



# Accreditation to teach Religious Education (RE) Policy

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## 1. Introduction and Purpose

All teachers in Catholic Schools Diocese Parramatta (CSPD) who teach Religious Education (RE) are required to be accredited as qualified teachers with the necessary background, specialist knowledge, and witness to the Catholic mission. This is a requirement for teachers in all Australian Catholic schools.

This policy provides guidelines to support this accreditation requirement.

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## 2. Scope

All teachers in Catholic Schools are required to promote Catholic mission, values and worldview.

Teachers who teach Religious Education in Catholic Schools are required to have the necessary knowledge and skills to teach Religious Education. They are also called to be a witness to a lived faith and commitment to beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church. This witness therefore requires the teacher to approach Religious Education from a Catholic faith perspective.

It is possible that special circumstance exemptions can be made for teachers who are practising in a different Christian denomination at the discretion of the Director Mission. This process involves a discernment regarding the commonalities of the applicant's Christian denomination with Roman Catholic Theology. Applicants granted such an exemption will be required to sign an agreement stating they will promote Roman Catholic Theology in their teaching with the support of their learning community's religious leaders and CSPD.

Therefore the requirements to be accredited to teach Religious Education involves certified documentation of both academic study and religious practice as outlined below:

- Certificate of Baptism - for all applicants
- Academic Study comprising of **six undergraduate** OR **four postgraduate units** in RE, Catholic Theology and/or Scripture
- Applicants who are yet to start or complete the study requirements may be granted Provisional Accreditation to Teach Religious Education. In this case applicants will have five years to complete the necessary studies.

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### 3. Definitions

**CSPD** means the Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese and includes the CEO and schools.

**CSO** means Catholic Schools Office at CSPD. It applies to the central office and office-based staff.

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### 4. Detailed Information

Applicants seeking to apply for Accreditation to teach Religious Education in the Parramatta Diocese can do so by sending their [Application Form](#) signed by their principal, along with a certified Certificate of Baptism and Academic Transcripts (if the study component has been completed) to [esd@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:esd@parra.catholic.edu.au) for processing.

Applicants seeking to teach Religious Education who do not have appropriate qualifications to be fully accredited can apply for Provisional Accreditation and undertake to complete suitable qualifications within five years. To be granted Provisional Accreditation to Teach Religious Education, applicants need to send in their [Application Form](#) signed by their principal, where it indicates the application is for Provisional Accreditation, along with a certified Certificate of Baptism and Academic Transcripts (if the study component is in progress) to [esd@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:esd@parra.catholic.edu.au) for processing.

Provisional Accreditation is confirmed by a letter to the teacher from the CSPD Mission Team which will outline that the teacher is able to Teach Religious Education with the expectation that relevant studies be completed within five years.

(Links are accessible for internal staff only)

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### 5. Related documents

- [Accreditation Agreement for Special Exemption Applicants](#)

(Links are accessible for internal staff only)

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## 6. Further information

Further information on this policy can be directed to the Mission team via the Enterprise Service Desk on (02) 9840 5620 or via email [esd@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:esd@parra.catholic.edu.au) or the ESD Self Service Portal.

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