



14-19 General Religious Education

The Process And Criteria For The Accrediting Approval Of General Religious Education In Catholic Schools With Sixth Forms and Catholic Sixth Form Colleges

I. Schedule

A school/college will submit its programme of study through its Diocesan Religious Education Adviser for **approval to NBRIA/CES** at least every **four years**, or whenever the programme of study is *substantially* changed, *whichever is sooner*.

2. Eligibility For Funding

2.1 General Religious Education *must* demonstrate additionality, that is provision beyond that which is already funded, for example, for General Studies, enhancement etc.

2.2 General Religious Education will be taught usually at least once a week (30 hours teacher contact time per annum, in line with LSC guided learning hour requirements).

3.1 Criteria

In addition to the eligibility for funding described above, the criteria require that the general aims for Religious Education in our sixth forms in schools and colleges be met. These are:

- to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
- to enable the students to reflect critically on the ultimate questions of life;
- to develop skills required to engage in critical examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice in our culture;
- to enable each student to explore and to respect different faith traditions within contemporary society;
- to help each student to develop and be able to articulate their own faith positions;
- to enable each student to appreciate the relationship between religious belief, personal faith and lived experience;
- to enable each student to develop the skills and attitudes to respond to the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

3.2 Intended learning outcomes

Each qualification contains one unit which identifies the learning outcomes and the associated assessment criteria for the respective level of qualification. (See Attachments)

3.3 Areas of Study

The Bishops' Conference Religious Education Curriculum Directory (1996) states that: *The facets of Catholic faith in the Areas of Study¹ provide direction and content for Sixth Form Religious Education* (CD, page 12) These areas of study are underpinned by four key documents and other related documents of the Second Vatican Council and subsequent Vatican, national and diocesan documents.

3.4 Assessment

All assessment will be organised and conducted by the school or college.

- There will be initial assessment to establish the student starting point.
- Assessment for learning underpins progression and will be a feature throughout the programme.
- There will be recognition and recording of progress and achievement during the programme; this will be measured against identified learning outcomes, contained within the respective qualifications, coupled with student self-review.
- There will be summative assessment of overall progress and achievement, including student self-assessment and tutor assessment.

3.5 Quality assurance

- The programme is endorsed (re-endorsed) by the Diocesan Adviser for Religious Education and approved by NBRIA/CES;
- The NOCN qualifications have been approved by QCA for inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF);
- The school or college maintains an up-to-date register of attendance and keeps accurate records of participation and completion rates; these are readily available to the diocesan adviser, NOCN, or the LSC;
- The programme is subject to regular inspection by a nominated inspector (colleges) or a Section 48 or 50 inspector (schools);
- The qualifications are subject to NOCN approved processes for internal moderation, external moderation and standardisation;
- The external moderator makes the final decision and authorises the award of the qualifications.

¹ The Areas of Study are:

Revelation: Story, Scripture, Memory and Tradition of the Church based on the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (**Dei Verbum**, Vatican II, Nov. 1965),

Community: Church, Community of Believers, Pilgrim People of God based on the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (**Lumen Gentium**, Vatican II Nov. 1964),

Celebration: Sacrament, Ritual, Prayer, Worship, Liturgy based on the Constitution on the Sacred liturgy (**Sacrosanctum Concilium**, VaticanII, Dec. 1963) am]

Way of Life: Lifestyle, Morality, Values, Attitudes based on the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (**Gaudium et Spes**, Vatican II, Dec. 1965).

4. Preparing a submission

- The school or college should supply the necessary information by completing the *cover sheet* and providing, on separate sheets, an **outline description of the general religious education programme**, and how it will be delivered which includes:
 - aims;
 - methodology;
 - identification of how intended NOCN learning objectives and related assessment criteria will be addressed through your submission.
- The submission must be accompanied by a rationale which demonstrates the programme's distinctive Catholicity, its attentiveness to the centrality of the documents of Vatican II, its responsiveness to the needs of the students, and its accessibility to all students.

5. Certification

- NOCN will issue certificates to students who have successfully achieved the qualifications. A record of all certificates issued is kept by the school or college.
- The LSC may have access to information about certificates issued, for example, numbers and dates in any school or college.

June 2007/JQ