

## Form No. GC 566 (revised 2007)

May be completed on enrolment or when special religious instruction is introduced into the school.

<b>STUDENT'S SURNAME:</b>	<b>STUDENT'S FIRST NAME:</b>	<b>YEAR LEVEL:</b>

### SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Special religious instruction in Government schools is authorised under section **2.2.11 of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006** and can be given only where accredited and approved religious instructors are available.

In general, special religious instruction in schools is provided through the non-denominational agreed Christian syllabus *Religion in Life®* which was developed and is regularly reviewed by **ACCESS Ministries** (formerly known as the **Council for Christian Education in Schools**). The agreed Christian syllabus is delivered by instructors drawn from the major churches including Anglican, Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal who are trained and accredited by ACCESS Ministries and approved by the Minister for Education.

The agreed Christian syllabus *Religion in Life®*

- ◇ complements lesson themes and current Departmental policy
- ◇ builds on the Victorian Essential Learning Standards as they relate to the physical, personal and social learning strand
- ◇ helps children explore their own lives for meaning and purpose
- ◇ introduces children to the religious life and ideas of their community
- ◇ provides some understanding of stories, festivals, worship and symbols of the Christian faith in the community
- ◇ respects children's rights to uphold their own opinions while providing a broader understanding of this major influence on contemporary Australian culture.

Special religious instruction may also be provided separately for students in the Roman Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Bahá'í, Greek Orthodox, Hare Krishna or other recognised faiths where accredited religious instructors can be provided by the relevant faith community and are approved by the Minister for Education.

**Attendance at special religious instruction classes is not compulsory for students whose parents request that they be excused from attending.** Unless or until parents request that their children do not receive such instruction, or that they receive a different form of special religious instruction, students will receive special religious instruction in accordance with ACCESS Ministries' Christian syllabus.

### PARENTAL ADVICE/RESPONSE

**Where accredited and approved religious instructors are available, do you wish your child to receive special religious instruction according to:**

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◇ ACCESS Ministries' agreed Christian syllabus <i>Religion in Life®</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ◇ Roman Catholic syllabus   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ◇ Jewish syllabus   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ◇ Islamic syllabus  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ◇ Buddhist syllabus   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ◇ Bahá'í syllabus   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ◇ Greek Orthodox syllabus   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ◇ Hare Krishna syllabus   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ◇ Other (please indicate) .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

Parent/Guardian's Name _____
Address: _____
Signature _____ Date: / /

- NOTE: (1) If a response is not received within 14 days, your child will receive special religious instruction in accordance with ACCESS Ministries' agreed Christian syllabus.
- (2) You may withdraw your child from classes at any time by notifying the school principal in writing.