

Religious Education (RE) Qualifications for RE Teachers in Catholic Schools

Supplementary Information to the 21 November 2014 Discussion Paper (enclosed)

To: Principals - Primary & Secondary Schools

Directors of Religious Studies (DRS) - Primary & Secondary Schools

Boards of Trustees - Primary & Secondary Schools

During the process of constructing qualifications maps for each principal, DRS, fulltime primary school teacher and each secondary school teacher of Religious Education (RE), it became clear to me that there are a number of teachers who have completed (or partially completed) RE or Theological qualifications other than the current Diploma in Religious Studies (Dip RS); such an alternate qualification may have been completed some years ago.

Such teachers are able to make application to TCI (The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand) to have their qualification or previous study considered for credit towards their Dip RS academic programme.

The Dip RS from TCI is now the baseline qualification that our NZ Bishop's will require for those in the Catholic school leadership positions of Principal and DRS.

As you will be aware, the Dip RS consists of six level one papers and five level two papers.

It is anticipated that the six level one papers will become the baseline that our NZ Bishops' will require all teachers of RE to obtain.

The 2014 discussion paper provides our collective leadership challenge over the next six year period (i.e. one paper per year) to reach a target of (say) 85% of all fulltime RE teachers having been awarded the six level one papers of the Dip RS.

I have spoken with Professor Anne Tuohy (Director, TCI) and she is very keen to support the initiative we are taking to enhance teachers' RE and Theology qualifications here in the Christchurch Diocese.

Accordingly, TCI are happy to look through any study a teacher has previously completed – with either TCI (or its antecedent, the Wellington Catholic Education Centre (WCEC)) or through another accredited educational Institute – and assess its potential to be credited into a current Dip RS programme of study.

Needless to say, TCI or WCEC papers that teachers have completed (*including meeting the associated assignment requirement!*) with our Religious Education Advisory team are automatically recorded towards the Dip RS – see www.tci.ac.nz or <http://www.chchceo.org.nz/?sid=3> for more details.

I strongly urge you to encourage any teacher on your staff who has previously completed any formal RE or Theology programmes/qualifications¹ – or even any single RE or Theology papers to contact Charles Shaw (Coordinator, Christchurch Campus of TCI) to discuss their situation and provide Charles with copies of all appropriate documentation and then Charles will, on their behalf, make formal application to TCI for this study to be considered for credit into the current Dip RS programme.

¹ Please note that *Walk by Faith* and *Education for Parish Service* do not qualify as formal RE qualifications

Examples of such alternate (non-TCI) RE programmes that could be considered are a Certificate in Catechetical Studies completed before the existence of TCI (or WCEC) and its registration with NZQA; or CE201 & CE301 Religious Education in Catholic Schools (Diocese of Christchurch); etc.

I provide below a qualifications map for two real but unnamed teachers.

I do so to particularise and summarise the above.

Qualification Maps of Two Real (unnamed) Teachers

Teacher 1 –

This teacher has been awarded the Certificate in Catechetical Studies (CCS) by TCI (or WCEC). This provides the six foundational papers upon which the Dip RS is built:

Qualification	RE101 Certification Credit Hours	RE102 Certification Credit Hours ours	SC101 Certification Credit Hours	SC102 Certification Credit Hours	TH101 Certification Credit Hours	TH102 Certification Credit Hours
CCS	54	54	54	54	54	54

Teacher 2 –

This teacher has completed some papers in a Certificate in Catechetical Studies (CCS) at the University of Otago. They made application, through Charles Shaw, to TCI for prior learning (RPL) & TCI has approved three level one credits towards the Dip RS:

Qualification	RE101 Certification Credit Hours	RE102 Certification Credit Hours ours	SC101 Certification Credit Hours	SC102 Certification Credit Hours	TH101 Certification Credit Hours	TH102 Certification Credit Hours
CCS		54	54	54		

I will be providing, in due course, each Principal with the initial 2015 qualifications map for each teacher on their staff.

These initial 2015 qualifications maps have been drafted by me and checked, in the first instance by Cushla O'Connor (Primary RE Adviser) and then given a final check by Charles Shaw (Secondary RE Adviser & Coordinator, Christchurch Campus of TCI).

That said, I know it is still unlikely that they will be 100% accurate! For example, we do not automatically receive notification of teachers who enrol directly with TCI for distance papers and thus we may not initially have recorded any such completed papers on the qualifications map.

So I will very much welcome feedback when I have finalised the initial draft 2015 qualifications maps for your teachers of RE and provided them to you for an accuracy check.

I look forward to our discussions on this supplementary information paper and on the substantive November 2104 Discussion Paper (enclosed).

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Encl. 1