



Kambora Public School

Respect • Responsibility • Personal Best

Special Religious Education Policy (SRE)

The Education Reform Act 1990 requires all government schools allow for the provision of Special Religious Education, (often called Scripture) by authorised religious persuasions during part of the school week, set aside for that particular purpose.

Special Religious Education is given on the school premises and within school time once each week. Only those religious persuasions, that have been given DET approval, can provide instruction in their own particular persuasion.

In accordance with the NSW Education Act, provision is made for a 35 minute Religious Education class each week at Kambora Public School. Classes are offered in Protestant, Roman Catholic and Baha'i religions. SRE classes are taken by authorised representatives each Thursday morning at 9:10am.

The Act also allows parent discretion as to whether their children attend these classes. Parental choice of scripture class or non-attendance is sought by the school at the beginning of the year. As part of enrolment, parents and guardians will be advised of the nature of SRE and the arrangements for those children who do not attend SRE.

At Kambora PS, non-scripture students are supervised in two groups: - K-2 and 3-6 by classroom teachers on a roster basis.

Role of the School

- Parents will be advised annually through the newsletter of the organisation of SRE classes for that year. This information includes the name of the coordinator of each religious persuasion and how to contact them.
- Teachers of SRE will be provided only with the names of students in their classes and any specific information about students in their class such as disability, which may impact on the performance of that particular student.
- 'Students not attending SRE will be supervised at the school in a location separate from SRE classes. This is to include homework, reading or private study but does not include timetabled lessons or scheduled school activities in accordance with DET policy.' (Section A – 3; A -11)
- The school will appoint a staff coordinator who will liaise with the SRE coordinator, maintain records of authorised SRE teachers from each religious persuasion and prepare advice for parents.
- In 2010, SRE will be coordinated by Mrs. Sutton (SRE school coordinator) in consultation with Mrs. Joan Gallagher (SRE representative).

SRE Coordinator Duties Include:

- arranging consultations by the middle of Term 4 between the school and representatives of the approved religious persuasions to determine the SRE organisation for the ensuing year
- liaising with SRE teachers to:

- familiarise them with the procedures and operations of the school, especially at the beginning of the year
 - advise them of any variations of school routine affecting SRE
- maintaining SRE records, including:
 - obtaining an up-to-date list of the authorised SRE teachers from the approved religious persuasions
 - ensuring that SRE teachers are given a list of the names of students in their class
- preparing advice for parents and caregivers on the organisation and composition of SRE classes and informing them of any changes.
- Issuing Certificates of Exemption where applicable, as well as keeping records of the parent's written request and the Certificate of Exemption and providing of a copy of the school's Certificate of Exemption to the student.

Role of Parents

- Parents have the right to withdraw from or alternatively include their child in Special Religious Education. They do not have to provide a reason. This request must be made in writing to the principal or indicated at the time of enrolment.
- A Certificate of Exemption will be issued under Section 33 of the Education Act after such request is made. Parents will be provided with a copy of the Certificate of Exemption.

Role of Providers

- The appointment of SRE teachers is the sole responsibility of each religious persuasion. They must also provide sufficient SRE teachers. Where a teacher is unavailable the principal must be informed.
- SRE teachers are to strictly teach from their approved syllabus.
- Each religious persuasion must:
 - Provide authorised representatives to teach SRE
 - Authorise material and pedagogy used by SRE teachers
 - Ensure the school is informed of the names and contact details of SRE teachers
 - Provide information about the content of the lessons when requested by parents.

Assemblies

SRE assemblies, organised by one or more of the religious persuasions for a particular religious festival, provide an opportunity for religious persuasions to make use of the time allowed for SRE. Combined SRE assemblies usually occur at Easter and Christmas. Parents will be notified of these events via the school newsletter.

Implementation

At Kambora Public School, the implementation of the policy is set out below:

Term 4:-

- collection of new enrolment data
- check DET policy for any changes
- consult with SRE representative – Forest area coordinator

Term 1:-

- confirmation of existing student SRE selection via parent note (see appendix)
- compile list of Non- Scripture students and issue Certificate of Exemption
- liaise with SRE coordinator regarding SRE teachers, number required and availability
- allocate SRE teachers to Year groups and appropriate teaching spaces.
- compile student SRE lists and distribute to class teachers
- issue student lists and room allocations to SRE coordinator for distribution to SRE teachers prior to commencement of lessons for the year.

Throughout the year:-

- Ongoing monitoring of program and updates of student status as required

Further information regarding NSW Department of Education and Training, Special Religious Education Policy can be found at:-

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/yrk12focusareas/religious/index.php>

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/policies/religion/assets/pdf/implementation.pdf>

Appendix

- i. Special Religious Education - Confirmation of Class Notification
- ii. Certificate Of Exemption From SRE
- iii. Parent information Non-Scripture notice



Special Religious Education (Scripture)

Confirmation of Class Notification

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of the Department of Education and Training's policy, children are provided with the opportunity of attending Special Religious Education classes. Scripture groups are held on Thursday morning from 9.10-9.45am. Your child attends the class for the denomination that was recorded on his or her enrolment form. Please reconfirmed this information on the form below and return it to the school office by the end of the week.

If you as their parent or carer would, on a beliefs basis, prefer your child not to attend SRE classes, it is a requirement that you send a separate letter to the principal stating this. You will subsequently be sent a copy of the Certificate of Exemption according to DET policy. Children not attending classes are supervised by classroom teachers for the 35 minutes.

Please note:

'Students not attending SRE will be supervised at the school in a location separate from SRE classes. This is to include homework, reading or private study but does not include timetabled lessons or scheduled school activities in accordance with DET policy.' (Section A – 3; A -11)

Currently, Scripture classes are provided in the following denominations:- Protestant, Roman Catholic and Baha'i.

Judy Sutton
Kambora SRE Coordinator

Chris Painter
Principal



Special Religious Education Classes

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Scripture class in previous year: _____

In **20__** I wish my child to (please select one)

- continue with the Scripture arrangements from previous year
- change to the Scripture class
- be exempt from Scripture classes (separate letter from parent required)

Parent/Carer:

Date:



Kambora Public School



Certificate of Exemption

from

Special Religious Education.

Student's name: _____

Class/Year: _____

Under the provisions of Section 26 of the Education Act 1990, the above named student is exempt, on the basis of conscientious objection on religious grounds, from the SRE (Special Religious Education) classes.

Principal's signature: _____

Date: _____ -



Kambora Public School

Woolrych Crescent Davidson NSW 2085

Phone: 9451 8028 Fax: 9975 5049

Non Scripture

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

If your child is not attending Scripture lessons, they will be supervised by classroom teachers on a roster basis. Students are split into two groups, K-2 and 3-6.

Under the Education Act:-

'Students not attending SRE will be supervised at the school in a location separate from SRE classes. This is to include homework, reading or private study but does not include timetabled lessons or scheduled school activities in accordance with DET policy.' (Section A – 3; A -11)

Under the Education Act, teachers are not permitted to teach students attending non-scripture.

Whilst the school is happy to make available reading books for this time, it might be more relevant for students to bring an educational based workbook from home.

Some examples of such books may be Maths puzzle/code books, Handwriting, Reading comprehension, Spelling or Language activities.

Your child's class teacher will be able to provide you with ideas that will be suitable for your child, or perhaps areas of work that may require revision or extension.

Such books are available from Dominie at Brookvale and some newsagencies. These books will need to be brought to school each Thursday for your child to use.

Many Thanks

Jennifer Graham
Assistant Principal

Chris Painter
Principal