

WHAT IS SRE?

SRE is the time set aside in NSW public schools which allows parents from all faith backgrounds the choice to have their children formed in the faith of their family. It is mandated by the NSW Education Act, 1990.

WHAT IS CATHOLIC SRE?

Catholic SRE is taught to Catholic students in public schools by SRE teachers from the local Catholic Church. Catholic children are taught about building a relationship with Jesus and understanding his message of love and forgiveness.

WHY IS SRE TAUGHT?

The Catholic Church sees the education of Catholic children in the Christian faith as integral and key to its mission. The NSW Department of Education sees SRE as an integral part of school activities that promotes a well-rounded education that values and supports the intellectual, creative, physical, social, emotional and spiritual development of each child.*

WHO ARE CATHOLIC SRE TEACHERS?

Catholic SRE teachers (also referred to as Catechists) are volunteers who are authorised and trained by their local Diocese of the Catholic Church. SRE can only be provided by a religious group approved by the Department of Education. The Catholic Church is an Approved Provider of SRE and the curriculum outlines are publicly available.

“Fan into a flame, the gift that you have been given”

Tim 2:6

WHAT IS TAUGHT?

Catholic SRE teaching programs are approved by the Bishop of each Diocese, in liaison with educational experts, for use by Catholic SRE teachers. Approved SRE curricula contain age-appropriate lessons for children from Kindergarten to Year 12. For more information about the SRE curriculum used in your child's school, please see your local Parish SRE Coordinator, your Parish Priest or visit <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/ccd>

PARISH INFORMATION

With approval from schools, 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?

Your child is welcome to attend Catholic SRE classes at their school. Parents/carers nominate what religious faith and/or denomination they wish their child to attend when they enrol their child at the school. Parents also have the right to change the SRE class their child attends at any time or withdraw them from SRE. This can be done by notifying the principal of your child's school in writing.



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ANTHONY



Throughout our Diocese of Broken Bay, hundreds of women and men generously and enthusiastically carry out their mission on a weekly basis as catechists. Their participation in this mission is not to be underestimated. These women and men of faith are called and commissioned to be spiritual guides, teachers of the faith, and leaders in the community. They work with the priests and deacons of the Church. Under my episcopal oversight and care, they are engaged in the mission of evangelisation and catechesis – which is first and foremost a work of faith.

*Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact your Parish Office or Sharon da Roza at the Diocese of Broken Bay CCD Office.
Tel: 02 8379 1638
Email: ccdadmin@bbcatholic.org.au
Website: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/ccd>

* NSW Wellbeing Framework for Schools | Spiritual Wellbeing: “Community partners can offer real opportunities for students to safely experience, apply, internalise, enact and reflect on their spiritual wellbeing.” See also: Mparntwe-Alice Springs Federal Education Declaration (2019) Introduction and Goal 2.

SOME GREAT BENEFITS OF SRE IN SCHOOLING

A Positive Message

We begin with the understanding that we were created by a loving God who calls us to fullness of life. Catholic SRE classes provide a breath of fresh air, where students are encouraged to see themselves as God sees them – inherently good, full of potential and capable of doing good in our world.

The Morals and Values of Jesus

Encouraging children and young people to develop a relationship with Jesus is key to Catholic SRE. The curriculum used by Catholic SRE teachers aims 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, the stories in the Christian Scriptures, and by encouraging students to encounter Jesus in prayer, 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.

A Pathway for Catholic Sacraments

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. Children attending Catholic SRE classes receive lessons that complement parish sacramental preparation.

WHAT IS CCD AND CCRESS? 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 of NSW. 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 authorised quality curriculums, resources and Catholic SRE teacher training so that SRE continues to be valued as a strength of Public Education by the approximately 300,00 students and their families who choose SRE for their kids.

If you would like to know more about Catholic SRE please feel free to visit the CCRESS website www.ccress.org.au or the Broken Bay CCD website www.bbcatholic.org.au/ccd

See a 3-minute video of SRE Lessons in action on the www.bbcatholic.org.au/ccd homepage.



Catholic Special Religious Education

WHAT IS IT?



Information for Parents