



Rob Stokes
Minister for Education

Mr J Dib MP
Member for Lakemba
PO Box 5
ROSELANDS NSW 2196

RML18/533
DGL18/125
DGL18/160

Dear Mr Dib *Jihad,*

I write in response to your representations on behalf of Mr Darrin Morgan from Fairness in Religions in Schools, regarding the enrolment process for Special Religious Education (SRE) in NSW public schools. I note that Mr Morgan has also written to the Secretary, Department of Education about this matter.

NSW public schools use information provided in the school 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.

The Department of Education will consider the comments on the enrolment process for SRE, raised by Fairness in Religions in Schools, as part of any revision of the SRE Procedures and associated support materials.

For further information about this matter, Dr Morgan may wish to contact Mr Rod Megahey, Acting Director, Early Learning and Primary Education in the department, by telephone on 9244 5080 or email at rod.megahey@det.nsw.edu.au.

Thank you for your representations.

Yours sincerely

Rob Stokes
Minister for Education

22nd March, 2018.