




February 2024

Re: The RE Curriculum Resource Contribution 2024 - to Principals of Catholic Schools and Colleges

Dear Principal,

I hope 2024 has begun well for you, your staff, and the young people in your care. The NCRS team feel privileged to be playing a role in your mahi of nurturing the young people who have just joined, or are returning to, your school. We remain fully committed to supporting Religious Education in Catholic schools on behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops, and as part of Te Kupenga - Catholic Leadership Institute, particularly as we focus on developing resources for the new RE curriculum *To Tātou Whakapono Our Faith*.

As I hope you are aware, I e-mailed the following to all Catholic school principals on the 7th of December:

Apologies for the timing of this e-mail so close to the end of the year, but I'm writing to give you a heads-up that after keeping The Curriculum Resource Contribution at \$10 (Incl. GST) per student for the past 4 years, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference have recently informed us of an **increase to the Curriculum Resource Contribution for 2024** from \$10 (incl. GST) to **\$11** (Incl. GST) per student for 2024. This is a small step to acknowledge inflation over that long period of time. Though things will still be tight financially for NCRS in these challenging times, please be assured that we work hard to manage costs and salaries effectively as we continue to resource  [Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith](#) – the new RE curriculum.

I am also very conscious that times are tough for families. We remain committed to ensuring that every child in a Catholic school in Aotearoa receives much more than \$11 worth of quality Religious Education support from NCRS. We are very grateful for the many interactions with principals, DRs and other teachers who regularly give us feedback on the value of our mahi as it connects with the young people in your care.

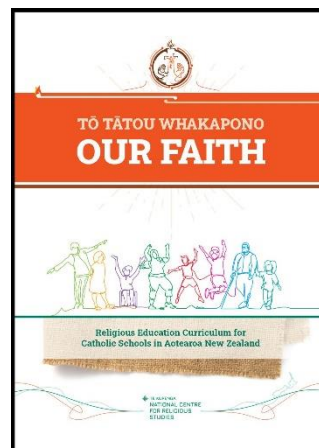
The RE **Curriculum Resource Contribution** (CRC), ensures NCRS retains the capacity to support you, DRs, teachers and young people with a quality RE curriculum and resources. Our team consists of 3 full-time, and 3 part-time RE professionals, all with significant classroom experience and most holding current Teacher Registration.

So, what does NCRS do? (Where does your Curriculum Resource Contribution money go?)

Championing Religious Education: NCRS is the major 'champion' of RE in Aotearoa NZ Catholic schools. We are the agency, within Te Kupenga - Catholic Leadership Institute, mandated with this task by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference. We are 100% committed: to RE; to RE teachers & DRs; to supporting the diocesan RE advisors (REAs); to developing and resourcing the RE Curriculum; to 'being real' about expectations on DRs and RE teachers; to understanding the complexities of this challenging work. We respond to requests for PLD input, we write, co-ordinate, lead meetings, read, and research 48 weeks in the year.



Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith: For the past four years our major work has been finalising the new RE curriculum and generating associated resources for Aotearoa Catholic schools. [Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith](#) (TTWOF) is now available on www.ourfaith.nz, including introductory videos, learning intentions and the projected timeline for roll-out. Principals, DRs, RE teachers and Boards are encouraged to read the curriculum document and become familiar with the contents.



We have already created materials for Years 1 - 4 and Years 9 - 12, and this year we'll be focussing on producing resources for Years 5 – 8 (secondary DRs have particularly been asking for 7 & 8 content). It's an exciting phase of development and we've greatly appreciated the very positive responses and continuing advice we've received from individual e-mails and REA workshop feedback. This year the REAs in each diocese are continuing to support schools to prepare for and implement *Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith*. NCRS is very grateful for the wonderful working relationship we have with all the REAs and assure you of our shared commitment to supporting staff and students in this new phase of Religious Education in Aotearoa.

Curriculum Website: The new site, www.ourfaith.nz, went live in July 2023. It remains a work in progress as we continue to populate the content over the next two years. Teachers who do not know the username and password for teacher content can gain it from their local REA or e-mail me directly. In response to teacher requests the old sites, FaithAlive (www.faithalive.org.nz) and FaithCentral (www.faithcentral.nz), will remain in place for several years but will no longer be supported/developed.

PLD Videos/Symposium content: Te Kupenga and NZCEO have organised 5 interactive sessions on the TTWOF Te Rama Aroha Cross-Themes [Grace](#), [Holiness](#), [Wisdom](#), [Justice](#) and [Prayer](#).

Sexuality Education support: *Having Life to the Full* (HL2F) is now well established in dioceses and Lyn Smith continues to take the NCRS lead in this area. He Mea Hanga Mīharo ki tō te Atua Āhua – [Wonderfully Made in God's Image](#) is established as our Sexuality Framing document, incorporating MoE directives. We're receiving good feedback on the "[Sexuality Resource Grids](#)" to further support delivery and decision-making around content. Schools have also given positive feedback on [Aroha and Diversity](#). NCRS will meet in March with all diocesan leads in the area of human sexuality education to gain specific feedback and set future direction.

FaithJourney: (www.faithjourney.nz) This site is not linked to the formal curriculum but is designed with an intention to provide another means for families with children in your school, and those not in Catholic schools, to engage at home in developing their Catholic faith.

NCEA: The secondary review of Achievement Standards continues to be a fraught process, however, NCRS is as involved as possible. I chair the Religious Studies teachers association and remain part of the MoE Subject Expert Group for RS along with several RE teachers from Catholic schools. This does not necessarily mean the Catholic voice is 'heard', but we are at the table. TTWOF content has been written with the NCEA review in mind, but constant changes in the standards have made this a challenge. Our commitment is to get appropriate and quality material on the ground for secondary teachers which supports the NZ bishops' expectations of Religious Education in Aotearoa and retains opportunity for students to gain NCEA credits. In subsequent years we fully intend to revisit our content once the standards have settled. We encourage teachers to be creative with the content we provide as the frustrating seas of the NCEA review continue. (N.B. The reason we have off-set writing year 13 content and are instead focussing on years 7 & 8 this year is simply because we have no idea what the ministry might expect of RS students for Level 3, drafting of the standards has not even begun. We shall wait and see – with as much input as we can achieve - then we aim to produce materials with appropriate NCEA synergy.)



Various Generic Resources we've made for you:

- [Praying the Sign of the Cross](#) in 35 different languages! (Thanks to responses to our request from generous teachers and young people in our schools.)
- A printable 2023/24 [Liturgical Year Poster](#) (N.B. The new perpetual Liturgical Year poster is available from [Pleroma](#)).
- A [dynamic-PowerPoint](#) of the 2022/23 Liturgical Year Poster for teaching in class.
- Inspiration – Printable **Catholic Pioneer Bookmarks** for [Science](#), [Literature](#) and [Spirituality](#)
- Inspiration – Printable **Catholic Pioneer Posters** for [Science](#), [Literature](#) and [Spirituality](#).
- Vocation – [Printable Teach RE Posters](#) – to prompt students to think of becoming an RE teacher.
- Printable [Hākarameta Sacrament](#) Posters (N.B. large file to download).

It is through the Curriculum Resource Contribution that NCRS is able to support effective curriculum development, and provision of resources for Religious Education and Catholic Character. As always, we welcome any suggestions from you as principal, or any of your staff, as to how we can better serve the young people and staff at your school in effective teaching and learning of Religious Education.

Finally, I do wish to thank all those principals, DRs and teachers who have given us feedback throughout the journey thus far in these very challenging times. As the REAs are taking the lead in PLD, our focus this year is very much on hunkering down to the mahi and producing resources for you. However, please, be assured we will also continue to respond quickly to requests from schools – just drop us a line.

I wish you all the very best for 2024.

Please keep us in your prayers, as we do you in ours,

Kind regards, and blessings in your work,



Colin MacLeod

Director NCRS

Additional Information

1. **Easy link** to the NZCEO document regarding the Curriculum Resource:
 - NZCEO's advice on managing payment: (www.tinyurl.com/NCRS-CRC20)

