



religionsinschool <religionsinschool@gmail.com>

RML15/4703 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

2 messages

Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services <CorporateServices.DDG@det.nsw.edu.au> 13 November 2015 at 14:11
To: "religionsinschool@gmail.com" <religionsinschool@gmail.com>

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your letter of 8 October 2015, to the Hon Adrian Piccoli AM, Minister for Education, regarding Special Religious Education in NSW State Schools. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf. I note that you have also written to Dr Michelle Bruniges, Secretary for the Department of Education regarding this matter.

Special Religious Education in NSW government schools is delivered by religious persuasions that have been approved by the Minister for Education for that purpose.

Control over who teaches special religious education and the content of that education.

The Education Act 1990 does not give either the Minister or the Department of Education control over who is authorised to teach special religious education or the content of the religious education provided.

Instead the authorisation of personnel to teach special religious education is the sole responsibility of each individual approved provider. That provider is also responsible for authorising the materials and pedagogy used by special religious education teachers.

Requirement to provide annual assurance to the Department that authorised teachers are using authorised materials and pedagogy.

Each provider is also required to provide an annual assurance to the NSW Department of Education that authorised teachers are only using materials and pedagogy authorised by the provider.

The Department of Education remains committed to SRE and continues to work closely with approved providers and members of the SRE Consultative Committee to support the successful delivery of sensitive and age-appropriate SRE curriculum in NSW government schools.

Duty of care concerns

The Department takes its duty of care to students seriously. If an allegation is made against a person providing religious education in a government school, it will be investigated with any reasonable action taken to protect students from foreseeable risk of harm.

Yours sincerely

Peter Riordan
Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services
13 November 2015

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FIRIS Communications <religionsinschool@gmail.com>

13 November 2015 at 14:28

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[Redacted]

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