

## Objective definition of a “practising catholic”

### What is the objective definition of a ‘practising Catholic’ for appointments to key posts in Catholic Schools?

To objectively define what a ‘practising Catholic’ is when assessing applicants for key leadership posts within a Catholic school, it is necessary to understand that there are general obligations as well as essential components that constitute ‘practice’ of the faith in the teaching of the Catholic Church.

The Church’s general obligations for its members require that they strive to live lives of holiness by being faithful to the teaching of the Gospel, by trying to uphold the values proclaimed in the Beatitudes, by assisting in the Church’s mission to make Christ known to all peoples, by upholding privately and publicly the Church’s moral and social teaching, by endeavouring to follow an informed conscience and by making every effort to keep the precepts of the Church. This is the ‘practice’ of the Catholic faith in its widest and all encompassing sense. At the heart of these general obligations though, there are essential components for “*full communion*” with the Catholic Church. These are sacramental initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist) and the bonds of profession of faith, the sacraments and ecclesiastical governance. The preservation of this full communion is not limited to purely religious activity but is to be an integral part of the whole pattern of behaviour of a member of the Church. It is what essentially constitutes being a committed and ‘practising Catholic’.

For further information including examples where there may be a reason why somebody is not in a position to take up a key responsibility in a Catholic school, please see ‘Christ at the Centre’ by Mgr Marcus Stock, CTS Publications ISBN 978-1-86082-843-0.