

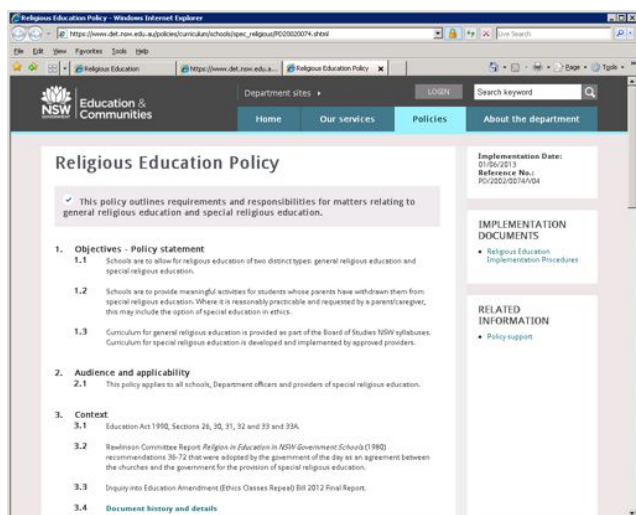


SRE Update

NEW POLICY FOR SRE

The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) released the new policy for SRE on May 17. The implementation date is 1.6.13. The policy is on a different website to the one we have been used to accessing.

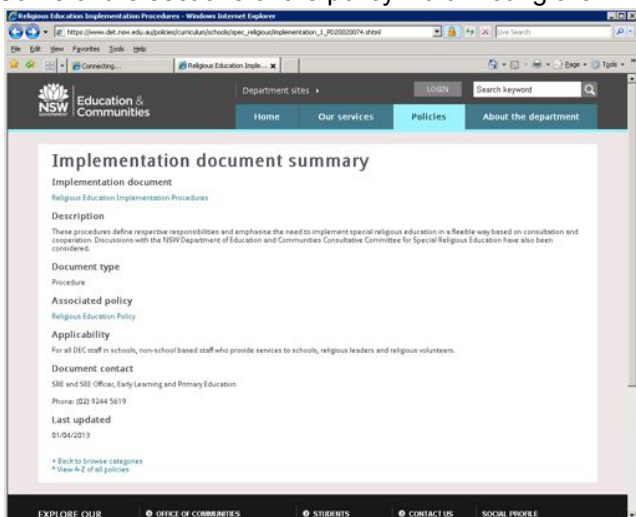
The policy document is on the policy page for the DEC: https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/spec_religious/REimplementproced.pdf



To locate the Implementation document go to IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENTS (on the right of the screen) then select "Religious Education Implementation Procedures".

Clicking on "Policy Support" under RELATED INFORMATION will take you to the curriculum support website for SRE.

Some of the sections of the policy worth noting are:



Time allowed for SRE

- Page 4 "on average, not less than 30 minutes and not more than one hour of meaningful teaching time per week should be allocated for SRE."
- Page 12 "any pattern of providing SRE must be equivalent to at least 30 minutes per week and no more than one hour per week."
- Page 12 "Time assigned for these weekly classes will reflect the age and attention span of students and will be no less than 30 minutes".

Communication

Schools are to make information about SRE available through:

- enrolment information
- school website
- school newsletter (page 5)

Enrolment form

Where a religious persuasion is not nominated, the student is placed in alternative activities. There is no mention of any follow up that the school can take, eg when non SRE enrolment increases markedly (page 5). In a combined arrangement only those students who have nominated one of the participating religious persuasions on their enrolment form should be involved (page 12).

Students are to continue in the same arrangement as the previous year, unless a parent/caregiver has requested a change (page 5).

Planning for the following year

Early during Term 4, SRE coordinators are informed of estimated numbers for SRE classes for the following year to assist in recruiting teachers.

SRE teachers are also informed if there are any changes to timetabling that will affect SRE classes (page 6).

Duties of the school SRE Coordinator (member of staff) are listed (page 7).

Recruitment, training and support (page 8)

Outlines the church's responsibilities and mentions that SRE teachers are to wear name badges when on the school site.

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GOOD NEWS STORIES

A regional Christian radio station is broadcasting notices of schools that need SRE teachers in the community announcement section, putting them in touch with local SRE coordinators.



Helen in one of the regional areas writes 'I was working in the office of a school last week where quite a few of the staff have kids in the surrounding schools. These parents were unanimously complaining about school scripture. What were their complaints? They were saying that the kids never talk about what they learn in science or maths but always come home excited about what they learn on scripture day. These parents said that on weekends their kids regularly talk about God. A couple even said that their kids kept asking questions about God and creation through the school holidays.'

Two regional groups affiliated with ICCOREIS host a yearly lunch for the SRE coordinators in their region. The day starts with worship and an inspiring address. Coordinators are treated to a two course lunch and members of the committee sit on each table, engaging with relevant issues. A panel takes questions and offers advice on current issues. One group gave every coordinator a thumb drive loaded with lots of information.



Two school principals in one country area of southern NSW have invited SRE teachers at their schools to in-service training in the use of the electronic equipment in the classroom, including interactive whiteboards.

At a recent Sunday morning church service where five teenagers were baptised, three of them made mention of the influence their SRE teachers had on their Christian journey and were grateful for their teaching, and even more their example. You may never know the outcome of your influence, but be assured it does happen.

new the working with children check



Quick facts:

- Each person will be responsible for obtaining his or her own WWCC number.
- Without this number a person will not be able to work in a direct face to face, supervised or unsupervised role with children in a child-related setting.
- The WWCC number has a five year expiry date.
- There is no application fee for volunteers.

Implementation date:

Volunteer and paid teachers that are employed by a religious organisation to provide religious services including teaching at schools on behalf of their Church are considered to be workers of that religious organisation, and will therefore be phased in **between January 1 - 31 December 2014.**

For more information on the new Check, please visit the website at <http://kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/working/newcheck.cfm>

For information on the Commission and its work, visit <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au>

Subscribe to the fortnightly newsletter for adults at <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/subscribe.cfm>

Subscribe to the fortnightly newsletter for kids at <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/kidzone/kidzonesubscribe.cfm>



Office of
Communities

Commission for Children & Young People

THE FIFTY DOLLAR FACE

Have you ever wondered about the story behind the faces on the Australian currency? One such face belongs to David Unaipon, who appears on the \$50 note. David was an Aboriginal spokesperson and inventor, but also a man of faith.

David was the son of James and Nymbulda. David's father was brought up living a traditional Aboriginal life, which included such things as initiation ceremonies and sometimes tribal fights. It was during a tribal fight that he lost the sight of one eye.

James' life was dramatically changed when he was 26 years old. He became a follower of Jesus, was baptised and joined the Scottish Free Church. He was the first Christian convert in his tribe. A missionary taught James how to read and write using the Bible as the text book. Together they would visit Aboriginal camps and share with the people about Jesus.

At the age of 31, James married Nymbulda. Their wedding was the mission's first Christian wedding. The couple went on to have nine children, David being their fourth child.

David was extremely smart and started mission school when he was 7 years of age. There he learned to read and write, using the Bible as the textbook, just as his father before him had done.

God blessed David with many gifts and talents. He wrote poetry and authored a number of books. For fifty years he travelled south-eastern Australia, combining

this work with lectures and sermons in churches and cathedrals. He became the Aboriginal spokesperson to the government and institutions on many issues connected with the wellbeing of his people.

As well as being a spokesperson, David's mind turned to inventions. By 1909, he had developed and patented a modified handpiece for shearing. In 1914 his repetition of predictions by others about the development of polarised light and helicopter flight were publicised, building his reputation as a 'black genius' and 'Australia's Leonardo da Vinci'.



He continued to preach until he was 87 years old. As he preached he would challenge his listeners to consider what God can do for those who are willing to follow Him. He would say to them, "Look at me and you will see what the Bible can do" – a transformed life.

Graham McDonald

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/unaipon-david-8898>

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/unaipon-james-13227>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can SRE and SEE be offered to parents on the same note sent out by the school?

No, SEE is only to be offered as an alternative to non-SRE. The first option is SRE and only those parents who have chosen non-SRE for their child are able to choose SEE.

2. Who do I contact if a school appears to not be following the policy?

It is the SRE Coordinator who should contact the School Principal in matters of policy.

These discussions usually resolve the issue and the policy is implemented. If the Principal does not follow the RE policy, or is unaware of it, then the Coordinator should inform his/her church denomination for clarification of the situation.

3. Can a school conduct a class looking into different religions for a non-SRE class during class time when other SRE classes are in progress?

No, this is not an acceptable activity for a non-SRE class. It would be deemed to be a

comparative religion class and there is no provision for this in the policy. This topic is part of the school HSIE curriculum.

4. What is the process when a principal says 'We don't need SRE in this school any more'?

This is not a decision which can be made at the local level without consultation with the SRE providers. This is against the RE policy. Seek advice from the denominational representative or DEC.

RESOURCES

*If nothing ever changed,
there'd be no butterflies.*

Here's a taste of things to come:

WEBSITE

Our **ICCOREIS website** is undergoing a facelift and will soon look very different. If you have ideas of things you would like to find on the website, please contact the Executive Officer to pass on your ideas.

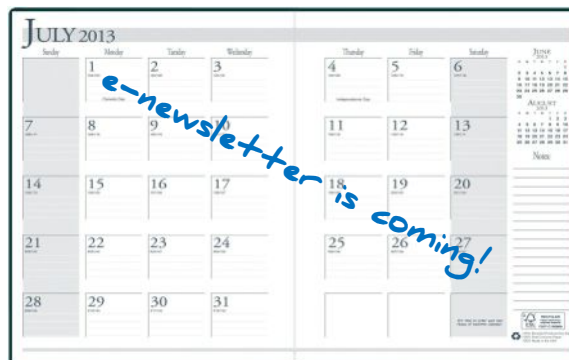


SRE PROMOTION

ICCOREIS, through its publicity subcommittee, *ChristianSRE*, has designed a new brochure to give to parents of children in primary schools. The brochure clearly describes SRE and the benefits to families who enrol their child in an SRE class. The brochure will be available from the Executive Officer. Any person requesting copies may make a donation towards the cost of its production. We hope to produce enough copies to be able to provide one to every family with a child in a government primary school.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

From July, *ChristianSRE* will produce an e-newsletter to keep you abreast of all things SRE. Look out for it. People who receive the *SRE Update* will automatically be included on the mailing list.



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