



Council for Catechetics

of

The Irish Episcopal Conference

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18th June 2024

Re: Clarity on the recognition of qualifications to teach Catholic Religious Education on the island of Ireland.

Dear colleagues,

There has been a significant number of queries with respect to the question of whether not teachers qualified prior to September 2011 are required to hold a qualification recognised in the '[Recognition of Qualifications to Teach Catholic Religious Education in Catholic Primary Schools on the Island of Ireland](#)' (2018) document issued by the Council for Catechetics of the Irish Episcopal Conference.

The 2018 document states:

The requirements set out below were first made effective from September 2011 forward, without prejudice to those who qualified as primary teachers prior to this date in any of the approved centres listed in Section C of this document.

Queries in the main were with respect to teachers who qualified in the UK prior to 2011, but other queries related to the selection and appointment of teachers to the post of Principal or Deputy Principal.

For clarity, the following applies:

1. **Teachers who qualified prior to 2011:** The rules regarding the recognised certificate do not apply. These applicants should be called for interview where otherwise deemed eligible. This applies to Irish or UK qualified teachers.

However, the advertisement should clearly indicate that for teachers who qualified prior to September 2011, a recognised qualification to teach Catholic Religious Education on the island of Ireland is desirable.

2. For **all other applicants who apply for teaching vacancies**: Only those teachers who hold a **recognised** certificate to teach RE should be called for interview.

NOTE: UK qualified teachers* who have undertaken a *Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)* in England or Wales, must also have completed a supplementary qualification to meet the requirements to teach in Catholic Primary schools on the island of Ireland. At present, [the Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education in DCU](#) is the only third level provider of this qualification.

*Other than those holding a *Catholic Teacher's Certificate in Religious Education* qualification from the St Andrew's Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education, University of Glasgow.

3. For **Principal/Deputy Principal competitions**: The rules regarding the recognised qualifications do not apply with respect to applicants who qualified prior to September 2011. These applicants may be called for interview where otherwise deemed eligible. However, the advertisement should clearly indicate that for teachers who qualified prior to September 2011, a recognised qualification to teach Catholic Religious Education on the island of Ireland is desirable.

For **teachers who qualified after September 2011**, only those applications who hold a **recognised** certificate to teach RE should be called for interview.

With every blessing and good wish,



Dr Alexander O'Hara

National Director for Catechetics

The Catechetics Council of the Irish Bishops' Conference currently (as of January 2018) recognises the following providers of this programme in Religious Education/Religious Studies, or its equivalent:

DCU Institute of Education (St Patrick's Campus)

- Certificate in Religious Studies (CRS) in conjunction with Catholic Religious Education in the BEd
- Certificate in Religious Studies in conjunction with Catholic Religious Education in the PMEP
- Certificate in Religious Studies (part-time)

Froebel College/St Patrick's College, Maynooth

- Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies as part of BEd
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies as part of PMEd

Hibernia College

- Certificate as part of PME

Marino Institute of Education

- The Certificate Course as part of the BEd
- The Certificate Course as part of the PME

Mary Immaculate College

- Certificate in Religious Education in conjunction with the BEd
- Qualification to teach Catholic Religious Education as part of the Professional Masters in Education (PME)
- Certificate in Religious Education (Graduate Programme)

St Angela's College, Sligo

- Certificate in Primary School Religious Education (part-time)

St Mary's University, Belfast

- Certificate as part of BEd Primary
- Certificate as part of PGCE (Postgraduate qualification)

The St Andrew's Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education, University of Glasgow

- Catholic Teacher's Certificate in Religious Education

A booklet explaining the necessary qualifications to teach Catholic Religious Education in Catholic Primary Schools is available [here](#).

CCRS Supplementary Course

Details are available [here](#).

DCU – Supplementary Course

- [Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies Supplementary \(in fulfilment of Appendix A of this document for those in possession of a CCRS from the Bishops of England and Wales\)](#)