

November 2019

To School Boards of Trustees, Principals and DRS

Clarification of the Curriculum Resource Contribution 2020

1. A number of schools have asked for clarification about how they should pay the NCRS Curriculum Resource Contribution for Religious Education, previously known as the Curriculum Development Levy (although some may refer to it as the Faith Alive Levy or the Digital Resource Fee for Religious Education). It is now known as the **Curriculum Resource Contribution** (CRC). Some schools have expressed concern about how this relates to their acceptance of the new Ministry of Education Donations scheme for decile 1-7 schools to access the \$150 payment in lieu of donations.
2. The MoE has made it clear that schools may not require parents to pay costs associated with curriculum and camps although they accept that a donation may be sought.
3. Some years ago NZCEO established that operating grants of schools can be used to pay costs associated with resources and training for Religious Education as a curriculum item.
4. The CRC is simply another curriculum charge which is invoiced to the Board and is paid to the NZCBC. It is subject to GST.
5. Schools currently pay levies or membership fees for a range of activities including curriculum, sport or culture. The CRC is a similar levy associated with the work of the school.
6. Even with the new scheme the Proprietor retains the right to seek donations for Special Character and this is guaranteed by the legislation relating to Integration. These items include chaplaincy and resources for liturgy.
7. If Boards believe that parents should be asked to contribute to the CRC then Decile 1-7 schools in the MoE Donations scheme can seek a donation on behalf of the Proprietor and pay the money to the Proprietor. Schools outside the donations scheme can seek a donation to help cover the cost directly to the Board. If the money is paid to the Proprietor, in decile 1-7 schools, he/they could choose to donate the money back to the Board but this would need to be clearly documented for audit purposes.
8. Proprietors and the Government have agreed within their Integration Agreement to ensure that the Special Character is protected. As part of this Proprietors have mandated that their RE curricula be taught in Catholic schools. The CRC is a way of ensuring that what we teach supports and promotes the Special Character without compromising the mission of the school.

9. Where an independent Proprietor Board runs a school, the Bishop of the Diocese retains the authority to direct the Religious Education Programme and mandate the CRC.

I trust that this helps Boards and Principals understand the implications created by the new MoE Donation scheme and the Ministry focus on managing what parents are asked to pay. NZCEO does not seek to circumvent any expectation of the Ministry for the proper use of Government funds.

Ngā mihi nui koutou

Paul Ferris
Chief Executive Officer