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**Dublin Diocesan *Seeds of Faith* Pilot Policy for the provision of
Religious Education for Catholic children attending schools
other than Catholic schools**

Dear Father, Deacon, Parish Pastoral Worker, Sacramental Co-ordinator,

I am pleased to introduce *Seeds of Faith*, the new Diocesan Pilot Policy for the religious education of Catholic children attending schools other than Catholic schools.

Since the primary responsibility for the handing on of faith lies with families, any policy or pastoral approach must accompany them in their unique role. The parish is rightly called a 'school of faith' and as such needs support and encouragement in responding to the needs of our young people. The framework that is laid out in the Sacraments of Initiation Policy of the Archdiocese, *Accompanying Families* (2022), provides valuable guidance for this support.

The *Seeds of Faith* pilot policy has been brought together by the Office for Mission and Ministry and the Education Secretariat. They have been supported in this work by the Area Episcopal Vicars, listening to the needs that have been voiced at Deanery Meetings and requests for help. Two listening exercises were carried out and the feedback incorporated into the material.

A pilot programme for the academic year 2023-2024 is now being launched. Five parishes have agreed to participate, representing very different pastoral situations. As well as an educational support for teachers, the policy offers guidance on the practical tasks of organising classes, safeguarding, GDPR and other statutory regulations that must be taken into account in all parish activities.

I am grateful to all the parishes of the Diocese who have facilitated the religious education of Catholic children attending schools other than Catholic schools. It is timely, though, that we adopt a co-ordinated approach.

We remember all of the families of our Diocese, particularly those who at this time are celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. May the Risen Lord guide and protect them now and always.

Yours sincerely,


+Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin

