



**Catholic  
Education**  
Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

# Policy

<b>Policy no:</b>	
<b>Approval date:</b>	2022 (BoG 28/02)
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<b>Next review date:</b>	2027
<b>Author:</b>	Based on QCEC Position Statement 2021 (AED Identity and Mission)

## Accreditation to teach in a Catholic school

### 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.

### Policy

Every registered continuing teacher in a Catholic school in Queensland requires accreditation to teach in a Catholic school in Queensland.

### 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 each students' academic, spiritual and physical needs and directing this development at creating a synthesis between faith, culture and life.

The Catholic school's service is contextual requiring its teachers to provide age appropriate Catholic messages for students that support their making sense of life in a clear and meaningful way. **This accreditation policy has been formulated on the basis that all teachers in Catholic schools contribute to the religious life of the school community.**

Accreditation affirms the positive contributions of teachers in Catholic schools.

<sup>1</sup>Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church, book 3, can. 803, 1983

## 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. These activities should total a minimum (5) hours per annum.

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

*Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church*, book 3, can. 803, 1983.

Congregation for Catholic Education, *Educating to Intercultural Dialogue in Catholic Schools Living in Harmony for a Civilization of Love*, Vatican City 2013.

D'Orsa, Jim and Therese, *Catholic Curriculum: A mission to the heart of young people*, 2011. Francis, Francis

Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, November 2013.

McGrath, John, *Befriending context and Tradition: Evangelisation and Catholic schools*, 2012.

## See also (Related Policies and Guidelines)

Policy: Accreditation to teach Religion in a Catholic school.

For further information or clarification of Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School or Teach Religion in a Catholic School please contact either the Director - Identity and Outreach or email:

[reaccreditation@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:reaccreditation@cns.catholic.edu.au).

## **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.