



Information: Aspiring Leaders Programme 2025-2026

This 18-month programme is to support teachers, Directors of Religious Studies, Deputy Principals, and Assistant Principals who are seeking to grow their careers in Catholic education. The focus is on growing Catholic faith leaders who have the capabilities to lead for the mission of the school therefore the Church.

The programme will be limited to 25 people who are intending to move into the next leadership level in a Catholic school within the **next three years**. Applications can be submitted by teachers and senior leaders in either Catholic state integrated schools or schools outside the Catholic school network.

Programme Eligibility and Guidelines

Applicants should be:

1. Catholic, as CL 47 a & b (principal and DRS) special character positions can only be filled by baptised Catholics. The programme also aims to grow Catholics educators for Catholic schools.
2. Identified as future leaders in Catholic Schools.
3. Committed to completing the 18-month programme and taking up other formation opportunities that will prepare them for faith leadership in a Catholic school.
4. Endorsed by the school through the principal, the school's proprietor, **or** the diocesan vicar or manager for Catholic education (see application form for contact details) outlining the applicant's ability and personal characteristics suitable for leadership in a Catholic school.

The Aspiring Leaders' Programme 2025-2026 consists of:

- Two days in Wellington-**May 12 & 13 2025** at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay.
- A series of regular online workshops and seminars providing further support and development opportunities for participants. These will be held via Zoom and outside teaching hours.
- Two final days in Wellington at the end of the programme in September 2026 (date to be advised).

Topics for the four face-to-face gatherings (May 2025 and September 2026) will include:

- A time of spiritual reflection and prayer
- A brief history of Catholic education in Aotearoa New Zealand

- Purpose and goals of Catholic education
- Leadership habits and skills/Building Catholic culture
- Faith Leadership in a Catholic school
- Leadership and Mission: Evangelisation and the New Evangelisation
- Catholic social teaching and decision-making
- Expectation and resilience: The application process
- Preparation for your future career in a Catholic school
- Young people in the Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
- Growing staff and students as Catholic leaders

Topics for online sessions will be determined by participants and NZCEO at the first of the two-day gatherings in May 2025.

There is no registration fee for the programme. NZCEO will also pay for accommodation (bed and breakfast) at the Home of Compassion for the May 2025 and September 2026 face to face days. If there is insufficient accommodation there, NZCEO will pay up to \$100 per person at an alternative hotel or motel on receipt of a tax invoice and proof of payment. The only other cost to participants will be teacher relief (if required), travel and evening meals.

If you have further questions about the programme please email Rosalie Connors, Manager, Special Character, NZCEO r.connors@nzceo.org.nz

To register click below complete the accompanying application form and return to r.connors@nzceo.org.nz by 1 November 2024.