



Dr Darrin Morgan
religioninschool@gmail.com

RML17/2517
RML17/2535

Dear Dr Morgan

I refer to your emails of 17 July 2017 and 21 July 2017, to the Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Education, regarding the Special Religious Education (SRE) approval process. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The criteria to approve a religious persuasion before its specific beliefs and practices are taught in NSW public schools are based on the requirements under Section 32 of the *Education Act 1990*, Recommendations 36-72 from the *Rawlinson Report: Religion in education in NSW Government schools* and Recommendation 4 of the *Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill 2011*.

The Department of Education seeks a written annual assurance from providers of SRE that their organisation currently has in place processes that satisfy the requirements for teaching SRE in NSW Government schools for the school year. This process includes an assurance that approved providers of SRE have an authorised curriculum and SRE teachers are teaching the curriculum with sensitivity and in an age appropriate manner.

If the provider does not have a link on a public website, the department follows up with the provider to place the curriculum on a website within a timeframe. Providers who do not meet this timeframe will have their approved status revoked and will be removed from the list of approved providers.

Additional information on responsibilities for approved providers can be found in the Religious Education Implementation Procedures found at:
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/religious-education-policy>

Liberty Baptist Church is an approved provider and has met the current requirements to maintain approval.

A link to Liberty Baptist Church's curriculum can be found at:
<http://www.libertybaptistchurch.com.au/ministries/scripture-classes-sre/>

The department has accepted a number of recommendations from the ARTD review and is currently working with representatives from providers to address a number of recommendations including accessibility of the curriculum.

Parent/caregivers retain the right to notify the school in writing that they do not wish their child to attend SRE or SEE. Schools provide meaningful activities with appropriate care and supervision for students not attending SRE or SEE.

Should you require further information about this matter, please contact me via email paul.wood@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone on 02 9244 5080.

Yours sincerely



Dr Paul Wood

A/Director, Early Learning and Primary Education

4 August 2017