

Special Religious Education in NSW public schools Information for parents and carers ¹



Special Religious Education (SRE – formerly known as ‘scripture’) is instruction in the beliefs and practices of a single religious persuasion in NSW public schools provided by paid or volunteer representatives of religious organisations, such as churches, mosques, temples and synagogues.

SRE is not to be confused with General Religious Education (GRE) which would be education about world religions; what people might believe and how beliefs might affect their lives individually and in community.

SRE instructors are *not* employed by the NSW Department of Education (GRE would likely be taught by teachers employed by the Department).

SRE lesson materials and curricula are *not* approved by the NSW Minister for Education or the Department (while the content of GRE would be determined by professional educators at the NSW Education Standards Authority).

You have the right to information about SRE and Special Education in Ethics (SEE – ‘ethics’), including information about what will be taught and how they are run each year. This information must be provided in enrolment information², in the school newsletter³ and on the school’s website.⁴

SRE and SEE providers are required to provide you and the school with information about their lessons, their training programs and their complaints processes (see Appendix 1 for more information).

Your rights when enrolling your child

If SRE and/or SEE are available at a school, the school **must** provide you with –

- current information about the SRE and SEE providers active at the school.
- internet links to the outlines of the SRE and SEE lesson materials. These outlines are known as ‘curriculum scope and sequence(s)’.⁵
- information about what ‘alternative meaningful activities’ will be available to students who do not go to SRE or SEE.⁶

Most importantly, if SRE and/or SEE are available at a school it **must** give you a hard copy of, or digital access to, a letter about it, an *SRE and SEE Participation Letter*.⁷

If you are not given a copy of such a letter FIRIS recommends that you first check and see if SRE and/or SEE are available at the school, and if one or both is/are available you request that a copy be sent to you.

The *SRE and SEE Participation Letter* **must** (1) list all of the SRE and SEE providers at the school using their name as stated in the Department’s list of approved providers.⁸

¹ Information current as of the date 03 March 2021.

² The sources of the information in this document are provided in Appendix 2. In this instance, see sections 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, and 1.6 in it.

³ See 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 in Appendix 2.

⁴ See 3.1, 3.2, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12 in Appendix 2.

⁵ See 1.2, 1.4, 1.5 in Appendix 2.

⁶ See 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 in Appendix 2.

⁷ See 2.1, 2.2 in Appendix 2.

⁸ See 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 in Appendix 2.

Therefore, the *Participation Letter* ought to provide the options something like this –

- Christian SRE provided by EV Church.*
- Buddhist SRE provided by the Buddhist Council of NSW.*

(2) If a group of SRE providers have come together to provide SRE this is known as a ‘combined arrangement’. The combined arrangement should be named in the *SRE and SEE Participation Letter* and each SRE provider in the combined arrangement **must** also be listed using their name as stated in the Department’s list of providers.⁹

Therefore, if you get an *SRE and SEE Participation Letter*, and if –

- you cannot figure out which SRE providers are working at the school, and/or
- the name of a religious organisation included in the *Participation Letter* is not found on the Department’s list of approved providers –

– contact the Principal and request –

- that she or he lists the SRE providers in the *SRE and SEE Participation Letter*, and
- that no child be placed in an SRE class until the corrected letter has been re-sent or given to all parents/carers of enrolling students.

If the Principal does not do the right thing you can write a letter of complaint to his or her Director. You can find your school district and the contact details for your Principal’s Director at –

NSW Department of Education home page > Public Schools > Going to a public school > Finding a public school
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/finding-a-public-school>

FIRIS also recommends that you write to your local member of the NSW Parliament.

What happens when you return the SRE and SEE Participation Letter?

If you say ‘no’ to SRE and/or SEE using the *Participation Letter* your child **must** be provided with ‘alternative meaningful activities’ in a different physical space to where SRE is being held.

The Department currently says that ‘alternative meaningful activities’ **can include** –

- reading
- private study
- completing homework;

but cannot include –

- academic instruction
- lessons in the school curriculum
- formal school activities
- other extra-curricular activities.

What the Department says about ‘alternative meaningful activities’, however, **is not required** by the *NSW Education Act 1990*. Stopping formal learning while SRE and SEE are being held is the Department’s decision. This means that the Department could change their position quite easily, but it chooses to protect the privileges of SRE and SEE providers by not allowing attractive alternatives to SRE or SEE.

IMPORTANT: If your child is not taking part in SRE or SEE, the NSW Education Act and the Department’s current procedures state that students taking part in SRE **must be separated** from your child in a different physical

⁹ See 2.3 and 2.7 in Appendix 2.

The list of approved SRE and SEE providers can be found here - NSW Department of Education homepage | Teaching and learning > Curriculum > Learning across the curriculum > Religion and ethics > **Special religious education and special education in ethics providers**
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/approved-sre-see-providers>

space. Your child **must be supervised** by a member of the school staff. This means that your child cannot be told to sit at the back of a classroom in which SRE is being held. If this happens FIRIS recommends that you contact the Principal's Director and/or your local member of Parliament and report a breach of section 32(5) of the *NSW Education Act 1990*. FIRIS can help you do this.

What happens if the SRE and SEE Participation Letter is not returned?

Your child **should not be placed** in SRE or SEE without your written and express consent.

This is because the current enrolment process states that your child **must be provided** with 'alternative meaningful activities' until you return the *SRE and SEE Participation Letter*.¹⁰

If your child's school says in its enrolment information, in the *SRE and SEE Participation Letter*, on the school's website, or in the school's newsletter that your child will be placed in SRE unless you provide a written objection, it is **not** following the enrolment process correctly.

If the school is not following the enrolment process correctly, and your child is placed in SRE or SEE without your written and express consent, send a letter of complaint to the Principal. If the Principal fails to ensure that the enrolment process is followed correctly, contact her or his Director. If the Director fails to fix the issue write to your local member of the NSW Parliament. FIRIS can help you do this.

What information needs to be in the school newsletter

If SRE and/or SEE are available at a school, the school newsletter **must** –

- state the alternatives for students who do not participate in SRE or SEE.¹¹
- state which SRE and SEE providers are active in the school¹²
- provide a link to the curriculum scope and sequence document (outline of lessons) of each SRE curriculum used in the school.¹³

Any changes to SRE, SEE, or the 'alternative meaningful activities' options should be communicated to the school community in the school newsletter.¹⁴

What information needs to be on the school website

If SRE and/or SEE are available at a school, the 'Learning at our school' page on the school's website **must** –¹⁵

- say which SRE and SEE providers are working at the school.¹⁶ See below for examples of school website text.
- provide a link to the curriculum scope and sequence document (outline of lessons) of each SRE curriculum used in the school.¹⁷ It should also have a link to each SRE provider's website.¹⁸
- say what the 'alternative meaningful activities' are for students who do not go to SRE or SEE.¹⁹

If a group of SRE providers have come together to provide SRE as a 'combined arrangement', each SRE provider *in* the combined arrangement **must** be listed on the school's website. See Example 3 below.

NOTE: If a religious organisation identified as an SRE provider on a school's website cannot be found in the Department's list of approved providers write to the Principal and ask them to follow the correct procedures. If the school does not do so, write to the Director responsible for the school.

¹⁰ See 2.5, 2.6 in Appendix 2.

¹¹ See 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7 in Appendix 2.

¹² See 4.1, 4.4, 4.5 in Appendix 2.

¹³ See 4.1, 4.4, 4.5 in Appendix 2.

¹⁴ See 4.6 in Appendix 2.

¹⁵ See 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13 in Appendix 2.

¹⁶ See 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.14 and 3.15 in Appendix 2.

¹⁷ See 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11 in Appendix 2.

¹⁸ See 5.1 in Appendix 2.

¹⁹ See 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12 in Appendix 2.

The school should ensure that any changes to SRE, SEE, or to the 'alternative meaningful activities' options are communicated to the school community on the school website.²⁰

Example 1

The Department has examples of the information that should be provided on school websites²¹ –

*The following SRE classes are offered at **name** Public School:*

Name of denomination SRE (E.g. Catholic SRE) is provided by **name of approved provider** (e.g. Catholic Diocese of Sydney). More information about **name of denomination** SRE, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence, please visit the **name of approved provider** website (hyperlink ..)

Example 2

However, given that schools' websites ought to contain a link to the curriculum scope and sequence(s) authorised by SRE providers, FIRIS believes the information should be provided like this:

*The following SRE classes are offered at **Whitby** Public School:*

Christian SRE is provided by **Christian Life Church**. For more about Christian Life Church please visit their website (hyperlink to <http://clckyogle.org/>).

Christian Life Church authorises the following curriculum materials for use in their classes –

- 1. Beginning with God – for the curriculum scope and sequence please visit <https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/BWG-Syllabus-all.pdf>*
- 2. Connect – for the curriculum scope and sequence please visit <https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/Connect-scope-and-sequence-all.pdf>*
- 3. Big Questions – for the curriculum scope and sequence please visit <https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/Big-Questions-Syllabus.pdf>*

Buddhist SRE is provided by the **Buddhist Council of NSW**. For more information about the Buddhist Council of NSW, please visit their website (hyperlink to <http://www.buddhistcouncil.org/>).

The Buddhist Council of NSW authorises the following curriculum materials for use in their classes:

- 1. Buddhist SRE Program – for the curriculum scope and sequence please visit <http://www.buddhistcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/BUDDHIST-SRE-Scope-and-Sequence-2018.pdf>*

Example 3

FIRIS would like to see the information provided like this –

The following SRE providers have formed a combined arrangement called X to offer SRE at Whitby High School:

- 1. Anglican Diocese of Newcastle*
- 2. Grace Evangelical Church*
- 3. Hunter Bible Church*

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle authorises the following curriculum materials for use –

- 1. Think Faith – for the curriculum scope and sequence please visit <https://thinkfaith.com.au/files/Think Faith Scope And Sequence.pdf>*

²⁰ See 3.8 in Appendix 2.

²¹ See 3.13 in Appendix 2.

APPENDIX 1

What SRE & SEE providers must tell you and the school

SRE and SEE providers **must** make available to the school community on the internet –

- the outline of their curriculum, that is, their curriculum scope and sequence(s), accessible on their website in enough detail for people to be able to understand what is covered in SRE and SEE lessons.²²
- their complaints procedures.²³
- information about the training and authorisation process for their instructors/facilitators.²⁴

SRE and SEE providers **must** provide the school with a link to their website so it can be placed on the school's website.²⁵

SRE and SEE providers also **must** submit to the school an Authorisation Letter²⁶ to the school containing -

- the name of the religious persuasion, e.g. Buddhist
- the name of the approved provider, e.g. Buddhist Council of NSW
- the link to the authorised curriculum's website

A combined arrangement also has to give an Authorisation Letter²⁷ to the school in order to provide the school with –

- the name of the combined arrangement, e.g. combined Christian SRE
- the names of all the approved providers forming the combined arrangement
- the name of the approved provider authorising the curriculum
- the name of the curriculum
- the link to the curriculum's website

(end of Appendix 1)

APPENDIX 2

What the NSW Department of Education says

1 Your rights when enrolling your child

1.1 Parents/caregivers have the right to general information about how SRE and SEE will be organised each year and which organisations will deliver it. Parents/caregivers should also be informed of the alternative meaningful activities for those who have withdrawn. This general information should be provided to the school community in a number of ways, for example...**at enrolment.**

SRE and SEE Fact Sheet (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/864f7fce-ca01-4d34-9b10-ebc5a79c6513/1/sre-see-fact-sheet.docx>

1.2 Schools are responsible for...providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information needs to be provided at enrolment...**

Special Religious Education Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 3.2, pp. 5-6.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/REimplementproced.pdf>

²² See 6.1, 6.2, 6.7 in Appendix 2.

²³ See 6.3, 6.4 in Appendix 2.

²⁴ See 6.5, 6.6 in Appendix 2.

²⁵ See 5.1 in Appendix 2.

²⁶ See 5.2 in Appendix 2.

²⁷ See 5.3 in Appendix 2.

Schools are responsible for...providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information needs to be provided at enrolment...**

Special Education in Ethics Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 3.2, p. 5.

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/SEEimplementproced.pdf>

1.3 Schools provide general information about SRE, SEE, and alternative meaningful activities **at enrolment...**

SRE/SEE Flowchart (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/8c236afd-66cb-4264-9547-380becc1b085/1/sre-see-flowchart.docx>

1.4 Schools are responsible for providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information needs to be provided at enrolment...**

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

1.5 Parents/caregivers have the right to general information about how SRE/SEE will be organised each year and which organisations will deliver it. Schools **must** provide access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information also needs to be provided at enrolment...**

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

1.6 The principal should...ensure that they provide general information about SRE, SEE, and alternative meaningful activities **at enrolment...**

Principal Checklist – SRE & SEE (December 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/0da078bf-4111-4337-a4ae-db544b2686d3/1/SRESEEPPrincipalChecklist.docx>

1.7 The principal should...advise parents/caregivers how SRE/SEE classes are organised at enrolment, and provide updates as changes occur, using usual school procedures to communicate information to parents/caregivers.

Principal Checklist – SRE & SEE (December 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/0da078bf-4111-4337-a4ae-db544b2686d3/1/SRESEEPPrincipalChecklist.docx>

2 The SRE and SEE Participation Letter

2.1 Schools are responsible to...provide parents/carers with the SRE and SEE Participation letter in the enrolment pack or at the time of enrolment.

Advice for Schools (Last updated: 17 March 2021)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/advice-for-schools>

2.2 The participation letter is given to parents/carers in the enrolment pack or at the time of enrolment.

SRE/SEE Flowchart (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/8c236afd-66cb-4264-9547-380becc1b085/1/sre-see-flowchart.docx>

2.3 The participation letter needs to be updated with the name of the approved provider(s) working in their school. If a combined arrangement, the school needs to make it clear which approved providers are involved.

SRE/SEE Flowchart (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/8c236afd-66cb-4264-9547-380becc1b085/1/sre-see-flowchart.docx>

2.4 When the parent/carer returns the participation letter the student engages in the nominated program.

SRE/SEE Flowchart (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/8c236afd-66cb-4264-9547-380becc1b085/1/sre-see-flowchart.docx>

- 2.5** If the student starts school before the return of the participation letter, the student **is to** participate in alternative meaningful activities pending a response.

SRE/SEE Flowchart (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/8c236afd-66cb-4264-9547-380becc1b085/1/sre-see-flowchart.docx>

- 2.6** The principal should...update the SRE and SEE Participation letter with the name of the approved provider(s) working in their school and ensure it is given to parents/carers in the enrolment pack or at the time of enrolment. Students participate in alternative meaningful activities pending a response and principals make all reasonable attempts to receive a response from parent/carers and keep the written response on file.

Principal Checklist – SRE & SEE (December 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/0da078bf-4111-4337-a4ae-db544b2686d3/1/SRESEEPPrincipalChecklist.docx>

- 2.7** SRE/SEE participation letter includes the name/s of the approved providers taken from the authorisation letter.

For combined arrangements, the participation letter includes the names of the approved provider in the combined arrangement and which approved provider is responsible for delivery of SRE.

SRE and SEE Enrolment Guide

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sre-see/sre-see-enrolment-guide.docx> - accessed 18.09.2020.

- 2.8** I, (name) _____...Have checked and verified the following...The name of the approved provider is included on the SRE & SEE participation letter.

Authorisation Letter – Single Provider (dated March 21)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sre-see/authorisation-letter-sreDOCX.DOCX> - accessed 02.03.2021

- 2.9** I, (name) _____...Have checked and verified the following...The name of the approved provider is included on the SRE & SEE participation letter.

Authorisation Letter – Combined Arrangement (dated March 21)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sre-see/authorisation-letter-combined-arrangement-sre.DOCX> - accessed 02.03.2021

3 What information needs to be on the school website

- 3.1** Parents/caregivers have the right to general information about how SRE and SEE will be organised each year and which organisations will deliver it. Parents/caregivers should also be informed of the alternative meaningful activities for those who have withdrawn. This general information should be provided to the school community in a number of ways, for example, via the school website...

SRE and SEE Fact Sheet (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/864f7fce-ca01-4d34-9b10-ebc5a79c6513/1/sre-see-fact-sheet.docx>

- 3.2** Parents/caregivers have the right to general information about how SRE/SEE will be organised each year and which organisations will deliver it. Schools must provide access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities.

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

- 3.3** Schools are responsible for...providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information needs to be provided...on the school's website...**

Special Religious Education Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 3.2, pp. 5-6

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/REimplementproced.pdf>

Schools are responsible for...providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and

information on alternative meaningful activities. This information **needs to be** provided...on the school's website...

Special Education in Ethics Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 3.2, p. 5

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/SEEimplementproced.pdf>

- 3.4** Schools are responsible for providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information needs to be provided...on the school's website...**

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

- 3.5** Schools are responsible for providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities.

School Website – Suggested Text (Last updated: 17 March 2021)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/school-website-suggested-text>

- 3.6** The school website provides information for parents/carers on SRE/SEE as follows:

- name of approved provider/s
- link to approved provider's authorised curriculum scope and sequence
- alternative meaningful activities.

SRE and SEE Enrolment Guide

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sre-see/sre-see-enrolment-guide.docx> - accessed 18.09.2020

- 3.7** Schools determine the Alternative Meaningful Activities and include their plan for alternative meaningful activities in general information to parents/caregivers on their school website...

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

- 3.8** Schools are encouraged to provide information to parents/caregivers and the wider community regarding SRE/SEE and alternative meaningful activities offered at the school. Any changes to SRE/SEE, or alternative meaningful activities options should be communicated to the school community.

Information should be updated whenever a change or variation occurs to existing choices and programs provided by the school.

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

- 3.9** Schools are responsible **to.....ensure** that they provide general information about SRE, SEE, and alternative meaningful activities on the school website under the 'learning at our school' page. The website is to include a link to the approved provider's curriculum.

Advice for Schools (Last updated: 17 March 2021)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/advice-for-schools>

- 3.10** Principals should...ensure that they provide general information about SRE, SEE, and alternative meaningful activities...on the school website under the 'learning at our school' page. The website is to include a link to the approved provider's curriculum.

Principal Checklist – SRE & SEE (December 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/0da078bf-4111-4337-a4ae-db544b2686d3/1/SRESEEPPrincipalChecklist.docx>

3.11 Schools provide general information about SRE, SEE, and alternative meaningful activities ...on the school website under the 'learning at our school' page. The website is to include a link to the approved provider's curriculum.

SRE/SEE Flowchart (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/8c236afd-66cb-4264-9547-380becc1b085/1/sre-see-flowchart.docx>

3.12 If your school has the next gen SWS, under Learning at our school, you will have a Religion and ethics page which states:

- NSW schools offer special religious education and special education in ethics. Approved providers deliver these, where available.
- Write to the school if you wish to withdraw your child from special religious education, sometimes known as scripture. Special education in ethics is an option for your primary-age child if you withdraw them from special religious education. For more information, visit **Religion and ethics**.

Schools should add information to this page which will provide parent/carers with general information about SRE, SEE and alternative meaningful activities. Below are examples of text that can be added to your website.

School Website – Suggested Text (Last updated: 17 March 2021)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/school-website-suggested-text>

3.13 Examples of text

At **name** Public School, SRE and SEE is delivered on **day** from **time** (alternatively if SRE/SEE is held over different times for different years: **time** for K-2 students and from **time** for Years 3-6 students).

On enrolment parents/carers will be given the SRE and SEE participation letter (consider uploading and hyperlinking your schools letter) to complete and return. After the initial enrolment, notification of changes to a child's enrolment in SRE/SEE should be given to **where**, in writing.

The following SRE classes are offered at **name** Public School:

Name of denomination SRE (E.g. Catholic SRE) is provided by **name of approved provider** (e.g. Catholic Diocese of Sydney). More information about **name of denomination** SRE, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence, please visit the **name of approved provider** website (hyperlink to the website).

SEE is provided by Primary Ethics. For more information about SEE, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence, please visit the Primary Ethics website (**hyperlink to the website**).

During the time that SRE/SEE classes are being held, students not attending will be located in a separate space and will participate in meaningful activities **name activities** (activities could include reading, private study or completing homework).

School Website – Suggested Text (Last updated: 17 March 2021)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/school-website-suggested-text>

3.14 I, (name) _____....Have checked and verified the following...The name of the approved provided [*sic*] has been included on the Religion & Ethics page on the school's website.

Authorisation Letter – Single Provider (dated March 21)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sre-see/authorisation-letter-sreDOCX.DOCX> - accessed 02.03.2021

3.15 I, (name) _____....Have checked and verified the following...The name of the approved provided [*sic*] has been included on the Religion & Ethics page on the school's website.

Authorisation Letter (dated March 21)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sre-see/authorisation-letter-combined-arrangement-sre.DOCX> - accessed 02.03.2021

4 What information needs to be in the school newsletter

- 4.1** Schools are responsible for...providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information needs to be provided...in the school newsletter.**

Special Religious Education Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 3.2, pp. 5-6.
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/REimplementproced.pdf>

Schools are responsible for...providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information needs to be provided...in the school newsletter.**

Special Education in Ethics Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 3.2, p. 5.
<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/SEEimplementproced.pdf>

- 4.2** Parents/caregivers have the right to general information about how SRE and SEE will be organised each year and which organisations will deliver it. Parents/caregivers should also be informed of the alternative meaningful activities for those who have withdrawn. **This general information should be provided to the school community** in a number of ways, for example...in school newsletters...

SRE and SEE Fact Sheet (Last updated: November 2018)
<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/864f7fce-ca01-4d34-9b10-ebc5a79c6513/1/sre-see-fact-sheet.docx>

- 4.3** Schools provide general information about SRE, SEE, and alternative meaningful activities...in the school newsletter...

SRE/SEE Flowchart (Last updated: November 2018)
<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/8c236afd-66cb-4264-9547-380becc1b085/1/sre-see-flowchart.docx>

- 4.4** Schools are responsible for providing access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information needs to be provided...in the school newsletter.**

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

- 4.5** Parents/caregivers have the right to general information about how SRE/SEE will be organised each year and which organisations will deliver it. Schools must provide access to current information about approved providers working in their school, including links to the approved providers' authorised curriculum scope and sequence(s) and information on alternative meaningful activities. **This information also needs to be provided...in the school newsletter.**

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

- 4.6** *What information should be in the school newsletter or other school communication resources?*

Parents/caregivers have the right to general information about how SRE/SEE will be organised each year and which organisations will deliver it.

Any changes to SRE, SEE and/or alternative activities options should be communicated to the school community.

Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated: 19 February 2020)
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics/support-materials/frequently-asked-questions>

- 4.7** Principals should...ensure that they provide general information about SRE, SEE, and alternative meaningful activities...in the school newsletter...

Principal Checklist – SRE & SEE (December 2018)
<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/0da078bf-4111-4337-a4ae-db544b2686d3/1/SRESEEPPrincipalChecklist.docx>

5 What SRE and SEE providers must tell the school

5.1 It is the responsibility of an approved provider to...provide the link to their website to the school so it can be placed on the school's website to be easily accessible to parents/ caregivers.

Special Religious Education Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 4.3, p. 8.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/REimplementproced.pdf>

It is the responsibility of an approved provider to...provide the link to their website to the school so it can be placed on the school's website to be easily accessible to parents/ caregivers

Special Education in Ethics Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 4.3, p. 8.

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/SEImplementproced.pdf>

5.2 Authorisation Letter – Single Provider

Provider Details	
Approved Provider	
Approved Provider Website	
Religious Persuasion (If applicable)	
Church/Mosque/Temple (If applicable)	
Coordinator	
Contact Phone Number	
Email	
Name of Authorised Curriculum	
Curriculum Website	

Authorisation Letter – Single Provider (dated March 21)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sre-see/authorisation-letter-sreDOCX.DOCX> - accessed 02.03.2021

5.3 Authorisation letter – combined arrangement

Name of Combined Arrangement (e.g. Combined Christian, Combined Hindu etc.)			
Approved Provider[s]	Provider Website	Local Representative	Contact Details
Lead Provider Details			
Lead Coordinator			
Contact Phone Number			
Email			
Curriculum Approved Provider			
Name of Curriculum			
Curriculum Website			

Authorisation Letter – Combined Arrangement (dated March 21)

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sre-see/authorisation-letter-combined-arrangement-sre.DOCX> - accessed 02.03.2021

6 What SRE and SEE providers must tell you on their websites

6.1 It is the responsibility of an approved provider to...make their curriculum scope and sequence(s) accessible on their website in sufficient detail for parents/caregivers and schools to be able to understand what is covered in SRE lessons.

Special Religious Education Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 4.3, p. 8.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/REimplementproced.pdf>

It is the responsibility of an approved provider to...make their curriculum scope and sequence(s) accessible on their website in sufficient detail for parents/caregivers and schools to be able to understand what is covered in SEE lessons.

Special Education in Ethics Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 4.3, p. 8.

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/SEEimplementproced.pdf>

6.2 Approved providers are required to provide online access to their authorised age-appropriate curriculum scope and sequence and ensure SRE and SEE teachers are teaching the curriculum with sensitivity and in an age appropriate manner. The curriculum scope and sequence **must** be provided in sufficient detail for parents/caregiver to understand what is covered in SRE/SEE lessons. Providers **must** provide a website link to the school to where the authorised curriculum scope and sequence can be found to enable schools to place the link on their website. (emphasis added)

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6.3 Approved providers **must** make publicly available on their website their complaints procedures

Special Religious Education Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 4.4, p. 8.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/REimplementproced.pdf>

Approved providers **must** make publicly available on their website their complaints procedures.

Special Education in Ethics Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 4.4, p. 8.

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/SEEimplementproced.pdf>

6.4 Approved providers are required to have in place a complaints procedure which includes a resolution within a reasonable timeframe. The complaints procedure **must** be publicly available on the providers' websites.

Annual Assurance of Providers of SRE and SEE 2021

6.5 Approved providers are required to have in place a system of authorised initial training, regular ongoing training and support, including mentoring for their SRE teachers. The training is to include child protection, classroom management, and how to implement the approved provider's authorised curriculum sensitively and in an age-appropriate manner. This information **is to be** published on the approved provider's website.

Special Religious Education Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 4.2, p. 8.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/REimplementproced.pdf>

Approved providers are required to have in place a system of authorised initial training, regular ongoing training and support, including mentoring for their SEE teachers. The training is to include child protection, classroom management, and how to implement the approved provider's authorised curriculum sensitively and in an age-appropriate manner. This information **is to be** published on the approved provider's website.

Special Education in Ethics Procedures (Last revised: 4 May 2020), Section 4.2, p. 7.

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/SEEimplementproced.pdf>

6.6 Providers are required to have in place a system of authorised initial and ongoing training for their volunteer teachers that include training in child protection, mandatory reporting and classroom management issues. This information **is to be** published on the provider's website.

Annual Assurance of Providers of SRE and SEE 2021

6.7 Approved providers **must** publish age-appropriate curriculum on their website.

SRE and SEE Fact Sheet (Last updated: November 2018)

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/864f7fce-ca01-4d34-9b10-ebc5a79c6513/1/sre-see-fact-sheet.docx>