

Teacher Registration Policy



Mercy College is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS), where formation and education are based on the principles of Catholic doctrine, and where the teachers are outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life.

Purpose

Registration of teachers working in Catholic, government and independent school settings is a joint endeavour involving teachers, mentors, leaders, employers, sectors and jurisdictions, and is underpinned by the National Framework for Teacher Registration (the Framework) that was endorsed by all state education ministers in 2011. The Framework embedded the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers* for gaining and maintaining registration across all Australian states and sectors.

The policy and procedures outlined in this document relate to the information about the requirements for teachers working at Mercy College, and the information about teacher registration that is kept by the school. As per the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) policy, there are additional requirements to gain and maintain accreditation to teach in a Catholic school that also apply to teachers at Mercy College.

Scope

This Policy applies to teachers employed at Mercy College.

Definitions

Accreditation to teach in a Catholic school: Leaders and teachers require accreditation to teach in a Catholic school to ensure the Church's mission and purpose are understood. There are two levels of accreditation – Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School, and Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School – both of which must be gained and maintained.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) provides national leadership for the Australian states and territories in promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership.

C Number is an allocated identification number for staff that is used in the Catholic education system in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

A **mentor** (working with provisionally registered teachers) is an experienced teacher who has completed a Victorian Institute of Teaching-approved mentoring program and is assigned as a mentor to support a provisionally registered teacher through the process of moving from provisional to full registration.

Permission to Teach (PTT) is used to address a shortfall in qualified staff, or as a pathway to teacher registration. It is a non-renewable form of registration and limited to a three-year grant. If a teacher holds PTT, then they are **not** registered as a qualified teacher.

Provisionally registered teachers are those new to the profession and/or who have not yet practised as a qualified teacher in an Australian or New Zealand school, or are returning to the teaching profession after an absence of five or more years.

A **registered teacher** is a qualified teaching professional suitable to practise as a teacher in a Victorian school or early childhood setting. A registered teacher is one who demonstrates the following requirements:

- a demonstrated proficiency in the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers*
- the ability to maintain professional practice
- suitability to teach.

Registration as a teacher is an important mechanism to assure the safety, competency and quality of the profession. Its design is underpinned by a clear intent to set and uphold high standards of professional practice.

Registration conditions are conditions that may have been placed on a teacher's registration which should be recorded in the Victorian Institute of Teaching register.

Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) is an independent statutory authority which regulates members of the teaching profession. All teachers must be registered with the VIT in order to be employed in a school in Victoria.

VIT register is a register of VIT registration numbers, category, limitations (if any), and renewal and expiry dates for each teacher. This register is maintained at Mercy College by the Principal or authorised delegate in electronic format.

Working with Children Check (WWCC) is required for child-related work in Victoria. Teachers registered with the VIT are exempt from the requirement to obtain a WWCC as the VIT registration process includes checks for suitability for child-related work. Teachers must notify Working with Children Check Victoria (WWCCV) of any child-related work they do outside the school (whether paid or voluntary). In the event a teacher's VIT registration is suspended or cancelled, WWCCV may notify the organisations listed that the teacher exemption no longer applies. To notify WWCCV of other child-related work, teachers must complete the 'Teacher notification' form.

Policy

All teachers practising in Victorian Catholic schools are required to be registered with the VIT, the independent authority which regulates members of the teaching profession.

Recruitment of teachers is in accordance with the MACS staffing and recruitment policies.

Teacher registration – limitations

Provisionally registered teachers

Provisional registration is granted until teachers demonstrate they meet the standards at the Proficient Teacher level. Teachers have a period of two years to demonstrate that they:

- possess an application of knowledge in teaching situations where the individual has full professional responsibility for the learning of students
- meet the *Australian Professional Standards for Teachers* at the Proficient Teacher level
- have had at least 80 days teaching experience in an Australian or New Zealand school.

A mentor will be assigned to a provisionally registered teacher seeking full registration. More information about the process to attaining full registration is available on the [VIT website](#).

Permission to Teach (PTT)

PTT may be granted to teachers offered short-term employment at Mercy College to undertake the duties of a teacher in delivering and/or assessing student participation in the school's curriculum program when a more suitable and registered applicant is not available.

The individual staff member makes an application to the VIT for PTT. This application requires an endorsement from the Principal as part of the application process that indicates why this exemption to employ an unqualified teacher is sought. Refer to the VIT's [Permission to Teach Policy](#) (2020) for more information.

Registration conditions

Teachers may have conditions placed on their registration by the VIT. These conditions can relate to any of the following:

- **agreed:** conditions imposed on a teacher's registration, or imposed through a voluntary agreement with the teacher, which may relate to concerns about health or conduct
- **special needs:** conditions placed on teachers who have not yet met the special needs requirement for professional development
- **returning from non-practising:** conditions placed on teachers returning to teaching after a period of leave to complete 20 days of teaching and 20 hours of professional development
- **literacy and numeracy:** conditions placed on a graduate teacher who is yet to pass the national Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education (LANTITE). Refer to the information about LANTITE on the [VIT website](#).

Conditions are usually placed for a period of 6–12 months, with documentation required to meet the condition(s); however, this may differ depending on individual circumstances.

The condition(s) will be noted in Mercy College VIT register and the school will work with the individual teacher to identify ways to meet the condition(s).

Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School

There are two levels of accreditation in recognition of the different roles that leaders and teachers undertake:

1. Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School (gain and maintain)
2. Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School (gain and maintain).

All teachers employed by Mercy College are required to gain and maintain Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School. All teachers of Religious Education and leaders are required to gain and maintain Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School.

Note: Meeting the study and currency requirements of Accreditation to Teach Religious Education or Lead in a Catholic School also satisfies the requirements of Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School.

Teachers should refer to the Accreditation to Teach and to Teach Religious Education or Lead in Catholic Schools in Victoria policy available on the [CECV website](#).