

# The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies



Governors, teachers and the Church community together contribute to the Catholic character of our schools. The School, in collaboration with the home and the parish, has a privileged opportunity and responsibility to help our pupils grow in their faith. To achieve this, we need to help teachers in our schools to share the vision and have an adult understanding of their faith. They also need to be well informed about the ideals and the aims of the Catholic school.

**The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies** is a qualification which seeks to ensure that teachers have at least a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic Faith. It is more exacting than its predecessors, the *Catholic Teachers' Certificate* and the *Certificate in Religious Education*.

For those involved in Catholic Education, Curriculum RE, and the

Parish Catechesis this Certificate provides a basis for further study.

The Certificate (C.C.R.S) is awarded by the **Board of Religious Studies of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**.

## Some Questions and Answers about the Certificate (C.C.R.S)

### What are the aims of the Course?

- To give an understanding of the central truths of the Catholic Faith; To develop an appreciation of the principles of Catholic Education; To highlight the role and function of RE within the whole school.

### How is the Course structured?

- There are eight modules in total:
- six core modules
- two specialist modules
- Each module requires ten hours of Course time and an assignment;
- The certificate is normally awarded after two years' study, with a maximum of five years' to complete from the start of the first module.



### What is the content of the Course?

- The core modules explore such areas as the Scriptures, the Person of Jesus, the Church and its sacramental life, moral understanding; The specialist modules relate either to the teacher's work in the school or to pastoral and other work.

### Who should have the Certificate?

- It is hoped that all teachers in our schools would have the Certificate.

### Does the Certificate equip a teacher to teach Religious Education?

- This is a basic qualification;
- It is hard to think of a teacher being able to handle a contemporary RE programme without the basic theology this Certificate offers.

### Does the Certificate say anything about the religious commitment of the teacher?

- No. All the Certificate can do is to say that a teacher has satisfactorily completed the required Course.
- It cannot and does not attempt to vouch for personal beliefs, qualities or attributes.

### Is the C.C.R.S only available to Catholics?

- No. Some students who are not Catholics choose to study in a Catholic College or accredited centre and follow up the C.C.R.S Course. The Certificate is awarded to all students who complete the Course satisfactorily.

### Is the C.C.R.S only available to teachers?

- No. The Certificate is designed for people who are engaged in communication of their Catholic Faith, whether directly or indirectly. It is open to catechists, people involved in liturgical work and other interested adults. In some dioceses, it forms part of the diaconate training programme. It is also a useful programme for the Governors of Catholic schools.

## WESTMINSTER CCRS COURSE



In Westminster Diocese the CCRS is offered in a way that is as accessible as possible to those who wish to take the CCRS course.

This consists of a blended learning approach which can involve group study, tutorial sessions and on-line and telephone tutorial support. Our aim is to enable participants to access the course in the way that is the most beneficial and convenient.



*For more information about the*

### **Westminster CCRS Course**

Please contact:

***The CCRS Course Director***

*by emailing:*

**ccrs@rcdow.org.uk**

Or calling: **0207 798 9150**

