

Dr Darrin Morgan
NSW Operations Director
Fairness in Religions in School
PO BOX 2296
DANGAR NSW 2309
[REDACTED]

DGL17/1116

Dear Dr Morgan

I write in response to your letter of 14 November 2017, to Mr Mark Scott AO, Secretary, Department of Education, regarding a lack of a response by the NSW Department of Education to email correspondence and Special Religious Education (SRE) in NSW Government schools. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I sincerely apologise for the delay in providing a response to your letter of 29 September 2017 to Dr Paul Wood.

NSW public schools use information provided in the enrolment form to set up SRE classes. If a religious persuasion is provided on the enrolment form, and available at the school, then the student will be placed in that SRE program.

If 'no' religion is written, or where there is no nominated persuasion or the persuasion is unavailable, then the school sends a SRE participation letter to parents/caregivers which outlines the options available for SRE, including the option to withdraw.

If the SRE participation letter to parents/caregivers is not returned, it is expected that the school would make all reasonable attempts to seek a response from the parents/caregivers regarding whether the student participates in SRE at the school.

If the parents/caregivers do not return the SRE participation letter, the student will engage in alternative meaningful activities during time allocated for SRE. Suitable activities include reading, private study and completing homework.

For further information about this matter you may wish to contact the SRE/SEE Officer by email on SREcontact@det.nsw.edu.au or by phone on 9244 5484.

Yours sincerely



Rod Megahey
A/Director, Early Learning and Primary Education
15 November 2017