



NEW LIFE

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Narrabri

**SRE TEACHERS
AND HELPERS
ACCREDITATION
POLICY**

New Life Christian Fellowship Narrabri Inc.

SRE Teachers and Helpers Policy

1. Introduction

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has a very accommodating policy towards the provision of Special Religious Education (SRE, more commonly called “Scripture”) in Public Schools.

In return for this freedom, the Department requires that churches and other religious groups ensure that their volunteers are fully trained and equipped to teach the lessons they offer. The Department also requires that parents can have access to the general content of this training and to an overview of lessons through a web page.

For some years, the denominations have had in place systems of accreditation for teachers in which regular training is provided in topics such as child safety, classroom management, lesson preparation etc. The Department also requires that smaller groups, such as non-denominational churches like New Life, also implement this system.

This policy is designed to bring about the required processes for this purpose.

Definitions

SRE- Special Religious Education in Public Schools, also informally called “Scripture”.

SRE Provider- an organisation such as a denomination (e.g. Baptist Union) or a congregation (e.g. New Life Christian Fellowship) which is registered with the Department of Education and Communities to provide SRE classes

Accreditation- a process by which each SRE Provider ensures the competency of people participating in SRE

Authorisation- an official permission by a church for a person to represent them as a SRE Teacher or Helper

Joint Authorisation- where churches offer combined or cross-denominational classes they may jointly authorise SRE Teachers and Helpers to represent all the groups.

SRE Teacher- a person who is responsible for the conduct of an SRE class

SRE Helper- a person who assists the Teacher but does not take responsibility for the planning or conduct of the lesson.

ICCOREIS- Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools

2. Authorisation

At the beginning of each school year, or at other times as necessary, the Leadership Team will authorise the members of New Life it deems capable of conducting SRE classes, either as a Teacher or a Helper.

Normally this authorisation will be for up to two years so that if there is a delay in renewing the authorisation teachers and helpers are not disadvantaged.

In order to be authorised, a person must be a member of New Life and either be accredited or in the process of being accredited. Additionally they must obtain a NSW Working With Children Check Number (if over the age of 18). This number will be checked by New Life and the Narrabri School SRE co-ordinator.

The Pastor shall complete any Joint Authorisation documentation that might be required in order to allow cross denominational SRE classes.

3. Accreditation

ICCOREIS has identified 6 core competency areas required of SRE Teachers. They are:

1. Introduction to Teaching SRE in Government Schools
2. Learning and Teaching
3. Preparing and Delivering Lessons
4. Communicating in the Classroom
5. Introduction to the Bible
6. Classroom Experience

Additionally, the Department of Education and Communities requires all SRE Providers to train their volunteers in Child Protection and Classroom Management issues- this latter topic is covered in ICCOREIS "Communicating in the Classroom" module.

SRE Helpers

Prior to commencing work in the classroom SRE Helpers will be required to:

- Obtain a WWCC number
- Complete an SRE Volunteers employment form
- Complete a Child Safety Course
- Complete a course regarding the Department of Education's Code of Conduct

- Complete Module 1 Introduction to Teaching SRE in Government Schools

SRE Teachers

Prior to commencing work in the classroom SRE Teachers will be required to:

- Obtain a WWCC number
- Complete an SRE Volunteers employment form
- Complete a Child Safety Course
- Complete a course regarding the Department of Education's Code of Conduct
- Complete a course that on the use of classroom technology
- Complete Module 1 Introduction to Teaching SRE in Government Schools
- Complete Modules 2 and 3: Learning and Teaching, and Preparing and Delivering Lessons

SRE Teachers will also be required to complete training in the other modules within 12 months of commencing training.

SRE Teachers are required to undertake ongoing training in the various competency areas each year. Other denominations offer these courses from time to time in the region and also in Narrabri.

4. Schedule

Each year New Life will provide the core competency training at the beginning of each year for Helpers and Teachers as required.

In Terms 2 and 3 of each year training in the other modules will also be provided as required.

These training courses will be scheduled for the convenience of participants.

5. Ongoing Training

In order to maintain accreditation, SRE Teachers and Helpers are required to engage in the following:

- regular ongoing training including child protection (either via Safe Churches or the online training provided by the Department of Education at <https://mypl.education.nsw.gov.au>), classroom management strategies and implementation of the approved curriculum.

- review of teaching which might include teacher self-reflection, student feedback, observation by class teacher or mentor. Results of this process should be reported to the SRE Co-ordinator.
- participate in an annual review of SRE to identify any issues which need to be addressed and propose solutions



SRE Teacher/ Helper Engagement Form

ENGAGEMENT FORM for SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SCRIPTURE) TEACHERS AND HELPERS

Title: _____ Given Name: _____ Surname: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone: _____

EMAIL (please print clearly): _____

By undertaking the role of an SRE teacher or helper, I agree to work in accordance with the general conditions stated below -

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. I agree to carry out my tasks as an SRE teacher in accordance with the principles and policies of New Life Christian Fellowship and the guidelines of the NSW Department of Education and Communities. I must exercise due care for the safety and behaviour of students when teaching or supervising them. The teaching given to students in the SRE classroom must at all times be of the highest quality possible.
2. I agree to carry out my tasks as an SRE teacher in accordance with the conditions on this form.
3. I provide my services on this basis to New Life Christian Fellowship and I acknowledge that I am responsible to the Fellowship.
4. I understand that Leadership Team can terminate my engagement as an SRE teacher if I fail to meet my commitments as set out on this form and I agree that upon termination I will cease to teach SRE
5. I acknowledge that if any complaint of sexual misconduct is made against me, the Pastor or the Leadership team can terminate my engagement whether or not there has been any investigation of the complaint and whether or not there has been any fault on my part.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that:

a) I do not have any criminal conviction which involves

- * a crime against a minor OR
- * violence OR
- * sexual assault OR
- * provision of prohibited drugs

b) If I am charged with any crime referred to in (a) I will promptly notify my authorising agent.

And I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and in accordance with provision of the OATHS Act of 1990.

SRE Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

WITNESS: (Justice of the Peace) _____ Date: _____

Working With Children Check

In NSW, volunteers have a responsibility to apply for a Working with Children Check clearance number, and employers have the responsibility to verify this clearance/application number before engaging someone to work with children. Please provide the following details for the purpose of verifying your working with children check clearance or application.

I have a valid NSW Working with Children Check Clearance number OR an active Application for Clearance in the name I have provided on this engagement form.

Application/Clearance number: _____ Date of birth: _____

NOTE: Your full name on the front of this SRE engagement form must match your working with children clearance number.

SRE Teacher Basic or Accreditation Training

AS part of our commitment to the students we teach, new SRE teachers will engage in basic SRE training and ongoing development and enrichment training.

- I have completed a basic training course for SRE teachers
- I have participated in some modules of SRE basic training
- I am yet to participate in formal SRE basic training
- I have other qualifications/experience relevant to SRE teaching (Please attach further details)

In signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood pages 1 & 2 of this SRE Teacher Engagement form and have honestly answered all sections required of me.

Should any of the above details change, I will promptly notify the Pastor

I give permission for any personal details that the Department of Education requires to be shared with the schools where I teach.

SRE Teacher Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Authorisation Date:

Modules Completed:

- C. Awareness of Code of Conduct
- 0. Child Safety
- 1. Introduction to Teaching SRE
- 2. Learning and Teaching
- 3. Preparing and Delivering Lessons
- 4. Communicating in the Classroom
- 5. Introduction to the Bible
- 6. Classroom Experience



SRE Teacher/ Helper Engagement Form

ENGAGEMENT FORM for SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SCRIPTURE) TEACHERS AND HELPERS VOLUNTEERS AGED LESS THAN 18 YEARS

Title: _____ Given Name: _____ Surname: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone: _____

EMAIL (please print clearly): _____

By undertaking the role of an SRE teacher or helper, I agree to work in accordance with the general conditions stated below -

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. I agree to carry out my tasks as an SRE teacher in accordance with the principles and policies of New Life Christian Fellowship and the guidelines of the NSW Department of Education and Communities. I must exercise due care for the safety and behaviour of students when teaching or supervising them. The teaching given to students in the SRE classroom must at all times be of the highest quality possible.
2. I agree to carry out my tasks as an SRE teacher in accordance with the conditions on this form.
3. I provide my services on this basis to New Life Christian Fellowship and I acknowledge that I am responsible to the Fellowship.
4. I understand that Leadership Team can terminate my engagement as an SRE teacher if I fail to meet my commitments as set out on this form and I agree that upon termination I will cease to teach SRE
5. I acknowledge that if any complaint of sexual misconduct is made against me, the Pastor or the Leadership team can terminate my engagement whether or not there has been any investigation of the complaint and whether or not there has been any fault on my part.

PARENTAL APPROVAL

I approve my child (Name) _____ to teach SRE.

I declare that he/she:

- a) does not have any criminal conviction which involves
- * a crime against a minor OR
 - * violence OR
 - * sexual assault OR
 - * provision of prohibited drugs

b) If he/she is charged with any crime referred to in (a) I will promptly notify the Pastor of New life Fellowship. And I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true

Parent's Signature: _____ -

SCHOOL APPROVAL

As Principal of _____ School, I give approval to
_____ to teach SRE under the supervision of SRE Teacher

Signature: _____

SRE Teacher Basic or Accreditation Training

AS part of our commitment to the students we teach, new SRE teachers will engage in basic SRE training and ongoing development and enrichment training.

- I have completed a basic training course for SRE teachers
- I have participated in some modules of SRE basic training
- I am yet to participate in formal SRE basic training
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In signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood pages 1 & 2 of this SRE Teacher Engagement form and have honestly answered all sections required of me.

Should any of the above details change, I will promptly notify the Pastor

I give permission for any personal details that the Department of Education requires to be shared with the schools where I teach.

SRE Teacher Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Authorisation Date:

Modules Completed:

- C. Awareness of Code of Conduct
- 0. Child Safety
- 1. Introduction to Teaching SRE
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