



# ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN

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

**24 June 2024**

Dear Father, Deacon, Pastoral Worker, Faith Development Worker, Sacramental Co-ordinator,

I am pleased to introduce *Seeds of Faith*, the new Diocesan Policy for the religious education of Catholic children attending schools other than Catholic schools, approved now and mandated for use in parishes and partnerships of parishes in the Archdiocese of Dublin, from summer 2024.

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.

Building on this, the *Seeds of Faith* Policy has been brought together by the Office of Mission & Ministry and the Education Secretariat. They have been supported in this work by the Area Episcopal Vicars, listening to the needs, and requests for help, voiced at Deanery Meetings and other fora. I want to thank all involved for the great effort in putting this Policy together for use across the Archdiocese.

I am particularly grateful to all the parishes who piloted *Seeds of Faith* over the past year, and to those who have already facilitated the religious education of Catholic children attending schools other than Catholic schools in a variety of contexts. The pilot parishes found the structure and guidance available here, with some small changes and additions following evaluation, to be very helpful in organising and delivering classes. As well as educational support for teachers in using the *Grow in Love* programme in this manner, the Policy offers important assistance with the practical tasks of organising classes, ensuring appropriate attention to safeguarding, GDPR and other statutory regulations that must be taken into account in all parish activities.

It is timely, now, that we adopt a co-ordinated approach, and support each other. In employing the *Seeds of Faith* Policy, we will be able to ensure that all our young people have access, in a coherent and unified manner, to faith-supporting religious education in the Catholic school or in the parish as provided for in this policy document.

We are companions on the journey, we and our young people, as we seek a harvest, rich in faith, hope and love, for each other and for our parish communities.

With every blessing, and gratitude for your promotion of *Seeds of Faith*,

**+Dermot Farrell**  
**Archbishop of Dublin**