**GUIDANCE ON SCHOOL SIXTH FORM FUNDING**

**BRIEFING NOTE 8**

**FUNDING OF GENERAL RE**

**Introduction**

Under the new school sixth form funding arrangements introduced by the LSC, Roman Catholic (and other faith) schools are now eligible for some specific state funding to deliver General RE programmes and qualifications in their sixth forms. This may apply where those programmes are not deemed to be covered already by existing funding allocations.

**Funding issues**

The LSC has already allocated funds to a significant number of RC schools for General RE, on the assumption that they were delivering a specific qualification that attracted the national rate of £112. When schools completed their pupil count form in September 2001, many were unaware that they were entitled to include those General RE qualifications which are already funded by the LSC in sixth form colleges.

We are aware that there may be other General RE programmes and qualifications that are taught in schools and that could be eligible to attract LSC funding. Equally, some of those that have been notified to us may be eligible for funding, but not necessarily entitled to the rate of £112.

**RC school survey**

National office has been in discussion with the Catholic Education Service (CES) over this issue. The CES has offered to undertake a survey of what General RE is taught in schools - they would find this useful for their own purposes. For our part, we have promised to consider the results of the survey and to discuss them with the CES in determining any funding eligibility and consequent rates for these programmes.

The LSC will also consider whether it wishes to undertake some further scrutiny of these programmes for their funding eligibility - again in consultation with the CES.

The material sent out by the CES to their dioceses is attached. Although it is the responsibility of the CES, the material has been cleared with the LSC national office.