

<p>School, Community, and Home Relations 11235</p> <p>Smudging Protocols and Guidelines: School Division Facilities and Grounds</p>	Administrative Application	
	Last Reviewed / Approved on:	April 8, 2026
	References:	Inspiring Success First Nations and Metis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework Board Policy 1 – Division Foundational Commitments and Board Strategic Plan
	Status:	Operational

Preamble

In the spirit of Reconciliation, as an inclusive and culturally responsive school division, Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) welcomes all students to learn about Indigenous teachings within the context of Catholic education. RCSD believes that all students benefit from an enhanced understanding of Indigenous spiritual & cultural traditions.

Definition

Smudging is a traditional ceremony passed down for many generations, among many First Nations which involves the burning of one or more plants gathered from the land. Smudging is a cleansing ceremony which allows people to remember, connect and to be grounded in prayer, a task or purpose at hand. Smudging allows people to become mindful and centered, better able to hear, see, think, speak, and act in a good way. The four sacred plants commonly used in ceremonies are tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweetgrass.

Application

The following guidelines will assist employees in providing opportunity for staff and students to smudge:

1. School Administrator to work with the Indigenous Coordinator to ensure that cultural protocols are respected prior to smudge commencing.
2. Smudging is permitted within Regina Catholic Schools facilities in an enclosed public space providing that the space has sufficient ventilation, and the space is of sufficient size to accommodate the event and meets capacity and fire code regulations.
 - a. If your school does not have proper ventilation smudging must take place outdoors.
3. In RCSD, only sage will be used to smudge.
4. Smudging must be approved by the school principal or direct supervisor.

5. Written communication with parents/guardians, staff, and students regarding the purpose of the smudge and the date and time of the smudge, must occur at least 48 hours in advance.
 - a. Parent Information Letter must be distributed to parents/guardians either prior to a smudge, or at the beginning of the school year before routine school-wide smudges commence.
 - b. Participation is always voluntary. It is acceptable for a person to say that they do not want to smudge. Parents may choose to have their child opt-out of the classroom or school-wide smudge. These students must be accommodated with a respectful, supervised, and productive alternative.
6. Should any students or staff express health-related concerns with smudging in the school, they will be accommodated.