



Online Learning with the

Diocese of Lancaster
Education Service

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

2013 - 2014

Course Details

Online Learning in Religious Studies

INTRODUCTION

Online Learning in Religious Studies enables participants to acquire the basic knowledge needed by those actively engaged in Catholic education and those who are interested in handing on the faith in their parishes and in their families. This includes catechists, teachers, parish workers, school governors, chaplains, young adults, parents and grandparents. It is open to those who reside outside of the Diocese.

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?



The course recognises the need for formal theological training for teachers, catechists, school governors and others. In the Diocese of Lancaster, participants following the course include teachers (seeking to obtain the certificate for the first time or following it as a refresher course), parish catechists, school governors, students from the University of Cumbria and any who seeks formal accreditation of their studies in the Catholic faith. The CCRS is part of the Lancaster Diocese Adult Formation Programme.

Although the course has practical elements, it should not be regarded as a course in 'How to teach' but rather as providing the theological foundation on which practical expertise can be developed. The course content is validated by the Board of Studies of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and is to be completed within a maximum of five years study.

Both within the Diocese in a Catholic school and nationally, the certificate is seen as a very desirable qualification, particularly for school teachers, and an essential one for leadership posts. The course helps school governors to fulfil their responsibilities for the R.E. Curriculum in their schools in an informed way. Why not take a look at ['Lancaster Diocese Online Learning'](http://vle.dles.lancsngfl.ac.uk) at <http://vle.dles.lancsngfl.ac.uk>.

THE COURSE AIMS:

- To provide an opportunity for adults committed to developing their contribution to Catholic education to acquire a basic theological understanding of their faith.
- To proclaim a vision of education as a process of personal growth encompassing physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual aspects.
- To employ and encourage sound educational processes which express Gospel values.
- To enhance understanding of education within the Church as a lifelong process.
- To incorporate an approach which seeks to engage with the cultural realities of society and to encourage dialogue with and understanding of other faiths and denominations.
- To enable teachers, potential teachers and governors in Catholic schools to understand the principles of Catholic education.
- To enable those involved in parish ministries and catechesis to make an informed and harmonious contribution to their chosen field of work.

Course Leader

The course will be led and supported by Christine Smith who also provides student support through personal email, Open Forums, feedback on activities and assignments.

Christine Smith is: Ecclesiastical B. Divinity – Ecclesial Service (Hons), BA Applied Theology - Catechesis (Hons), BA Business Studies (Hons), Cert Education, Cert Christian Facilitation, Cert Spiritual Direction. Course Tutor and Online Learning Co-ordinator for the Diocesan Education Service.

The Modules

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The course is modular in structure, with six core and two specialist modules. Modules are individually certificated allowing participants the possibility of taking one or two modules at a time and building up to the full certificate. These online modules will allow you greater flexibility in study time by enabling you to access the modules on any day, at any time, convenient to yourself.

The participant is expected to complete three core modules and one specialist module in each of the two years of the course.

Each module requires ten hours online study time and includes online learning activities. As modules are individually certificated, an 80% online record will be required for each module and the successful completion of a 1,500 word assignment.

2013–2014 – Year 1 Students

Greater Flexibility Online: The course is available to study at any time throughout the year. Simply complete the application form and return it to the address given and you can start straight away!

INTRODUCTORY MODULE:

The purpose of this module is to develop participants' understanding and operation of the various components of the modules. To appreciate and experience the sense of the online community and the requirements of the course assessment process.

SPECIALIST MODULE 1:

INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The purpose of this module is to develop participants' understanding and appreciation of the essential and fundamental contents, and the structure of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This specialist module Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church has been developed for the Course as part of the *Fit for Mission? Schools* review.

CORE MODULES:

OLD TESTAMENT:

The purpose of this module is to introduce participants to the writings in the Old Testament in order to help them to recognise God's revelation contained there and its continuing relevance in Christian life today.

NEW TESTAMENT:

The purpose of this module is to familiarise participants with the process through which the New Testament writings came into being and to help them interpret the material presented and understand its significance for the life of a Christian today.

JESUS CHRIST:

The purpose of this module is to deepen participants' awareness of the significance and centrality of the person and work of Jesus Christ in the daily life of the Christian as well as in the worship of the Church.

2013–2014 – Year 2 Students

CHURCH:

The purpose of this module is to enable participants to reflect on the nature of the Church and its mission in the world today.

SACRAMENTS:

The purpose of this module is to develop participants' understanding and appreciation of Sacrament in the life of Catholics as a sign of Christ's continuing presence with the Church.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY:

The purpose of this module is to help participants develop the skills of moral decision-making, to examine Christian teaching in its relation to the universal search for what constitutes "human good", and to explore the application of Christian understanding to some contemporary moral issues.

SPECIALIST 2 MODULE:

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY:

The purpose of this module is to develop participants' understanding of the teaching of the Church in the Scriptures, Church documents and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in relation to life and contemporary culture.

Fees

APPLICATIONS

An Application Form is included in this booklet (or available online ['Lancaster Diocese Online Learning'](#)). Applicants should complete the appropriate sections and return the form as soon as possible to ensure a place on the course.

Full Course

The full course fee is £440.00 for online tuition for all eight modules plus £20.00 CCRS registration fee, therefore Year 1 fees are £240.00 and Year 2 fees are £220.00. Prior to the start of each year's course participants are required to pay the year's fee in full.

Participants are responsible for the payment of their own fees. In recent years almost all teachers have recovered their fees from their school. This is a matter for negotiation between would-be participants and their Headteacher. Catechists may wish to approach their Parish Priest or sponsoring body for financial assistance.

Occasional Modules

Occasional modules are £65.00 each. Payment to be sent with the application form.

Payment

Please ensure that cheques are made payable to "Lancaster Education Centre" and sent to:

The Education Centre, Balmoral Road, LANCASTER, LA1 3BT Tel: 01524 841190