

Catholic schools aspire to create an open, happy, stimulating, and mutually respectful community environment in which young people are able to develop the full range of their abilities and talents in a balanced, integrated and generous way.

Irish Episcopal Conference, Vision 08



A PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

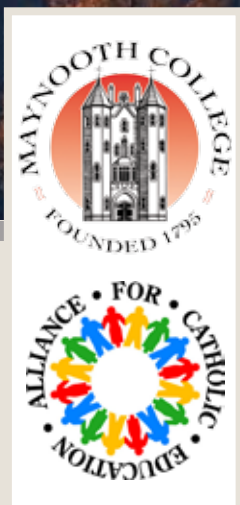
DCE

Diploma in Catholic Education

The Diploma in Catholic Education at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, is an initiative borne out of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) programme, administered by the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, USA.

The Commitment:

- A weekly evening class
- A community gathering once a month
- Retreat experiences
- A fortnight's summer school in the west of Ireland



St Patrick's College Maynooth

This programme is intended to enhance the participant's formation as teachers in Catholic schools. The coming together of expertise and experiences of these two institutions is an innovative, exciting and vibrant synergy.

St Patrick's is perfectly placed to offer the Diploma in Catholic Education, as it has been at the heart of the Catholic Church in Ireland since 1795.

This programme seeks to encourage and support committed and enthusiastic teachers to be aware of their own faith and how it should impact their role as educators in Catholic schools. The Diploma in Catholic Education (DCE) is concerned with supporting teachers in their professional role and helping them to build a community of faith-filled practitioners, which is underpinned by a reflective personal and communal spirituality.'

“ It was a fantastic experience and a chance to meet new people and develop my faith. It is an excellent programme and a diploma that will certainly stand out for any job applications in the future. The people involved in the course are extremely helpful, friendly and generous. ”

The programme is designed to:

- a) Provide students with an education and formation enabling them to become teachers, capable of contributing positively to the ethos of a Catholic school and nourishing themselves as reflective practitioners;
- b) Supply the school community with knowledgeable and professional teachers, able to sustain a school's ethos, while having the flexibility to respond to the changing environment of the school system.
- c) Contribute to the on-going development of the vocation of a Catholic teacher and the Catholic school sector, by way of critically engaged and reflective practitioners.

Therefore, the objectives of the Diploma in Catholic Education are to inspire a cohort of students to:

- a) A greater understanding of the theological foundation and history of Catholic Education.
- b) A more significant awareness of their role and responsibility as Catholic School teachers.
- c) A deeper sense of their own spirituality and how it is expressed through their day-to-day experience as teachers in Catholic schools.



Diploma in Catholic Education

Subject	Theology/Religious Education
Programme Title/Award	Diploma in Catholic Education (DCE)
NFQ Level	Level 8
Credits (ECTS)	30
Programme Duration	1 Year
Entry Requirements	Participation or completion of a recognised teaching qualification Interview
Programme Fee	€1,000

On successful completion of the programme,
the graduate should have:

Programme of Learning Outcomes

KNOWLEDGE TO

- Identify relevant knowledge and insights of Catholic theology, spirituality and educational tradition, as they relate to education
- Recognise important issues in relation to contemporary education in the Catholic school sector
- Demonstrate an awareness of Catholicism as a wider culture and community.

KNOW-HOW AND SKILL TO

- Discuss important insights of Catholic theology, spirituality and tradition
- Examine education issues from the perspective of the Catholic tradition
- Contribute effectively to the ethos of a school community
- Employ practices that develop personal and professional development.

COMPETENCE TO

- Demonstrate a grasp of Catholic theology, spirituality and tradition
- Appreciate a school ethos and engage positively and professionally with it.
- Evaluate, promote, and challenge if necessary, pedagogical and school practices, from the perspective of the Catholic tradition
- Act as self-motivated and reflective practitioner.



Drawing inspiration from the suite of programmes offered by the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), the Diploma in Catholic Education is based on three pillars: PROFESSIONALISM, SPIRITUALITY and COMMUNITY.

Pillars of the Programme

PROFESSIONALISM

Participants undertake classes at St Patrick's College, Maynooth that continues their formation as Catholic schoolteachers. As a capstone experience to the Diploma in Catholic Education, students will participate in a two-week summer school in the west of Ireland.

SPIRITUALITY

Participants in the programme will be encouraged to develop spiritually in the context of community. This will be achieved through:

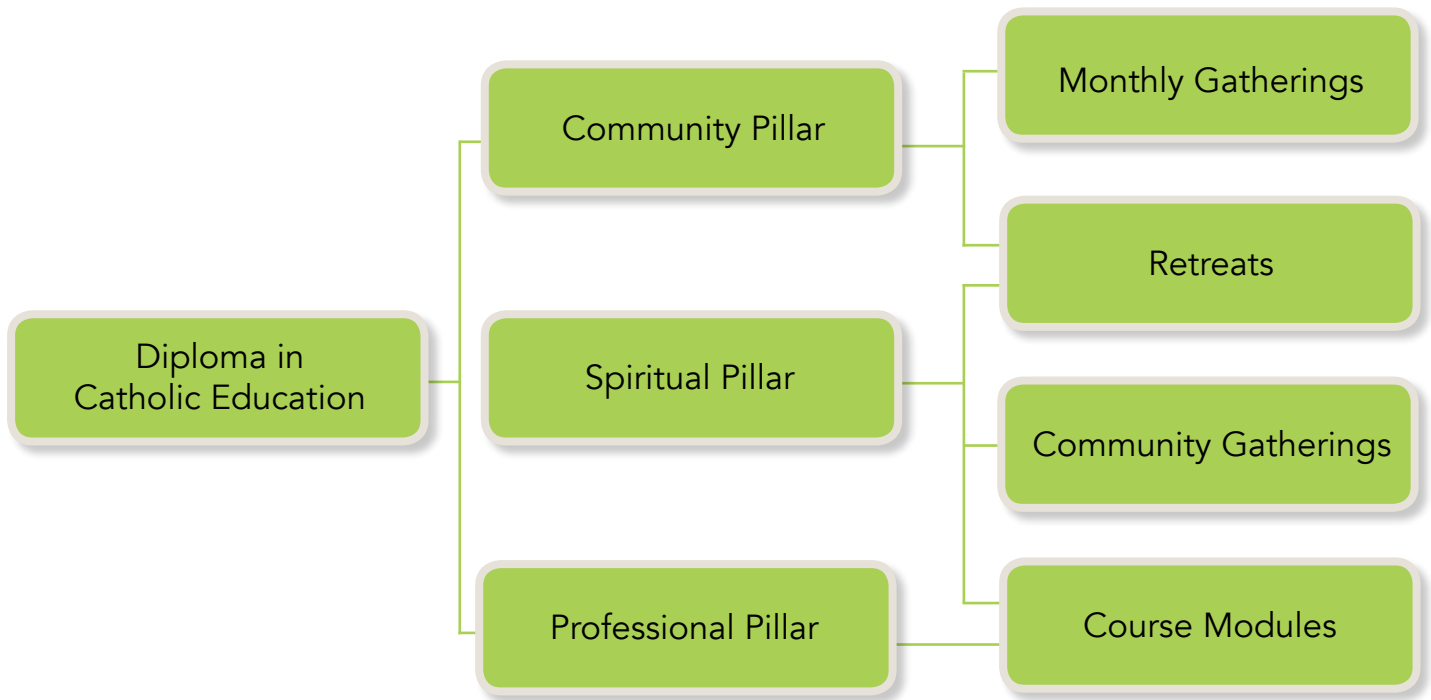
- Three retreat experiences
 - Opening retreat in October
 - Lenten retreat
 - Closing retreat in June
- Monthly opportunities for Mass and prayer
 - Students will meet with the Community Chaplain and Supervisor once a month for Mass and a social evening in St Patrick's College.

COMMUNITY

The participants in the Diploma in Catholic Education will be asked to form a community outside the academic component of the programme. Students will be required to meet monthly to celebrate Mass and dinner with the Community Chaplain and the Community Supervisor.



Programme Components





For further information contact

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