

Singleton Public School Special Religious Education Policy April 2008.

Ratified by the School Council 7th May 2008

Special Religious Education (SRE) is education in the beliefs and practices of an approved religious persuasion by authorised representatives of that persuasion.

General Religious Education (GRE) is education about the world's major religions, what people believe and how that belief affects their lives. It is taught mainly through the school curriculum.

All children who are not attending SRE classes will be supervised by staff in a separate location, deemed appropriate by the principal. The children will be involved in activities such as reading, completing homework and private study. Minimal supervision may operate.

A representative from one of the religious groups, appointed by them, will be the SRE coordinator. The school will provide the school's SRE co-ordinator's phone number if parents have a need for information about the SRE curriculum.

It is the responsibility of each religious persuasion to ensure the SRE teacher has signed a prohibitive employment declaration.

At Singleton Public School we provide ½ hour of SRE per week, at a time to be negotiated by the school and the SRE Co-ordinator. If there is to be a change to the school program at this time, the school will be responsible for contacting the SRE co-ordinator. The school will appoint a school SRE contact person to oversee SRE and liaise with the SRE coordinator.

If there are insufficient SRE teachers for each class other options may be considered such as block teaching, term about, a seminar conference or a one day assembly.

Only those persons authorised by approved religious persuasions may be involved in the provision of SRE.

The principal retains the overall supervision responsibility for the conduct of SRE. Class teachers are not required to attend SRE classes but may assist or are encouraged to remain in the classroom to support students if required.

Student information is confidential and teachers of SRE are to be provided with only the names of the students in their class and any special information, such as a disability or special need, which might affect the behaviour or performance of particular students.

Notification of any changes to enrolment in SRE should be given to the Principal or delegate.

The school is to inform parents of SRE information through the newsletter

Voluntary religious activities and prayer groups of any approved persuasion are not part of SRE, but may operate under the auspices and supervision of the principal.