Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School
Dear Teachers,

These Catholic Education Services’ policies on Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School and Accreditation to Teach Religion in a Catholic School are premised on the understanding that for all teachers in a Catholic school, professional learning is not static but continually needs to be evaluated and updated.

Teachers who accept a teaching position in the Diocese of Cairns are required to have accreditation to teach. Teachers of Religion are required to have formal study to ensure that our schools “aspire to educate and form students who are challenged to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and who are literate in the Catholic and broader Christian Tradition so that they may participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society”.

The accreditation process is a means of actualising this vision. These policies will provide a framework and a means for you to meet the requirements of accreditation.

The contribution of our teachers to Catholic schools is one of the main instruments by which the Holy Spirit can energise us to build the Kingdom through our schools’ ministry. Through our personal study and professional learning, we can become even more effective instruments of this marvellous challenge as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We look forward to your contribution to the ministry of our Catholic schools.

Bill Dixon
Executive Director

Purpose

This policy outlines the requirements for accreditation to teach in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cairns. It should be read in conjunction with the policy ‘Accreditation to Teach Religion in a Catholic School’.

It applies to all continuing primary and secondary teachers, continuing part time teachers, and continuing teachers on job share arrangements.

Rationale

The Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church states that “the instruction and education in a Catholic school must be grounded in the principles of Catholic doctrine; teachers are to be outstanding in correct doctrine and integrity of life” (803 # 2).

In order to teach in a Catholic school, teachers need to develop their understanding of the Catholic Church and its mission in the world, and the contribution they make to that mission. Catholic Church documents and other publications (see references) highlight the importance of Catholic school teachers to the development of students’ academic, spiritual and physical needs and directing this development at creating a synthesis between faith, culture and life.

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1 Religious Education Archdiocese of Brisbane, 2013  
Consequences

Accreditation is a process undertaken by Cairns Catholic Education Services (CES) that recognises competency to teach in a Catholic school. It is a professional requirement undertaken by teachers which requires evidence acceptable to CES of annual participation in professional learning activities that support their understanding of the nature of the Church's mission in the world, the identity and educational mission of the Catholic school within the mission of the Church, and their contribution as teachers to that mission. Over a five (5) year period, these activities are to total at least 25 hours.

It is the responsibility of the individual teacher to fulfil CES requirements for teaching in a Catholic school.

CES will maintain a record of compliance with accreditation requirements and will follow up, as required, instances where the accreditation requirements have not been met or maintained.

Schools, supported by CES, will ensure that teachers have access to opportunities which enable them to fulfil the minimum requirements as set out in this policy statement, that is, participate in at least 5 hours of relevant professional learning each year. Refer to Appendix 1 for professional learning topics.

These accreditation requirements will be reflected in CES and school selection criteria, position descriptions and contracts.

Teachers beginning in a Catholic school can receive interim accreditation for a maximum of five years until they can satisfy CES’ policy requirements for accreditation.

Accreditation policies and procedures may vary across Catholic schooling authorities in recognition of specific needs and conditions. While the determination of accreditation in one schooling authority may not be sufficient for accreditation in all other schooling authorities, the work done for accreditation in each schooling authority is recognised towards accreditation by all other schooling authorities.

Reflection


See also (Related Policies and Guidelines)

Policy: Accreditation to teach religion in a Catholic school.

Appendix 1

Typical in-service themes for accreditation to teach in a Catholic School could include:

- Spirituality and faith formation of the teacher
- Catholic Identity
- Embedding a Catholic perspective across the curriculum
- School as part of Church

This list is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.