

SOME GREAT BENEFITS

OF SRE IN SCHOOLING

1 A Positive Message

We begin with the understanding that we were created by a loving God who calls us to fullness of life. In a culture which often focuses on the negative aspects of life, Catholic SRE is a breath of fresh air, where students are encouraged to see themselves as God sees them – inherently good, full of potential and capable of being a force for good in our world.

2 The Morals and Values of Jesus

Encouraging children and young people to develop a relationship with Jesus is a key part of Catholic SRE. The curriculums used by Catholic SRE teachers aim to help children and young people make moral choices that are life-giving for themselves and others. Through the exploration of the teachings of Jesus and the stories in the Christian Scriptures, and by encouraging students to pray, Catholic SRE aims to provide children and young people with a framework to help them make choices that recognise the value and importance of our relationship with God, others and our world.

3 A Pathway for Catholic Sacraments

Children attending Catholic SRE classes receive lessons that give them background preparation for the Sacraments that may be available to their age group. Catholic SRE teachers liaise with the local Catholic Parishes to ensure that students and their families are aware of the Sacramental programs being offered locally.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Do you have any questions about Catholic SRE and how lessons are organised in your child's school? Or perhaps you would like to meet or speak to a Catholic SRE teacher? Please do not hesitate to contact your school, the local Catholic SRE Coordinator or your local Church Parish office.

WHAT IS CCRESS AND WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

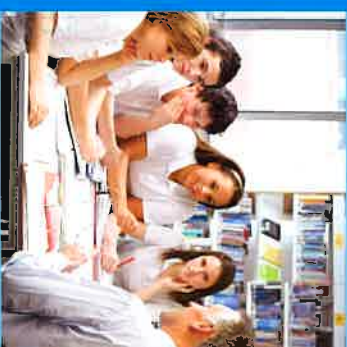
The work of Catholic SRE Teachers is the responsibility of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) in each Catholic Diocese. Together they are represented by the peak body CCRESS (Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools). CCRESS works to ensure that the Catholic Church provides approved quality curriculums, resources, and Catholic SRE Teacher training so that SRE continues to be valued as a strength of Public Education by the approximately 300,000 students and their families who choose SRE for their kids.

If you would like know more about Catholic SRE and CCRESS please feel free to visit our website to find out more. You can also find contact details for the CCD in each Diocese.

www.ccress.org.au



The pamphlet has been produced by the Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools (CCRESS) with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in Wollongong. Design by Peter Gilmore.



What is Catholic Special Religious Education?

Information for Parents

WHAT IS SRE?

Special Religious Education is the time set aside in Government Schools for Catholic SRE Teachers from the local Catholic Church to teach Catholic children about building a relationship with Jesus and understanding his message of salvation. SRE is mandated by the Education Act (1990) and gives parents the choice to have children formed in the faith of their family.

WHY IS SRE TAUGHT?

The Catholic Church sees the education of Catholic children in the Faith as integral and key to its mission. The NSW Department of Education and Communities describes SRE "as an integral part of school activities." SRE can be seen then, as part of "a well-rounded education that values and supports the intellectual, creative, physical, social and emotional development of each child."

WHO ARE CATHOLIC SRE TEACHERS?

Catholic SRE Teachers (also referred to as Catechists) are volunteers who are approved, authorised, and trained by the local parish and Dioceses of the Catholic Church. SRE can only be provided by a religious group approved by the Department of Education and Communities. The Catholic Church is an approved provider and the curriculum outlines are publicly available.



WHAT IS TAUGHT?

Catholic SRE teaching programs are approved by the Bishop of the Diocese in liaison with educational experts, for use by Catholic SRE Teachers. Programs contain suitable lessons for children from Kindergarten to Year 6 and there are a variety of programs for Secondary Schools students as well. For more information about the program used in your child's school, please see your local Parish SRE Coordinator or your Parish Priest.



SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Catholic SRE Teachers will often inform the children about Sunday Mass times and other special Church celebrations. There may also be special celebrations held at school. For example, during Education Week, at Easter and Christmas, a religious service may be held at the school for students who attend SRE.

HOW CAN YOUR CHILD ATTEND SRE?

Catholic children are always welcome to attend Catholic SRE classes at their school. Usually parents would nominate what religious denomination they wish their child to attend when completing the school enrolment form. Parents also have the right to change the SRE class their child attends at any time or even withdraw them from SRE. This can be done by notifying the principal of your child's school in writing.

"Catholic SRE Teachers cooperate with God's grace to engage young people in hearing the Good News about Jesus Christ and learning the key elements of our Christian life and culture. They tell young people about the depth of God's love. They share with children the richness of our Catholic faith and how God calls us to a full and vibrant life as members of his Church.



From them, our kids learn to pray and worship God, and serve our neighbour. It is an amazing ministry, serving both our Church and Public Education, and giving parents admirable assistance in passing on the faith to the next generation."

**Most Rev Peter Comensoli, DD VG PP
Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney
with responsibility for the Apostolate
of the CCD in NSW and the ACT**

