

General Religious Education

Below is the approved text from NOCN for the Birmingham website to show the relationship between NOCN and NBRIA. If you require more and/or different information please get in touch and we will do our best to get it to you.

NOCN is one of the largest awarding organisations in the UK with 25 years experience; which is recognised by Ofqual, CCEA, SQA and Welsh Government. It works internationally and is one of the largest awarding organisations in the UK providing a wide range of qualifications and units under the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). NOCN has nearly 300 accredited qualifications and a large number of units. With over **2,500 centres** using NOCN qualifications they are used to the pressures and timescales of working with learning and training organisations who need to get things done. Working with schools, colleges, private training centres, employers and voluntary organisations NOCN supports young people and adults to reach their potential.

NOCN and NBRIA

The Catholic Church is committed to providing Religious Education of the highest standard to all students in Catholic schools. This led to the requirement, in 2007, for the development of a accredited qualification in General Religious Education. NOCN worked in collaboration with the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers [NBRIA] to develop and accredit a suite of qualifications aimed at meeting the needs of students specifically in Catholic school and college sixth forms but open to wider school and college use.

The close working relationship between NOCN and NBRIA continues to have many mutual benefits. It enables diocesan advisers to promote and support the rapid adoption of the qualification in Catholic schools across England and Wales and to provide the first level of quality assurance which in turn is monitored by NOCN staff.

The Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria of the qualification are such that schools and colleges are able to teach either a school- or college-specific or a diocesan course that addresses the needs and aspirations of their students and is in line with the *Curriculum Directory* and *14-19 Curriculum Guidance*. The availability and introduction of the qualification led to a renewed focus on General Religious Education in Years 12-13. Considerable curriculum development took place in and among institutions which in turn led to new and innovative courses, pedagogy and assessment. This has resulted in measurable improvement in student engagement in many schools and colleges.

In short, NOCN General Religious Education qualifications, which are now available at Entry 3, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3, have been instrumental in raising the quality and status of General Religious Education in Catholic schools, special schools and sixth form colleges across England and Wales. So far 117686 General Religious Education qualifications have been awarded, from Entry 3 through to Level 3, with a further 36000 registrations this year.