



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region V – Bicol
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF CATANDUANES



September 29, 2022

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
OSDS-CID-DM- 470 S. 2022

REVITALIZATION OF ECUMENICAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

To: Chief Education Supervisor, CID
Public Schools District Supervisors
Elementary and Secondary School Heads

1. Pursuant to DepEd Order No. 49 s. 2009 titled *“Reiterating the Revised Rules and Regulations on the Teaching of Religion in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools”*, it is the policy of the State in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to encourage and promote the teaching of religion to children in public elementary and high schools within the regular class hours for the State is cognizant of the vital role that the teaching of religion assumes in citizen formation, particularly the molding of the youth. For this purpose and as part of the implementation of the 3-Year Division Character-Building Program, this division is revitalizing the **Ecumenical Religious Instruction in Schools** from Kindergarten to Grade 12 starting **SY 2022-2023 onwards**.

2. This activity aims to:

- a. strengthen spirituality among pupils and students;
- b. develop good manners and right and conduct to learners through values-based teachings of religion with respect to ecumenism; and
- c. create an atmosphere of harmonious relationship between the school and religious institutions, being one in developing holistic children.

3. Attached are the following:

- a. Enclosure No. 1 – DepEd Order no. 49 s. 2009
- b. Enclosure No. 2 – Implementing Guidelines on the Conduct of Religious Instruction in Schools
- c. Enclosure No. 3 – Application Form and Consent

4. In response to the intent of the Diocese of Virac of the Roman Catholic Church to offer religious instruction to children and cognizant with the paragraph 4 of the same DepEd Order which states that *“ordinary teachers in a certain school may also teach religion in the same school during the periods where they are free from their teaching loads”*, **Profiling of Volunteer Teacher-Catechists**





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(Regular teachers and LSAs) will be done in every school using this link:

<https://forms.gle/gZyo6jFdDNZQxAbU6>

The deadline is on or before October 28, 2022.

5. The services in religious instruction may form part as experience as Learner Support Aide (LSA).
6. For your information, guidance and compliance.

SUSAN S. COLLANO
Schools Division Superintendent

Enclosure No. 1 to Division Memorandum No. _____, s. 2022





MAY 14 2009

DepED ORDER
 No. 49 . s. 2009

REITERATING THE REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE TEACHING OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

To: Undersecretaries
 Assistant Secretaries
 Bureau Directors
 Regional Directors
 Schools Division/City Superintendents
 District Supervisors
 Heads, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, the provisions of DECS Order No. 120, s. 1999 on the abovementioned subject are hereby reiterated as follows:

- a. **Declaration of Policy** - It is the declared policy of the State in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to encourage and promote the teaching of religion to children in public elementary and secondary schools within the regular class hours. For the State is cognizant of the vital role that the teaching of religion assumes in citizen formation, particularly the molding of our youth. Hence, the State recognizes the necessity of religious instruction not only in the private schools but also in public schools. For these purposes, this Department shall provide hereunder the mechanics to enable the teaching of religion in all public elementary and secondary schools over the country, fully aware in the process that the Constitution prohibits the government from favoring a particular establishment or religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Furthermore, the implementation of this Order should not entail additional cost to the government;
- b. **Coverage** - This Order shall apply to all public elementary and secondary schools in the Philippines;
- c. **Definition of Terms** - As used in this Order, the following shall mean:
 - Religion - an institutionalized systems of beliefs, attitudes and practices;
 - Values Education - the integration into the school curriculum of universally accepted as well as Filipino human, social, moral, political, economic and cultural values;
 - Optional religious instruction - refers to the religion classes conducted in the public elementary and secondary for students/pupils whose parents opted to exercise their right

to request religious instruction for their children or ward. The optional character of religious instruction in public schools pertains as prerogative or choice of the parents or guardians of the children, who are free to request or not to request that the children under their care be instructed in the religion of their choice. The principal or school head shall accommodate said request by providing or sourcing the needed teacher/instructor. However, in the event said teacher/instructor for the chosen denomination or religion should be unavailable, Item g, below, shall apply;

- **Regular Class Hours** - refers to the regular or normal scheduled periods of instruction or laboratory work for a student; and
 - **Class Period** - the average length of time scheduled for one session or instructional period in a course.
- d. **The Teachers/Instructors** - The religious teachers/instructors who teach religion classes in the public elementary and high schools shall be formally sourced or recruited by the respective principal or school head in accordance with the corresponding request for optional religious instruction. After their designation or nomination by their respective religious authorities, said teachers/instructors shall submit to the principal or school head their proper authorization papers and request for time allocation and schedule for the optional religious instruction. Ordinary teachers teaching in a certain school may also teach religion in the same or another school during the periods when they are free from their ordinary teaching loads, and provided they are authorized to do so by the competent religious authority of their denomination;
- e. **Recipient of Religious Instruction** - The teachers/instructors of religion as referred to in Item d shall be allowed to teach those pupils/students whose parents or guardians have opted to request that their children or wards learn religion in school shall be expressed in writing by the parent or guardian who shall likewise accomplish in full the necessary application form. No student/pupil shall be allowed or permitted to attend religious instruction classes without the said written application and duly accomplished request of his/her parent or guardian;
- f. **The Application** - The application referred to in the next preceding paragraph, shall clearly indicate the faith or religious instruction the student/pupil should receive from the authorized religion teachers/instructors, and the preferred schedule for religious instruction;
- g. **Non-recipient of Religious Instruction** - Students not receiving religious instruction or those with request but there is no available teacher/instructor for the particular denomination requested should be under the supervision of their respective class adviser during the time religion classes are going on;

- h. **Size and Scheduling of Religious Classes** - The optional religious instruction shall be taught during regular class hours only and not before or after class time, nor during recess time. Religious classes should not number more than forty students of the same level and of the same religion, except where the religious authority certifies that his teachers/instructors can allow for a bigger number due to its practicality, availability of time slot/schedule, instructors/teachers, classroom materials and related matters;

The principal or school head shall fix the schedule of the religion class hours taking into account the number of the religion teachers/instructors that can be fielded by the different denominations at one time.

- i. **Duration of Religion Classes** - The optional religious instruction shall be allotted at least eighty minutes a week, spread over at least two (2) but not more than three (3) meetings in one week. In no case shall the class periods be allotted less than ninety (90) minutes per week.
- j. **Optional Religious Instruction and Values Education** - The optional religious instruction and the values education of this Department are separate, different, and distinct subjects. As such they shall be allotted separate class hours and in no case shall they be taken together by the students in one and the same class period, PROVIDED, however, that if the principal or school head cannot find any available time slots for the optional religious instruction in the weekly class schedule, with conformity of the religious teachers or instructors, the optional religious instruction shall be allotted at least two (2) of the present five (5) time-slots assigned every week to Values Education.
- k. **Administrative Sanctions** - Any principal, school head, or teacher who violates any provision of this Order shall, after due process, be subjected to appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

2. Immediate and wide dissemination of and compliance with this Order is directed.


JESLI A. LOPUS
Secretary

Reference: DepED Order: (No. 120, s. 1999)

Allotment: 1- (D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CLASSES
POLICY
RELIGION
SCHOOLS



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Enclosure No. 2 to Division Memorandum No. 470, s. 2022

**IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF
RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS**
(Adopted from DECS Order No. 13, s. 1998)

- A. **Coverage.** Religious instruction shall be offered from Kindergarten up to Grade 12. Ecumenism must be exercised at all times.
- B. **Definition of Terms.** As used in this memorandum, the following terms shall mean:
- Religion is an institutionalized system of beliefs, attitudes and practices.
 - Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao is a subject where there is the integration into the school curriculum of universally accepted as well as Filipino human, social, moral, political, economic and cultural values.
 - Optional Religious Instruction refers to the religion classes conducted in the public elementary and high schools for students or pupils whose parents opted to exercise their right to request religious instruction for their children or ward. The optional character of religious instruction in public schools is in reference to the parents or guardians of the children, who are free to request or not that the children under their care be instructed in the religion of their choice. It is not the option of the principal or school head to either accept or reject the formal request of parents to have their children instructed in the religion of their choice during regular hours.
 - Regular class hours refer to the regular or normal scheduled periods of instruction or laboratory work for student.
 - Class period is the average length of time scheduled for one session of instructional period in a course.
- C. **The Teachers/ Instructors.** The religious instruction teacher shall be designated by their respective religious authorities and shall submit to the school head their proper authorization papers and request for time allocation for the religious instruction. Ordinary teachers in a certain school may also teach religion in the same school during the periods where they are free from their teaching loads, and provided they are authorized to do so by the competent religious authority of their denomination. Learning Support Aide (LSAs) could serve the same provided they subject themselves to the same requirements. Points for teaching experience may also be granted provided they (LSAs) will handle a minimum 1 class everyday for 5 days above their other functions.





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- D. **Recipient of Religious Instruction.** The teachers of religion as referred to in paragraph C shall be allowed to teach those pupil/students whose parents or guardians have opted to request that their children or wards be taught the religion of their choice. This shall be expressed in writing by the parents or guardians who shall likewise accomplish in full the necessary application and consent form. No student or pupil shall be allowed or permitted to attend religious instruction without said written application and duly accomplished request of his/ her parents or guardians.
- E. **Size and Scheduling of Classes.** The optional religious instruction shall be taught during regular class hours only and not before or after class time, or during recess time
The principal or school head shall fix the schedule of the religion classes taking into account the number of the religion teachers/instructors that can be fielded by the different denominations at one time.
- F. **Duration of Religious Instruction and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao.** The optional religious instruction and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao of this Department are two, separate, different and distinct subjects. As much they shall be allotted separate class hours and in no case shall they be taken together by the student. With the present situation of limited face-to-face classes, religious instruction shall be given for 30 minutes per week only per class without sacrificing the time-on-task for regular subjects. This will be adjusted should there be changes in the health and safety protocols.
- E. **Compliance to Health and Safety Protocols.** Health and safety protocols prescribed by the IATF shall at all times be followed in the conduct of the religious instruction.





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Enclosure No. 3 to Division Memorandum No. 470, s. 2022

APPLICATION / REQUEST FORM

_____ (Date)

The School Head

_____ School

_____, Catanduanes

Sir/ Madam:

May I request that my/our son/daughter/ward
_____, currently enrolled in grade _____,
section _____, be taught the religious instruction from
_____ (*religious affiliation*), to be handled by its
authorized teacher-catechist subject to the provisions of DECS Order No. 13, s. 1998
and Division Memorandum No. _____, s. 2022.

Very truly yours,

Parent/s or Guardian

