



SPECIAL CHARACTER FACT SHEET

Time allocation for Religious Education

This time allocation was mandated by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference in *Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith: Religious Education curriculum for Catholic Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand* (NZCBC, 2024).

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 minimum teaching time refers to the number of minutes per five school days per week. It excludes prayer, retreats, liturgies etc. Religious Education is also to 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 all the specific Religious Education teaching objectives are.

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 mandated by NZCBC (2024). **Minimum teaching time** refers to the number of minutes per five school days per week.

Minimum requirements for the teaching of Religious Education in a Catholic secondary school	
Minimum teaching time	
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.