**Preparing for Interview MEduc**

As part of the interview process for Initial Teacher Education Courses at the University of Glasgow you will be asked a specific question regarding the role of the Catholic teacher in the Catholic school.

It is helpful to consider this question in advance and it is vital you prepare your answer.

You should plan to talk to your mentor, or a Catholic teacher in the school where you are undertaking work experience, as part of your preparations for this answer.

It is also important to rehearse answering questions aloud, or with another person in advance of your interview.

***University Set Question:*** **What do you consider to be the role of the Catholic teacher in the Catholic school?**

Take time to read this question, think about the component parts and consider how you would respond. It is a very complex question, but when read and understood correctly gives you component parts that will help structure your answer.

Read the question again, below in blue and red, and look at the parts that are emphasised in red and bold lettering. We will break down the question and then consider how best to answer it.

What do **you** consider to be the **role** of the **Catholic teacher** in the **Catholic school**?

Note how the question asks for a personal response. It does not ask you to why Catholic schools are important or what others have said about Catholic teachers.

**What do you consider to be the role of the Catholic teacher?**

The first thing to think about is therefore that word ‘role’. What does role mean? Is it simply what a person does for their job? In part it does, but just listing what a Catholic teacher does won’t fully express their role. In thinking of your answer try to link what they do, how they do it, why they do it, why it is expected of them and not others, and what impact they have.

Take time to think of one Catholic teacher in your school, perhaps someone you would call a ‘role model’ for Catholic teachers. Don’t just think about RE teachers. Think about someone who witnesses to their faith, or someone who you consider to be fair & just in how they treat people, perhaps someone who goes beyond what is expected in order to help others.

Now cast your mind back to primary school. You are applying to University to become a primary school teacher, and therefore you need to think about how this question applies to that particular role. Bring to mind a Catholic primary school teacher who you would use as a role model for your vocation in teaching?

Use the diagram below to note your answers. Just brainstorm an note your answers in the space around each circle. You don’t have to form a full answer yet, you are simply thinking about what the role of a Catholic (primary) teacher is.

**What do you consider to be the role of the Catholic teacher in the Catholic school?**

The second part of the question brings in the context of the role – the Catholic school.

For this part of the question start by thinking about whether there is a different between being a Catholic teacher in a Catholic school to being a Catholic teacher in a non-denominational school.

There are things that should remain the same: professionalism, treatment of others, values and faith for example, but are there things that should be easier, happen more often, are expected in a Catholic school?

Make a list here:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Additional Notes:

Having thought about the question that the university is asking, now prepare and rehearse an answer.

In preparing your own personal answer to the question set by the university, you may find following thematic responses helpful.

**Thematic Responses:**

“I consider the role of the Catholic teacher in the Catholic school”…

* to be a faith role model to pupils, parents, colleagues and the wider school community
* to teach Catholic children through their faith – not just about their faith, putting it into practice…
  + regular prayer with pupils, parents and colleagues
  + planned times to organise and participate in Mass
  + care for all of God’s creation
  + love of others, including through charity work
* to help prepare children to receive the Sacraments
* to help pupils develop their own beliefs, values and practices – including their spirituality and prayer life
* to accompany pupils as they learn more about the life of the Church, encouraging them to be part of their parish
* to show respect, tolerance and love for people of all faiths and none.