INFORMATION
ON ACCREDITATION TO TEACH RELIGION
IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Application for Accreditation to Teach Religion in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Cairns is only open to teachers who have accepted a teaching position in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Cairns.

WHY IS ACCREDITATION TO TEACH RELIGION IMPORTANT?
Accreditation, as a sub-set of professional development, focuses on the teacher’s understanding of the religious nature of the school. Other professional development activities, important as they are, do not contribute to accreditation. Additionally, Accreditation to Teach Religion focuses on RE pedagogy and the theological background necessary for teaching the RE program.

There are two alternative forms of accreditation: To Teach in a Catholic School/College or To Teach Religion in a Catholic School/College. Nearly all Primary school teachers follow the Accreditation to Teach Religion pathway. Those Secondary teachers who have an RE class also follow the Accreditation to Teach Religion pathway. Those Secondary teachers who do not have an RE class follow the Accreditation to Teach pathway.

GAINING ACCREDITATION TO TEACH RELIGION
As noted above, upon initial employment in a Cairns Catholic School/College, and upon notification from the school to CES that the teacher will be teaching RE, the teacher is sent an application form for Accreditation to Teach Religion (see attached). In order to gain Full Accreditation to Teach Religion, the teacher would have to show they had completed four semester units of RE/theology/scripture at undergraduate level or their equivalent. If unable to show this, Interim Accreditation to Teach Religion is granted for five years and during that period, the completion of these four units should have been achieved before Full Accreditation to Teach Religion is gained. For information on financial assistance for tertiary study in RE/theology/scripture provided by Cairns diocese, please see the booklet, Building RE and Faith Development, available through Cairns Catholic schools or Catholic Education Services.

RENEWING ACCREDITATION TO TEACH RELIGION
Once gained, Full Accreditation to Teach Religion is renewed every five years, and is portable over all the Queensland dioceses. An Accreditation register is supplied which will require periodic updating by the teacher. This renewal process for Accreditation to Teach Religion involves completing 50 hours of inservicing or tertiary studies in theology/spirituality and RE pedagogy over a five-year period. The school, moreover, offers ample inservicing opportunities to meet this requirement. The register is submitted at the end of the five-year period to the Principal. Once endorsed, a new five-year period begins. Accreditation to Teach Religion, therefore, is not a once off but is ongoing.

If required, further information on Accreditation to Teach Religion may be sought from Catholic Education Services (Phone: 40 509700).
APPLICATION FORM
FOR GAINING ACCREDITATION
TO TEACH RELIGION
IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Congratulations on achieving a teaching position, which also involves teaching Religious Education in a Catholic school in Cairns Diocese.

Before completing this form, applicants should make themselves familiar with the accompanying notes.

TITLE: Mrs       Miss      Ms      Mr      Dr      Sr      Br      Fr  (Please circle)

SURNAME: __________________________________________________________________________________

GIVEN NAMES: ______________________________________________________________________________

RELIGION: __________________________________________________________________________________

SCHOOL: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Do you currently hold Accreditation to Teach Religion in a Catholic School from any diocese other than Cairns?

YES  NO 

If ‘yes’, please sign and date this form and attach a copy of accreditation certificate/documentation.

If ‘no’, complete the rest of this form

I have completed four (4) Semester Units of RE/theology/scripture at Undergraduate level or their equivalent.

YES  NO 

If ‘no’, you will be granted Interim Accreditation to Teach Religion for five (5) years. During this period, the completion of these four units will need to be achieved before Full Accreditation to Teach Religion is granted.

If ‘yes’, please submit a copy of qualifications with this form

Employee Services Officer: A copy of the qualifications/certificate has been sighted.

Signed: __________________________

Applicant’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________