

SOME GREAT BENEFITS OF SRE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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.

Morals and Values

Encouraging children and young people to develop a relationship with Jesus is key to Catholic SRE. The lessons presented by Catholic SRE Catechists 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 and by encouraging them to pray with Him, 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.

Pathways to the Sacraments

SRE Catechists 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 sacramental preparation in the parish and in their homes.

WHAT IS CCD AND CCRESS? WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The support of Catholic SRE Catechists 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 training to ensure that SRE continues to be valued as a strength of Public Education by the approximately 300,000 students and their families who choose SRE for their kids.

If you would like to know more about what is taught in Catholic SRE visit the CCD website section on the authorised curriculum

www.bbcatholic.org.au/mission/ccd/curriculum



For more information about Catholic SRE, visit www.bbcatholic.org.au/ccd or scan the QR code.

CATHOLIC SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



WHAT IS IT? Information For Parents

WHAT IS SRE?

Special Religious Education is the time set aside in NSW Public Schools for SRE volunteer teachers (Catechists) from the local parish community to teach Catholic children how to build a relationship with Jesus and develop an understanding of his message. SRE is mandated by the NSW Education Act (1990) and gives parents the choice to have their 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 CATECHISTS?

SRE Catechists are local volunteers who are screened, authorised, and trained by their parish and Diocese of the Broken Bay. SRE can only be provided by a religious group approved by the NSW Department of Education. The Diocese of Broken Bay is an approved SRE provider who complies with all the requirements and responsibilities of this role.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/religion-and-ethics/approved-sre-see-providers>

WHAT IS TAUGHT

The Catholic SRE curriculum has been developed by educational experts and is authorised by the Bishop for use by SRE Catechists in public schools. The program is called Walking with Jesus Pathways of Discipleship and is grounded in Sacred Scripture and authentic Catholic teaching. This program contains age-appropriate and sensitive lessons for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. For more information about the program and other SRE matters please contact your local parish priest, SRE coordinator or the diocese website.

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/ccd>

PARISH INFORMATION

With permission from schools, parish SRE Catechists will provide information to students about Sunday Mass times, preparation for the sacraments and other Church celebrations. There may also be special assemblies held at school during Education Week, Easter and Christmas for students who attend SRE as well as family and friends who wish to attend.

HOW CAN YOUR CHILD ATTEND SRE?

Your child is very welcome to attend Catholic SRE classes at their school. Parents/carers nominate the religious faith and/or denomination they wish their child to attend when they enrol their child at the school. Parent/carers 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.

A 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 Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact your local Parish Office or the Broken Bay CCD Diocesan Office.

Tel: 02 8379 1638

Email: ccdadmin@bbcatholic.org.au

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au

*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."

