Policy Statement

Faith Education Accreditation Requirements for Staff in Catholic Schools

Aims

The policy has the following aims:

- To ensure from 2007 that all newly appointed permanent staff members in Catholic schools are provided with a contemporary faith education appropriate to their expected level of competence
- To promote the active practice of faith among staff

Implementation

The following guidelines provide for the implementation of the policy and processes for faith education requirements of all permanent staff appointed in Catholic Schools of the Diocese.

It is also highly desirable and advisable that temporary and casual teachers be appropriately accredited.

Newly Appointed Permanent Staff Commencing in 2007 and Beyond

Faith Education Accreditation to Work requires all newly appointed staff, including support staff, to complete one module entitled Faith Story & Witness in the first year of service. This module will be provided by the Catholic Schools Office.

Faith Education Accreditation to Teach requires all newly appointed permanent teachers to complete four of the following one day modules: The Catholic School; The Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus or Catholic Perspectives in the Secondary School; The Spirituality of Teaching; Liturgy, Sacraments & Prayer in the first year of appointment. These modules will be provided by the Catholic Schools Office. (Each module requires a 500 word reflection/response).

Faith Education Accreditation to Teach Religion requires all teachers of Religion and Student Coordinators to complete a Graduate Certificate in Theology or RE from approved catholic institutions. The BBI Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies is highly recommended for Faith Education Accreditation to Teach Religion. (The NSW Certificate of Religious Education is not recommended as local face to face workshop support is not available). Faith Education Accreditation to Teach Religion is required to be completed within 3-4 years of appointment.

Faith Education Accreditation to Lead will be recognised if 4 units of approved studies (that is courses related to the Catholic faith dimension in Theology, Scripture, Christian Leadership, Christian Spirituality, The Catholic School and so on) are completed beyond Faith Education Accreditation to Teach Religion (eg Graduate Certificate plus 4 units).

School Leadership in this policy refers specifically to Principals, Assistant Principals, Religious Education Coordinators, Religious Studies Coordinators, Ministry Coordinators and Primary Coordinators.

Note: 4 of the following M.Ed.L units from Australian Catholic University will satisfy requirements

Authentic Leadership (core unit) and 3 of Leadership Spirituality, Leading in the Catholic School, Leading in the Caring Community & Ethics for Leadership.

The requirements to complete all previous levels/categories apply fully for newly appointed permanent staff commencing from 2007.

Excerpt from Diocesan 2006 policy statement. For the full version and course details visit www.mn.catholic.edu.au