

To receive the new **Information for Parents** brochure from ICCOREIS (Inter-Church Commission On Religious Education In Schools) explaining why Christian SRE is a positive choice for their child, contact Sue Sneddon [execofficer@iccoreis.asn.au](mailto:execofficer@iccoreis.asn.au). Many schools have already distributed them in enrolment packs and they are available in bulk for this purpose.

QUESTION. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

### WHAT IS SRE?

Special Religious Education (SRE), or Scripture, has been a regular part of the public education system in NSW for 140 years. It is taught by authorised church leaders and volunteers from churches in the local community.

*"The religious community provides opportunities for our students to form a moral and ethical framework, fine tune their skills and inquiry, and develop their knowledge on a range of spiritual questions."*

- The Hon. Adrian Piccoli,  
NSW Minister for Education, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

There are many ways that children can benefit from Christian SRE which:

- affirms that each child is unique and of great worth to God
- is a foundation for spiritual development
- explores the Christian values of faith, humility, generosity, forgiveness and love.
- gives children an overview of core Christian beliefs.
- investigates how Christian values and beliefs underpin decision making and quality relationships with others.
- assists students in exploring life's big questions and the mysteries of faith.

### WANT MORE INFORMATION?

[www.christiansre.com.au](http://www.christiansre.com.au)

ChristianSRE is an initiative of The Inter-Church Commission of Religious Education in Schools (ICCOREIS) which was established to enable member churches to support each other in the delivery of high quality SRE in NSW.


Each school has a nominated staff member who is able to answer questions about what SRE classes are available in that school.

If you would like to find out more about ChristianSRE or perhaps to get involved as an SRE teacher in your local area, please contact ICCOREIS (see below).



This brochure was produced by  
INTER-CHURCH COMMISSION  
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN  
SCHOOLS (NSW) Inc  
PO Box 756  
Newcastle 2300  
Phone 02 4979 1335  
Email [execofficer@iccoreis.asn.au](mailto:execofficer@iccoreis.asn.au)

*The Inter-Church Commission On Religious Education in Schools (ICCOREIS) represents the following Christian churches:*  
Dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia from the Province of NSW, the Dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church in NSW, the Uniting Church in Australia NSW Synod, the Baptist Union of NSW, the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW, the Churches of Christ in NSW, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, the Lutheran Church of Australia NSW District, The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory, the Fellowship of Congregational Churches, the Australian Christian Churches in NSW, the Christian Brethren Assemblies in NSW, the Serbian Orthodox Church in Australia and New Zealand - NSW and ACT Deaneries.

**CHRISTIAN SRE** 

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### CHRISTIAN SRE: A POSITIVE CHOICE FOR PARENTS

Over 10,000 volunteer Christian SRE teachers are involved in delivering SRE to more than 250,000 students in NSW. In doing so they provide a valuable service to our community, most especially to the vast number of parents like you who choose to educate their children in the faith of their family as part of the diverse learning opportunities offered in public schools.

The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognises the right of parents to choose the "religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own religious convictions" (Article 18(4)). Christian churches are committed to working with the NSW Government and Department of Education and Communities (DEC) to ensure that well trained and resourced SRE teachers deliver sound programs that enable you to confidently choose Christian SRE for your son or daughter.





### WHAT HAPPENS IN CHRISTIAN SRE LESSONS?

Trained SRE teachers from Christian churches deliver approved programs for students which are publicly available on individual church websites. Whilst the programs are all different, students in Christian SRE classes would commonly explore Christian scriptures, core Christian beliefs and examine how the teachings of Jesus call us to make good life choices in our relationships. SRE teachers utilise a variety of teaching methods that allow the students to respond to lessons via writing, group discussion, music and song, drama and prayer.

### HOW DO CHURCHES DELIVER SRE?

Across NSW, Christian denominations deliver SRE in a few different ways. In some instances individual Christian churches deliver lessons for students using material specific for that Christian church. In many regions Christian SRE is delivered with teachers from different churches coming together to deliver joint-denominational lessons. Many schools have a combination of both of these approaches, providing families with a range of choices.

### HOW CAN MY CHILD ATTEND?

Classes are timetabled into the normal school week. Children are welcome to attend any SRE class that their parent or carer chooses. Ask the school which classes are available for your child.

SRE teachers are people of faith. They are from local churches. They give their time and energy voluntarily, so that children can explore aspects of life that may not otherwise be available to them. All SRE teachers meet state child protection requirements, are trained, authorised, and use an approved curriculum.

*We believe the best education for your child develops out of a partnership between family, their school and the wider community.*

- Rev. Cheryl Clendinning  
Honorary Secretary of ICCOREIS