

Scarborough Primary School



Strive

Religious Policy

Background

The Department of Education's Religious Education Policy, governed by the *School Education Act 1999* states that 'the curriculum and teaching in public schools is not to promote any particular religious practice, denomination or sect.' The Act identifies two types of religious education, and indicates that the Principal of the school is responsible for any implementation of this education.

1. General Religious Education (GRE) is sociological-based study of the major forms of religious thought and expression that are characteristic of Australian and other societies. GRE may be provided as part of the general curriculum with the goal of developing understanding and tolerance of different beliefs.
2. Special Religious Education (SRE) is not part of general curriculum and is based on distinctive religious tenets and beliefs. This may be taught in public schools by approved volunteers authorised to deliver a particular program.

The school Principal, in consultation with School Board is responsible for any GRE or SRE delivered in the school.

Policy Statement

Scarborough Primary School acknowledges and values the diversity of our school community, including the broad cultural and religious backgrounds of our students. The School Board resolved that:

1. SRE will not be offered.
2. Teachers may incorporate GRE into curriculum associated with sociological studies with the over-arching goal being developing awareness and tolerance. Parents will be advised of any GRE activities to be made as part of the curriculum.
3. A range of different religions and cultural events may be recognised throughout the school year. The decision to recognize a religion or cultural event may be based on the cohort demographic, curriculum or events occurring in the community.

EXEMPTIONS

The school aims to minimize or avoid circumstances where parents feel compelled to seek to exempt their child from attendance at classes or events because of religious content or values.

Parents may request in writing for their child to be exempted from participating in an activity based on religious, spiritual or moral values on the grounds of conscientious objection.

Notification to the Principal must include the child's name, activity to be exempted and reason for request. The Principal will on receipt of the exemption notification from a parent seek clarification regarding the request (if required);

- provide advice to all staff involved with the student;
- maintain a record of all notifications received from parents/guardians;
- instruct teaching staff to provide an appropriate learning program for students withdrawn from particular activities,

Review

Concerns in relation to the implementation of this policy should be raised in writing with the School Board. This policy will be reviewed within three years of initial implementation.

Supporting Documentation

- *School Education Act 1999*
- *Religious Education Policy, Department of Education:* www.det.wa.edu.au/policies
- *Religious Education Website, Department of Education:*
<http://det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/religiouseducation/detcms/portal/>

School Board Review and Endorsement – June 2019

Scheduled Review - 2022