low Appetite – We take a conservative approach to financial and regulatory risks, ensuring full compliance with provincial legislation and ethical standards.
- **Governance**
Very Low Appetite – Elected trustees will undertake ongoing training to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities and obligations as relates to ensuring learning, faith development, and wellbeing are prioritized and public expectations are met.

Oversight and Review

WCDSB is committed to:

- Embedding risk awareness in strategic planning and operational decision-making.
- Maintaining a culture of integrity, accountability, and continuous learning.
- Regularly reviewing and updating our risk appetite to reflect evolving priorities and external conditions.