

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### Implementation of this policy

Principals, leaders and teachers share the responsibility for the implementation of this policy under the direction of the diocesan bishops and in cooperation with the CECV, Catholic education offices, school governing bodies and authorities, diocesan heads of Religious Education and all involved in Catholic education.

### Diocesan Catholic education offices

It is the responsibility of the Catholic education office in each diocese to:

promote, approve and provide resources for appropriate forms of professional learning relevant to teaching and leading in a Catholic school, and to the human, intellectual, theological, spiritual and pastoral formation of staff (in cooperation with diocesan agencies, and religious orders and institutes) monitor the gaining and maintaining of accreditation requirements appropriate to all leaders and teachers

ensure that Catholic professional standards inform all resources and professional learning for accreditation.

# Principals and governing bodies of schools

It is the responsibility of principals and governing bodies of schools to:

encourage and support all leaders and teachers to meet the requirements for gaining and maintaining accreditation as appropriate to their respective roles

identify and promote professional learning and formation opportunities at the local level to assist teachers to gain Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School or, where appropriate, Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School

identify and provide opportunities for all leaders and teachers to maintain currency of their accreditation status through appropriate professional learning and formation, in keeping with contemporary professional practice

undertake appropriate oversight of the accreditation records of staff and report on this periodically as required by diocesan offices

ensure that Catholic professional standards inform all resources and professional learning for

# **ACCREDITATION**

#### Levels of accreditation

There are two levels of accreditation in recognition of the different roles that leaders and teachers undertake:

- 1. Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School (gain and maintain)
- 2. Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School (gain and maintain).

All teachers are required to gain and maintain Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School.

All teachers of Religious Education and leaders are required to gain and maintain Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School. (Meeting the study and currency requirements of Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School also satisfies the requirements of Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School.)

## Requirements for gaining and maintaining accreditation

Level		Gaining	Maintaining
		Accreditation is <b>gained</b> by undertaking:	Accreditation is <b>maintained</b> by undertaking:
1.	Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School	25 hours of professional learning balanced across the three categories, <sup>4</sup> within five years of being employed	25 hours of professional learning or formation balanced across the three categories, <sup>4</sup> in each five-year period following the initial gaining of Level 1 accreditation
2.	Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School	formal, assessed study in Religious Education/Theology/Catholic Leadership within five years of being employed (courses are approved by agreement of the diocesan heads of Religious Education). <sup>5</sup>	50 hours of professional learning or formation balanced across the three categories, <sup>4</sup> in each five-year period following the initial gaining of Level 2 accreditation
		A qualification in Catholic Leadership (e.g. a master's degree) must include four units of Religious Education or Theology (or equivalent)	

# Accreditation categories

The following categories apply to gaining and maintaining Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School, and maintaining Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School:

- 1. the aims and objectives of the Catholic school
- 2. Catholic curriculum, 6 Religious Education and faith development
- 3. Catholic identity, culture, tradition and theology (including prayer, liturgy, Scripture and Catholic social teaching).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Congregation for Catholic Education, <u>Educating to Intercultural Dialogue in Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony for a Civilization of Love</u>, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Rome, 2013, n. 57.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In this policy, 'leaders' refers to principals, deputy principals, and leaders of Religious Education and Catholic identity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, <u>Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith</u>, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Rome, 1982. n. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 'Balance' for Level 1 accreditation requires a minimum of five hours of professional learning in each category, and for Level 2 accreditation requires a minimum of 10 hours of professional learning in each category.