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CLARIFICATION FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS

WHO HAVE NOT BEEN BAPTISED IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parent,

Following queries, we asked Fr. Pat McKenna (parish priest) to clarify the situation for those children who have been christened in a Christian, but not Catholic, church e.g. C of E.

If the child has at least one parent who is a practising Catholic and that parent wishes their child to be brought up as a Catholic then the Christian baptism is valid for entry to this sacramental programme. However **if neither parent is a practising Catholic then one or both parents need to join the RCIA course** to show that they are committed to bringing up their child in the Catholic faith, before their child can begin this year's Preparation Programme.

The **RCIA** course or **Journey in Faith** is the programme local Catholic Churches use to help people find out more about the Church and discover what it means to be a Catholic. It can lead to becoming a full member of the Church. RCIA courses often start in the Autumn and run through till the following June.

RCIA stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** and is often also called **Journey in Faith**. Should you wish to find out more there are details on the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle website <http://rcdhn.org.uk> and you need to **contact Fr. Pat McKenna** for details of the local course.

Please contact me at school if you are still not sure.

Kind regards

Mrs Jones (RE Co-ordinator)