

# 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. 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.

## 2 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.

## 3 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 give them background preparation for the Sacraments that may be available to their age group.

## DO SOMETHING OF ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE

Delight with us in this spiritually fulfilling mission – help children to hear the Good News and encounter Jesus to live life in joy and hope as God's family.

- ☐ Become a Catechist (volunteer SRE teacher)
- ☐ or a Catechist classroom helper
  - ✓ Effective Catechist training
  - ✓ Easy step-by-step lessons
  - ✓ Start as a helper
  - ✓ Flexible and fun
- ☐ or help us to make fun classroom resources.
- ☐ You are also welcome to attend workshops to learn ways to help your own children or grandchildren grow in faith and love.

SEE A 3-MINUTE VIDEO of SRE lessons in action on the [ccd.sydneycatholic.org](http://ccd.sydneycatholic.org) homepage

FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact your school, Parish Priest or Parish SRE Coordinator

CCD Parish Catechist Support office

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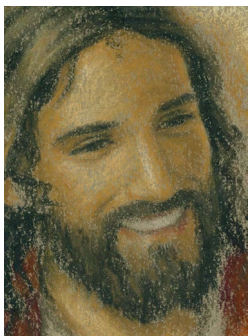


Brochure Design by CCD Wollongong and updated by Paul Mooney



## 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 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 approved, authorised, and trained by their local parish and Dioceses 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 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. 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://ccd.sydneycatholic.org>

## SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

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 completing the school enrolment form. 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.



God's grace and peace be with you as you help your children grow in mind, body and spirit.



Your local Catholic Parish calls Catechists, who generously volunteer as SRE teachers in public schools, to offer our young people the teachings and the vision of the good life that Jesus has given us.

Our young people need to encounter Jesus Christ in his Church, to learn how to lead lives of self-mastery and service to those in need, and be inspired to want to know and do the good.

Simply knowing what we ought to do does not give us the grace to do it, especially when it is hard or countercultural. Catholic SRE Catechists help you to point our young people towards that Word and towards the sacraments that empower them with God's love to be heroes, to be saints. There is no substitute for formation in faith and conscience.

SRE is a strength in public education. Catholic SRE upholds your choice as parents to raise your children in the resilient and creative hope and joy of Christian character.

May your children be shown the Way to true happiness and peace through love and service of God and neighbour for the good of all.

+ Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP  
Catholic Archbishop of Sydney

\* 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.