



# SPECIAL CHARACTER FACT SHEET

## Time allocation for Religious Education

This time allocation was approved by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference on 11 May 2011.

### Primary schools

The following is the **minimum** requirement for the teaching of Religious Education in a Catholic primary school in New Zealand per five teaching days per week:

Total time	Spread of lessons
Years 1 and 2: 100 minutes	5 x 20
Years 3 and 4: 100 minutes	5 x 20 or 4 x 25
Years 5 and 6: 120 minutes	4 x 30
Years 7 and 8: 150 minutes	5 x 30

The Bishops specified that minimum teaching time refers to the number of minutes per five school days per week. It excludes prayer, retreats, liturgies etc. They also requested that Religious Education be allotted prime time, the first period of the day, for instance.

If Religious Education is integrated across the curriculum schools must be careful to ensure that enough time is devoted to Religious Education and that the specific RE curriculum is covered.

### Secondary schools

The table below gives the **minimum** requirement for the teaching of Religious Education in a Catholic secondary school in New Zealand per five teaching days per week, as approved by the NZCBC in May 2011. **Minimum teaching time** refers to the number of minutes per five school days per week. It excludes prayer, retreats, liturgies, etc.

Minimum requirements for the teaching of Religious Education in a Catholic secondary school	
Minimum teaching time as from 1 January 2012	
Years 7–8	150 minutes
Years 9–10	150 minutes
Years 11–13	180 minutes

Minimum teaching time does not include time given to prayer, retreats, liturgies.