

Religious Education Accreditation Policy

Overview of Accreditation Policy

Updated 12 February 2009

Teachers and the mission of the Catholic school

The Catholic school is one significant means by which the Church implements its mission and vision. Catholic schools offer a distinctive view of education based on the Gospel and the Catholic tradition. In this context a Catholic school strives to develop the religious understanding of students and to nurture their growth in faith. In order to achieve the mission teachers in Catholic schools are vital and essential.

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise of the Catholic school. It has always been held 'from the first moment that a student sets foot in a Catholic school, he or she ought to have the impression of entering a new environment, one illumined by the light of faith, and having its own unique characteristics' (*The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School* 25).

Teachers in Catholic schools contribute to, through their teaching and example, the efforts of the school to harmonise faith, culture and life. This requires that they have particular knowledge and skills. Teachers of religious education, as well as those leading Catholic schools require additional professional competence in scripture, theology, religious education and faith formation and a developed sense of confidence in their delivery.

Therefore the dioceses across Australia have for many decades developed accreditation policies for the teachers in Catholic schools. These policies are founded in the Church's vision and its canon law.

Code of Canon Law, Canon 804

§1 The formation and education in the Catholic religion provided in any school, and through the various means of social communication, is subject to the authority of the Church.

§2 The local Ordinary is to be careful that those who are appointed as teachers of religion in schools, even non-Catholic ones, are outstanding in true doctrine, in the witness of their Christian life, and in their teaching ability.

These accreditation policies have been formulated on the basis that all teachers in Catholic schools contribute to the faith of the school community. Teachers in Catholic schools, through their teaching and witness to their faith, create 'a synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of faith and life' (*The Catholic School*, 37). There is the expectation, therefore, that teachers in Catholic schools will have the necessary knowledge of and commitment to the Church's teachings and an understanding of the ethos of the Catholic school.

This is especially so for teachers of Religious Education who must be well prepared for the specific and important role they play in the transmission of the Church's faith through

teaching the Religious Education programmes. These two aspects ensure a firm basis for teachers and students to make an ongoing commitment to Jesus Christ.

Accreditation is one means of ensuring that teachers' professional qualifications and competencies are formally recognised by Catholic Education Commissions and diocesan Catholic Education Offices in respect to the particular character and educational philosophy of Catholic schools.

The diocesan specification of requirements helps guarantee the excellence of Religious Education and contributing to the general education in Catholic schools. It also recognises the contribution of teachers and their responsibility for the handing on of the Catholic faith and its tradition which influence all areas of the curriculum.

Accreditation is also an opportunity for teacher professional development in that it is directed to assist teachers come to a better knowledge of the philosophy, duties, responsibilities and understanding the message of the Gospel and of Catholic schooling so that they will be competent in the promotion of its religious dimension.

Requirements for Accreditation

Following is a summary of the key features and requirements of Accreditation policies across the Catholic dioceses of Australia. Each Catholic Education Commission or diocesan Catholic Education Office has its own distinctive means of presenting and specifying requirements of Accreditation.

Various courses are available to teachers that satisfy the Accreditation policies of Catholic Education Commissions and diocesan requirements. While the determination of accreditation in one diocese may not be sufficient for accreditation in all other dioceses, the work done for accreditation in each diocese is recognised towards accreditation by all other dioceses.

It is the responsibility of the individual teacher to be aware of the diocesan requirements for the school in which employment is sought.

The following information is presented in alphabetical order according to state and territory Catholic Education Commissions and the relevant dioceses.

STATE AND TERRITORY COMMISSIONS

CANBERRA & GOULBURN, CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

CANBERRA & GOULBURN, Archdiocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 3317

MANUKA ACT 2603

Telephone: +61 2 6234 5455

Email: enquiries@ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy for the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn is available at http://www.ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au/policies/re_accreditation.htm

DARWIN, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 219, Berrimah, NT 0828

Telephone: +61 8 8984 1400

Email: admin@ceo.nt.catholic.edu.au

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of the diocese of Darwin is available under 'Catholic Identity' at www.ceo.nt.catholic.edu.au

HOBART ARCHDIOCESE

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 102, North Hobart TAS 7002

Telephone: +61 3 6210 8888

Email: ceo@catholic.tas.edu.au

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of the Archdiocese of Hobart is available at

<http://www.ceo.hobart.catholic.edu.au/accreditation.php>

NEW SOUTH WALES, CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

The dioceses served by the CEC (NSW) are Armidale, Bathurst, Broken Bay, the country-based schools of Canberra & Goulburn, Lismore, Maitland-Newcastle, Parramatta, Sydney, Wollongong and Wilcannia-Forbes. Each diocese in New South Wales has its own accreditation policy.

ARMIDALE, Diocese

Catholic Schools Office

Postal Address: PO Box 636, 25 Barney Street, Armidale NSW 2350

Telephone: +61 2 6772 7388

Web Address: <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au>

The Religious Education Accreditation Framework of the diocese of Armidale is available at

<http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au/policies/bishop-s-commission/bcc-folder/RE%20framework.pdf>

BATHURST, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 308, Bathurst NSW 2795

Telephone: +61 2 6332 3077

Web Address: <http://ceo.bathurst.catholic.edu.au>

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of the diocese of Bathurst is available under Religious Education/Tertiary RE at www.ceo.bathurst.catholic.edu.au

BROKEN BAY, Diocese

Catholic Schools Office

Postal Address: PO BOX 967, Pennant Hills, NSW 1715

Telephone: +61 2 9847 0000

Web Address: <http://www.cso.brokenbay.catholic.edu.au>

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of the diocese of Broken Bay is available at the Mission menu bar at <http://www.cso.brokenbay.catholic.edu.au/mission>

Canberra & Goulburn (see Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn)

LISMORE, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 158, Lismore, NSW 2480

Telephone: +61 2 6622 0422

Web Address: <http://www.lism.catholic.edu.au>

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of the diocese of Lismore is available at <http://www.lism.catholic.edu.au/Employment>

Maitland-Newcastle, Diocese

Catholic Schools Office

Postal Address: P.O. Box 714, Newcastle NSW 2300

Telephone: +61 2 4979 1200

Web Address: <http://www.mn.catholic.edu.au>

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle *Faith Education Accreditation for Staff in Catholic Schools* is available at <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>

Parramatta, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150

Telephone: +61 2 9840 5600

Web Address: www.parra.catholic.edu.au

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of Parramatta is available at

www.parra.catholic.edu.au/Employment/Teaching/RE-Accreditation

SYDNEY, Archdiocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: P.O. Box 217

Leichhardt, NSW 2040

Telephone: +61 2 9568 8212

Web Address: <http://www.ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au/cms/Jahia/site/ceosydney>

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of Sydney, Bulletin 12, *A Policy Statement for Principals and Religious Education Teachers in Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney*, is available at <http://www.ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au/cms/Jahia/site/reonline/pid/192>

Wagga Wagga, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 1012, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Telephone: +61 2 6937 0000

Web address: <http://web.csoww.catholic.edu.au/>

The Religious Education Accreditation policy of Wagga Wagga is available at http://web.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/Portals/1/Downloads/policies/RE_Accreditation_Policy.pdf

Wilcannia Forbes, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal address: 15 Johnson St, Forbes NSW 2871

Telephone: +61 2 6853 9300

Web Address: www.ceo.wil-frbs.catholic.edu.au

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of Wilcannia-Forbes is available at [www.ceo.wil-frbs.catholic.edu.au/Employment/Career Opportunities/Accreditation to Work in Diocesan Schools](http://www.ceo.wil-frbs.catholic.edu.au/Employment/Career%20Opportunities/Accreditation%20to%20Work%20in%20Diocesan%20Schools).

Wollongong, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: Locked Mail Bag 8802, Wollongong NSW 2500

Telephone: +61 2 4253 0800

Web address: <http://www.ceo.woll.catholic.edu.au>

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy of Wollongong requires all teachers to attain the Certificate of RE (NSW) or its equivalent. Teachers usually have three years from the time of employment to complete the course. Details for Accreditation to Work in a Catholic School, Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School, and Accreditation to Teach Religious Education in a Catholic School are being reviewed. Specific requirements should be directed to info@ceowoll.catholic.edu.au.

QUEENSLAND, CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Catholic Education Commission of Queensland serves the dioceses of Brisbane, Cairns, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Townsville. These dioceses have the same Accreditation policy.

Postal Address: GPO Box 2441, Brisbane QLD 4001

Telephone: +61 7 3336 9306

Enquiries: director@qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy for Queensland dioceses is available at

<http://www.qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au/QCEC&Committees/Policies&Positions>

BRISBANE, Archdiocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: GPO Box 1201, Brisbane Qld 4001

Telephone: +61 7 3033 7000

Web Address: <http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/asp/index.asp>

CAIRNS, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 5296, Cairns QLD 4870

Telephone: +61 7 4050 9700

Web Address: <http://www.ceo.cairns.catholic.edu.au>

ROCKHAMPTON, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 524, Rockhampton QLD 4700

Telephone: +61 7 4931 3600

Web Address: <http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au>

TOOWOOMBA, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 756, Toowoomba, Qld, 4350

Telephone: +61 7 4637 1400

Web Address: <http://www.twb.catholic.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx>

TOWNSVILLE, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 861, Aitkenvale, Qld, 4814

Telephone: +61 7 4773 0900

Web Address: <http://www.tsv.catholic.edu.au>

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Catholic Education Commission of South Australia serves the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the diocese of Port Pirie. These dioceses have the same Accreditation policy.

Postal Address: PO Box 179, Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

Telephone: +61 8 8301 6600

Web Address: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/CatholicEducationOfficesSA/>

The Religious Education Accreditation Policy for South Australia dioceses is available at <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/CatholicEducationOfficesSA/media/files/1327.pdf>

ADELAIDE, Archdiocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 179

Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

Telephone: +61 8 8301 6600

Web Address: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/CatholicEducationOfficesSA/>

PORT PIRIE, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 1206, Port Pirie SA 5540

Telephone: +61 8 8633 0499

Web Address: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/CatholicEducationOfficesSA/>

VICTORIA, CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria serves the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the dioceses of Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst. These dioceses have the same Accreditation policy.

Postal Address: PO Box 3, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8002

Telephone: +61 3 9267 0228

Web Address: <http://www.cecv.vic.catholic.edu.au/>

The Accreditation policies of the Victorian dioceses to teach in a Catholic School and to teach Religious Education in a Catholic School are available at <http://www.cecv.vic.catholic.edu.au>

MELBOURNE, Archdiocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 3, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8002

Telephone: +61 3 9267 0228

Web Address: <http://www.ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au>

BALLARAT, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: P O Box 576, Ballarat VIC 3353

Telephone: +61 3 5337 7135

Web Address: <http://web.ceo.balrt.catholic.edu.au>

SALE, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 322, Warragul Vic 3820

Telephone: +61 3-5622 6600

Web Address: <http://web.ceo.sale.catholic.edu.au>

SANDHURST, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: 181 McCrae St, Bendigo VIC 3550

Telephone: +61 3 5443 2377

Web Address: <http://www3.ceo.sand.catholic.edu.au/>

WESTERN AUSTRALIA, CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia serves the Archdiocese of Perth and the dioceses of Broome, Bunbury and Geraldton. These dioceses have the same Accreditation policy.

Postal Address: PO Box 198, Leederville WA 6903

Telephone: +61 8 6380 5200

Web Address: <http://web4.ceo.wa.edu.au/index.asp/>

The Accreditation policies of the Western Australian dioceses are available at

http://web4.ceo.wa.edu.au/PDF/policystatements/Human_Resources/2-B1_ACCREDITATION.pdf

PERTH, Archdiocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 198, Leederville WA 6903

Telephone: +61 8 6380 5200

Web Address: <http://web4.ceo.wa.edu.au/index.asp>

BROOME, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 1451, Broome WA 6725

Telephone: +61 8 9194 9200

Web Address: <http://web4.ceo.wa.edu.au/>

BUNBURY, Diocese

Catholic Education Office

Postal Address: PO Box 754, Bunbury, WA 6231

Telephone: +61 8 9791 2973

Email: ceo.bunbury@ceo.wa.edu.au

Web Address: <http://web1.ceo.wa.edu.au/cec.asp>

GERALDTON, Diocese

Catholic Education Regional Office

Postal Address: PO Box 360, Geraldton, WA 6531

Telephone: +61 8 9920 0201

Web Address: <http://www.geraltondiocese.org.au/schools.htm>