

<b>CE 5002</b>	<p><b>ACCREDITATION POLICY</b></p> <p><b>ACCREDITATION A: to work in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Darwin</b></p> <p><b>ACCREDITATION B: to teach in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Darwin</b></p> <p><b>ACCREDITATION C: to teach Religious Education in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Darwin</b></p> <p><b>ACCREDITATION D: to lead in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Darwin</b></p>
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Staff in a Catholic school today build upon the foundations laid by previous generations. Staff are invited to nurture the dream of realising the Kingdom of God in the school community. Bishop Kenneth Untener's poem (Nov 1979) can be a source of inspiration for the teaching vocation in the Catholic school.

### **A Future Not Our Own**

It helps now and then to step back and take a long view.  
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is beyond our vision.

This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water the seeds already planted  
knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects  
far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of  
liberation in realizing this.  
We may never see the end results, but that is the  
difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

Catholic schools are communities founded on the person of Jesus Christ. His spirit animates the life of the Catholic school. Staff working in Catholic schools perform an essential personal role in the teaching ministry of the Catholic Church, which extends beyond the need for professional skills and competence.

Every employee of a Catholic school in the Diocese of Darwin is required to obtain Accreditation A to work in a Catholic school shortly after employment commences.

Every registered teacher employed in Catholic schools in the Diocese is required to maintain Accreditation B to teach in a Catholic school.

The goal is for every teacher of Religious Education in Catholic schools in the Diocese to have Accreditation C to teach Religious Education.

A further goal is for every leader in Catholic education in the Diocese to obtain Accreditation D to lead in Catholic education.

## **RATIONALE**

Accreditation:

- 1.1 ensures that staff in Catholic schools are provided with suitable professional development in the Catholic story
- 1.2 promotes staff understanding and support for the Catholic ethos of the school
- 1.3 develops and maintains effective Religious Education programs and fosters the religious dimension of the school
- 1.4 enables teachers and leaders to develop skills to contribute positively to Catholic education.

## **POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **2.0 ACCREDITATION A Approval to work in a Catholic School**

#### **Requirements and Guidelines**

All employees in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Darwin are required to undertake 2 hours of professional learning in what it means to work in a Catholic school (1 hour) and the charism/ethos of the school community in which they work (1 hour).

- 2.1 Professional development in what it means to work in a Catholic school can be undertaken at system orientation in January.
- 2.2 Professional development towards the second hour on the charism/ethos of the school community must be approved by the Leader of Catholic Identity. This can be submitted by through the Accreditation A forms available on CENET.
- 2.3 Principals are responsible for ensuring that adequate professional development records are kept in schools each year to verify that staff have met the criteria for Accreditation A and that these are forwarded to the Catholic Education Office by the end of week 4 Terms 1 & 3.

### **3.0 ACCREDITATION B Approval to teach in a Catholic School**

#### **Requirements and Guidelines**

All teachers in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Darwin are required to complete six hours of approved professional development annually in order to maintain Accreditation A status each year of their appointment.

- 3.1 Professional development includes areas such as Catholic tradition, sacraments, scripture, moral theology, social justice, prayer and liturgy, spirituality, and/or the ethos and identity of the Catholic school.
- 3.2 Professional development towards Accreditation B requires the approval of the Leader of Catholic Identity. Applications from APREs/RECs or school principals are due in Week 4 Terms 1 and 3.
- 3.3 The Principal, Assistant Principal Religious Education or the Religious Education Coordinator applies for approval for recognition of any school-based professional development that meets the criteria for Accreditation A, prior to the professional development taking place.
- 3.4 The Catholic Education Office will maintain records of attendance at accreditation B CEO opportunities and communicates these with schools once a term.
- 3.5 Principals are responsible for ensuring that adequate professional development records are kept in schools each year to verify that teachers have met the criteria for Accreditation B and that these are forwarded to the Catholic Education Office by Week 6 Term 4.
- 3.6 Teachers are encouraged to submit records of any related studies that they have undertaken.
- 3.7 Staff may apply to the Leader of Catholic Identity for a certificate to verify their current Accreditation status.
- 3.8 Application Forms for approval of School Based Professional Development and Accreditation B School Records are available on CENet:  
<https://cenet.nt.catholic.edu.au/TANDL/RE/Pages/Accreditation.aspx>

### **4.0 ACCREDITATION C Approval to Teach Religious Education in a Catholic school**

#### **Requirements and Guidelines**

All teachers of Religious Education in the Diocese of Darwin are required to obtain Accreditation C within three years of appointment.

- 4.1 All teachers of Religious Education are required to have successfully completed four units of study covering religious education and theology at university level, equivalent to the appropriate undergraduate units or to the Graduate Certificate in Theology/Religious Education offered at Australian Catholic University the Broken Bay Institute – The Australia Institute of Theological Education or Notre Dame University. Completion of courses through other tertiary institutes will be approved provided they are consistent with Catholic teaching as assessed by the Study Incentive Program (SIP) and Accreditation Committee.

4.2 Teachers are invited to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for previous studies they have completed that may qualify them for Accreditation C in the Diocese of Darwin. This includes accreditation to teach Religious Education in Western Australia and South Australia granted after 2010 and Tasmania granted after 2015.

4.3 Applications for Accreditation C are due in Week 4, Terms 1 and 3.

4.4 Application Forms are available on CENet:  
<https://cenet.nt.catholic.edu.au/TANDL/RE/Pages/Accreditation.aspx>

## 5.0 ACCREDITATION D Approval to Lead in Catholic education

### Requirements and Guidelines

All Leaders in the Diocese of Darwin are expected to obtain Accreditation D within four years of appointment.

5.1 All leaders are required to have successfully completed a Master's degree or the equivalent in religious education, theology or educational leadership from Australian Catholic University the Broken Bay Institute – The Australia Institute of Theological Education or Notre Dame University. Completion of courses through other tertiary institutes will be approved provided they are consistent with Catholic teaching as assessed by the SIP and Accreditation Committee.

5.2 Leaders include, but are not exclusive to, Principals, Deputy Principals, Assistant Principal Religious Education, CEO Executive and Education Officers – Religious Education.

5.2 Applications for Accreditation D are due in Week 4, Terms 1 and 3.

5.3 Application Forms are available on CENet:  
<https://cenet.nt.catholic.edu.au/TANDL/RE/Pages/Accreditation.aspx>

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