



TEACHER ACCREDITATION

**MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS**

2010-2014

This document is a companion to a number of other documents that detail the requirements for Teacher Accreditation within the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

It was developed in response to the many requests to clarify various aspects of Teacher Accreditation.

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Current as of March 2009

- 1 What is the main purpose of accreditation?**
The main purpose of accreditation is to encourage and recognise the efforts of teachers to develop and maintain professional skills related to *Teaching in a Catholic School* and *Teaching Religion in a Catholic School*. A more detailed rationale for accreditation is set out in the Accreditation Policy of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, July 1996.
- 2 Do teachers who do not already have full Accreditation to Teach Religion need to have completed four (4) units of tertiary study related to Religious Education in order to gain full Accreditation to Teach Religion?**
Yes.
- 3 Do I have to complete a particular tertiary level course to gain the four (4) units of study for full Accreditation to Teach Religion?**
No. People may receive recognition for relevant studies completed in a number of courses. Teachers planning to undertake a particular course of studies may identify and plan to study particular units related to the teaching of religion in a Catholic school.
- 4 What courses are suitable for meeting the requirement for full Accreditation to Teach Religion?**
A range of such courses is detailed in a leaflet available from the Brisbane Catholic Education Centre. Most of these courses are available through the Australian Catholic University, the Institute of Faith Education and the Brisbane College of Theology.
- 5 Do APRE Cluster Days count for the maintenance of Accreditation?**
They may do so if the content covered in the day is of appropriate professional standard and relevance to either *Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School* or *Accreditation to Teach Religion in a Catholic School*.
- 6 Do in-service sessions on Levelling and Assessment in Religious Education count towards accreditation?**
Yes. The focus and content of these experiences clearly relate to both teaching in a Catholic school and teaching religion in a Catholic school.
- 7 Do Parish-based activities such as working on Sacramental teams, running retreats and RCIA work count for maintenance of Accreditation?**
In most cases the answer will be no because the work does not relate directly to teaching in a school. However, there will be exceptions, eg working with sacramental teams may in fact be quite relevant.
- 8 Do programs such as Cursillo and the Enneagram count for maintenance of Accreditation?**
No. The focus and content of these experiences does not relate directly and substantially enough to teaching in a Catholic school or teaching religion in a Catholic school.
- 9 Does attendance at a day for the validation of School Programs for Religious Education count towards accreditation?**
It may be counted towards *Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School* since validation days have a major focus on teaching and curriculum development in the Catholic school context.
- 10 How can intending participants check the acceptability for accreditation of courses he/she proposes attending?**
Courses offered by institutions such as Brisbane Catholic Education and recognised tertiary institutions can be generally regarded as acceptable provided the content focus of such courses is relevant to *Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School* or *Accreditation to Teach Religion in a Catholic School*. Where there is doubt over the acceptability of a particular course and/or the sponsoring body intending participants should seek the advice of the Principal or APRE.
- 11 Who is the person at the Brisbane Catholic Education Centre designated to give a ruling as to whether particular courses are suitable for purposes of accreditation?**
The Manager - Employee Development is available to discuss particular courses and give a ruling as to suitability for accreditation purposes.

- 12 What consideration is given to recent teacher appointees to Brisbane Catholic Education who wish to gain Accreditation to Teach Religion but have had little time to complete the mandatory four (4) units of study?**
Such teachers need to indicate willingness and commitment to the completion of the required units of study within an agreed timeline.
- 13 What consideration, in relation to maintenance of Accreditation, is given to accredited teachers who are recent appointees to Brisbane Catholic Education?**
Such teachers will be expected to have completed a pro rata number of hours.
- 14 What is the position of teachers who, at the end of 2009, have not fulfilled the requirements for maintaining their Accreditation?**
Such teachers will be asked for an explanation. Where there is a valid reason for failing to complete the requirements particular commitments will be agreed by negotiation. In cases where there is no valid reason for failing to complete the requirements other procedures will be put in place.
- 15 Do I need to be Accredited if I only want to do a few days supply teaching every so often?**
No, not if you work as a casual teacher. That is, you are employed on an intermittent basis to relieve a teacher absent from duty or to meet a short term staffing need.
- Casual teachers are employed for a maximum period of five (5) days of teaching in respect of any one engagement.
- 16 How do relief part-time teachers maintain their Accreditation?**
While this is essentially the responsibility of the individual, part-time teachers should be able to maintain their Accreditation by attending professional development opportunities provided by the schools at which they work.