

ACCREDITATION OF STATE SCHOOL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION TEACHERS

Scope: This policy applies to all Parish volunteers who provide Religious Instruction in State Schools.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

All representatives of the Catholic Church who teach Religious Instruction (RI) in State Schools must be accredited by the Parish priest/administrator of the Parish they are working in according to the Diocesan guidelines and the Queensland Government's Department of Education and Training Religious Instruction policy statement. They must also hold a current Blue Card or Exemption Card.

2. DESCRIPTION

Religious Instruction teachers in State Schools are called by the Church to hand on the Good News of Jesus. In their role they represent their faith community.

An accreditation process is necessary to ensure the provision of appropriate and well trained teachers who are able to faithfully present the Good News and promote the spiritual and emotional development of the children who participate in State School Religious Instruction.

This policy ensures that Religious Instruction teachers in State Schools have an understanding of Diocese of Rockhampton policies which pertain to Religious Instruction in State Schools and that the teachers of RI comply with Queensland Government legislation.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Before commencing, all new Religious Instruction teachers must lodge a *Diocesan Approval Form for a Church Representative to Teach/Help with Religious Instruction (RI) in a State School* with the Parish Priest/Administrator.
2. Before offering accreditation the Parish Priest/Administrator assesses the applicant's suitability to undertake this teaching ministry.
3. The assessment may include the need to phone referees and to interview the applicant. The Parish Priest/Administrator will keep a record of recommendations.
4. On giving approval, the Parish Priest/Administrator sends a copy of the completed *Diocesan Approval Form for a Church Representative to Teach/Help with Religious*

Instruction (RI) in a State School, to the Diocesan Coordinator: Faith Education and Formation who then generates a *Certificate of Approval to Teach/Help with Religious Instruction in a State School*. The approval remains valid unless revoked by the Parish Priest/Administrator.

5. Having obtained Church accreditation and a Blue Card, the Religious Instruction teacher must apply each year to obtain written approval to teach Religious Instruction from the Principal for every school in which they teach Religious Instruction.
6. The Religious Instruction teacher must follow a Diocesan authorised Religious Instruction program.
7. The Religious Instruction teacher must show commitment to ongoing professional development in the area of teaching expertise and skills, and to their own personal faith education and formation.
8. The Diocesan Coordinator: Faith Education and Formation and the Regional Religious Instruction Coordinator, will work together to ensure the ongoing supervision and provision of inservice for Religious Instruction teachers.
9. All Religious Instruction teachers undertake annual student protection training provided by Education Queensland and the Diocese of Rockhampton.

5. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- *Procedures for Accreditation State Schools Religious Instruction Teachers* Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton 2015

LEGISLATION

- [Qld Government Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006 Chapter 5: Religious Instruction](#)
- [Qld Government Education \(General Provisions\) Regulations 2006 Part 5: Religious Instruction](#)

RESOURCES

- [Qld Government Department of Education, Training and Employment Religious Instruction Policy Statement](#)