

ACCREDITATION TO TEACH RELIGION IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Scope: This policy applies to all teachers employed in Catholic schools and colleges conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as Catholic Education in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Every teacher in a Catholic School must be a registered teacher with the Queensland College of Teachers.

To teach Religion in a Catholic School, every teacher must have accreditation to teach in a Catholic School and accreditation to teach Religion in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Rockhampton.

2. DESCRIPTION

Religious Education in the contemporary Catholic School comprises two distinct but complementary dimensions – “teaching people to be religious” and “teaching people religion”.

- “*Teaching people to be religious*” is identified with the religious life of the school and is a faith development activity focused on nurturing the religious, spiritual and faith growth of students.
- “*Teaching people religion*” is an educational activity focused on the teaching and learning of religion and utilising a range of learning processes and resources. In a school, teaching religion occurs in a classroom setting or other structured learning environments. The aim of teaching religion to students in a school is to assist them in developing their religious literacy so that they may be better able to participate in a critical and effective way in the life of their own faith communities and in the wider society.

(<http://rokreligiouseducation.com/about/>)

Teachers of Religion need to be competent, informed and articulate. Formal study, reflective teaching experience and ongoing professional development assist teachers to develop their expertise. This policy reflects the Queensland Catholic Education Commission’s 2015 Position Statement *Accreditation to teach religion in a Catholic school*.



3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. All teachers have access to information about accreditation procedures in the Diocese of Rockhampton.
2. For a teacher who is not a Catholic to teach Religion in the Diocese of Rockhampton, they require the approval of the Bishop (or his nominee).

4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

RESOURCES

- [Religious Education](#)
- Procedures for gaining and maintaining Accreditation to Teach Religion - Diocese of Rockhampton
- Congregation for Catholic Education (1988) *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School* § 96-97
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education (1977) *The Catholic School* § 9, 34-36, 73
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education (1982) *Lay Catholics in Schools* § 59
- Queensland Catholic Education Commission (2015) *Position Statement Accreditation to teach religion in a Catholic school*