

SRE and SEE fact sheet

Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE)

SRE is education in the beliefs and practices of an approved religious persuasion. SEE is a program in ethical decision making, action and reflection within a secular framework, based on a branch of philosophy.

Background

Section 32 of the Education Act 1990 states that ‘in every government school, time is to be allowed for the religious education of children of any religious persuasion. The religious education to be given to children of any religious persuasion is to be given by a member of the clergy or other religious teacher of that persuasion authorised by the religious body to which the member of the clergy or other religious teacher belongs.’

Section 33A of the Education Act 1990 specifies that if the parent/caregiver of a child objects to their child receiving SRE, that child is entitled to receive SEE, at the parent/caregiver’s request, provided it is reasonably practicable for SEE to be made available at the school the child attends.

Principal responsibilities

Principals must allow time for SRE/SEE where representatives of approved providers are available. On average, not less than 30 minutes and not more than one hour per week should be allocated. The lesson period should be consistent with the age and attention span of the students.

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 Parents/caregivers should also be informed of the alternative meaningful activities for those who have withdrawn.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,

during parent meetings, in school newsletters and at enrolment.

An **implementation flowchart** assists principals with decisions associated with student participation in SRE/SEE.

Schools should note that if no SRE providers are available, SEE may still be delivered.

SRE/SEE providers’ responsibilities

SRE/SEE is delivered by providers that have the approval of the Minister for Education for that purpose.

Approved providers must publish age-appropriate curriculum on their website. Only persons authorised by approved providers teach SRE/SEE. Approved providers must ensure that all personnel have had a Working with Children Check (WWCC) clearance.

For more information contact

Visit the **Religion and ethics website**

Or contact the SRE and SEE Officer

Learning and Teaching directorate

1 Oxford St Darlinghurst NSW 2010

SREcontact@det.nsw.edu.au

SEEcontact@det.nsw.edu.au

9244 5484

© 2018 NSW Department of Education