

# WELCOME!

BE ENCOURAGED THAT GOD IS  
ALREADY AT WORK IN THE SCHOOL  
THROUGH HIS HOLY SPIRIT ...



## WHERE TO GET HELP

### SCHOOL SRE COORDINATOR

A school staff member who organises when and where SRE takes place.

### CHURCH SRE COORDINATOR

A member of a local church who liaises with the school and the SRE teachers.

### YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Provides advice, resources and training.

### ICCOREIS

[www.iccoreis.asn.au](http://www.iccoreis.asn.au) – Provides information on authorisation, training, policy and guidelines.

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES (DEC)

[www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/policies/religion/index.htm](http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/policies/religion/index.htm)



INTER-CHURCH COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (NSW) INC.

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A QUICK GUIDE FOR NEW SRE TEACHERS  
IN NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

# TEACHING SRE



[www.iccoreis.asn.au](http://www.iccoreis.asn.au)



“These volunteers have contributed significantly to our Education system and provided a valuable service and they should be celebrated.” (The Hon Adrian Piccoli MP)

## BECOMING AN SRE TEACHER

- You must be authorised by your own denomination. This will generally involve training sessions and some paperwork.
- A current authorisation card must be carried at all times when on the school premises.
- Wear a name badge.
- Get to know the SRE Coordinator at the school and take any concerns to him/her.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN TEACHING

- Your church will provide training, including instruction in child protection. Take advantage of this valuable resource.
- Learn what the school rules are and respect them.
- Ask the classroom teacher about classroom practices: letting children go to the toilet, using classroom equipment, accessing the interactive whiteboard.
- Ask for a class list of names and the names of any students with special needs.
- Prepare your lessons well ahead of time using the set curriculum. This material has been authorised by your provider. You are required to abide by the curriculum. If you have problems doing this, or need help, then consult your Coordinator.
  - Pray and be prayed for.
  - Plan to arrive at least 10 minutes early.

## ENTERING THE SCHOOL GATE

- When you arrive – sign the attendance book.
- Try to learn the names of the children in your class.

## THE WAY YOU SPEAK

Since many children don't have a church background, avoid using 'churchy' terms like grace and faith. Use words like kindness and believing instead.

A young child could be frightened by language that conjures up a strange image, eg: 'having Jesus in your heart' or 'the blood of the Lamb'. Avoid mentioning topics such as death or hell. If you are going to teach on a sensitive topic, consult the classroom teacher first.

- **Own** your beliefs, using phrases like “I believe...” or “I think...”
- **Ground** what you say by referring to its origin eg “The Bible says” or “Most Christians believe”
- **Fact statements.** These are statements that can be proven and don't depend on faith.
- **Don't use inclusive language** like “We all believe...” Acknowledge that there are other beliefs.
- **Avoid** saying anything that children might find coercive or threatening.

## POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

- Use kind words, stickers and certificates to encourage children.
- Learn the reward system used in the school. Sweets and food are to be avoided.

## GOING HOME

- Start and finish your lessons on time and leave the classroom as you found it.
- If for some reason you can't take your class the following week, advise the school giving as much notice as possible.

*“How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them? And how can anyone tell them without being sent by the Lord? The Scriptures say it is a beautiful sight to see even the feet of someone coming to preach the good news.”*

**(Romans 10. 14-15)**



**ICCOREIS**

INTER-CHURCH COMMISSION ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (NSW)

SRE is a genuinely educational activity which is to be adequately staffed and competently taught.

- ICCOREIS Code of Practice