



Elwood Primary School No 3942

Scott St. Elwood 3184
Telephone 9531 2762 Fax 9531 5497

Special Religious Education

PURPOSE

1. To outline procedures for the provision of special religious education by external providers.

BROAD GUIDELINES

1. The school adheres to DEECD guidelines as documented in Ministerial Direction 141 Schools Reference Guide 3:22

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Religious education is scheduled on the school timetable (30 minutes per week) where an accredited and approved instructor is made available by the relevant provider if once form(CFMD) has been provided to parents, and returned forms complied, the principal has decided whether there are sufficient resources to enable SRI to be offered at the school.
2. SRI is instruction in specific religious beliefs and tenets of a religion, and is not to be confused with general religious education (GRE). GRE is education about religions whereas SRI programs are instruction in a particular religion. The accredited provider prepares its own program materials for use during SRI. Given the religious nature of the content, the department does not endorse such material. Parents wishing to view the material used by agencies should view the materials online (as set out on form 141) or contact the school or the SRI provider.
3. All potential instructors must provide documentation to the Principal, including a current Working with Children's Check, accreditation by their respective religious body and approval by DEECD. Appropriately accredited and approved religious instructors will provide a card or letter from either ACCESS Ministries, the Catholic Education Office, the United Jewish Education Board, or the Religions for Peace Australia.
4. A qualified Elwood Primary School teacher is required to remain in the classroom with the instructor to fulfil the duty of care required by DEECD policy.
5. The Principal ensures that prescribed form (CFMD141) is used to obtain parent consent or refusal to allow a child to take part in SRI. Failure to return the form within 14 days is seen as not consenting for the child taking part in SRI. Parents/guardians may, by letter, withdraw consent previously given. Parent/guardians advice remains in place until written advice to the contrary is received from them.
6. For students whose parents do not consent for SRI classes the Principal makes alternative supervisory arrangements, depending on staffing and facilities. Students who do not attend SRI must be adequately supervised by a teacher and engaged in educationally valuable activities at the time SRI is being provided to the students who have opted in. This may include self study, revision, reading, community service, peer mentoring and participation in clubs.

7. Students may not leave the school during school hours for religious education held elsewhere.

RESOURCES

1. Syllabus for each faith
2. Approved and accredited instructors
3. DEECD Schools Reference Guide 3.22

Policy History

Version Approval Date:	Summary of changes:	Next Review:
May 2010		
June 2014	Updates and amendments made by Sub Committee	3-year cycle or as needed