

Information for parents

The *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* provides that government schools must be secular. The only exception to this principle is non-compulsory Special Religious Instruction (SRI).

Page 1 of this form provides information for parents in relation to SRI. Page 2 provides parents the opportunity to indicate whether or not they wish their child to participate in SRI.

If you would like your child to participate in SRI, please return this form by the date specified on Page 2.

Note: SRI should not be confused with general religious education which may be delivered to all students in the school curriculum and provides education about world faiths and secular belief structures, which assist students to understand the world around them and act with tolerance and respect towards all cultures.

What is Special Religious Instruction?

SRI is “instruction provided by churches and other religious groups and based on distinctive religious tenets and beliefs.” This may include scriptural studies, and instruction in how to live and behave according to the beliefs of a particular faith.

SRI is an ‘opt-in’ extra-curricular activity that provides instruction in a specific faith, and is provided by a church or other religious group.

Given the specific religious nature of SRI, the Department of Education and Training does not endorse SRI program content. SRI materials are available online and via the SRI provider for parents to review.

Who delivers Special Religious Instruction?

SRI is delivered by religious volunteers who are accredited by an approved provider to deliver SRI instruction. Currently, the organisations approved to accredit instructors are:

Religion	Provider	Provider website for further information	Phone Number
Christianity	ACCESS ministries	www.accessministries.org.au/	1800 063 341
Islam	Arkan Toledo/Islamic Council of Victoria	arkan.org.au/	1300 857 797
Judaism	United Jewish Education Board	www.ujeb.org.au/	03 9523 6844
Buddhism	Religions for Peace Australia (RfP)	religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au/	
Orthodox Christianity			
Baha'i Faith			
Sikhism			
Hinduism			

Volunteer instructors are associated with a church or religious organisation. Their role is not that of a teacher. To obtain accreditation, they must undertake training through one of the providers listed above, and sign a Code of Conduct, which outlines how they are to conduct themselves in a government school. It is a requirement of accreditation that volunteers have a valid Working With Children Check.

Participation in Special Religious Instruction

A student may attend SRI in a government school for a maximum of 30 minutes per week during lunchtime, or within the hour immediately before or immediately after school hours.

SRI is not compulsory for any student. Schools can only allow students to participate in SRI if parental consent is provided using this form.

Parents are requested to complete and return this form to the school if they wish their child to participate in SRI.

Your consent for your child to participate in SRI is for the program listed on this form only. It does not constitute general consent and is valid until the end of the school year.

You may withdraw your child from SRI at any time by notifying the school principal.

Further information: Ministerial Direction 145 and Department of Education and Training policy can be accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/sri.aspx>

Special Religious Instruction – Parent Consent Form

School Name: Thomas Mitchell Primary School

Date form must be returned by: Thursday 23rd March, 2017

Religion	Accrediting Provider	Instructor's details	Proposed time and length of program (e.g. Tuesdays immediately after school for Terms 1 and 2)	Age group of students invited to participate in the SRI program
Christianity	ACCESS Ministries	Mrs. Leona McKenry Mrs. Jo Schaddee van Dooren	Tuesdays or Wednesdays during lunchtime (1pm – 1.25pm (25 minutes)) for Terms 2 – 4	Prep - Year 6
Islam	Arkan Toledo	Ms. Sri Soejatminah Ms. Nighat Malik Ms. Sabrina Haris	Mondays during lunchtime (1pm – 1.25pm (25 minutes)) for Terms 2 – 4	Prep - Year 6

If details of individual volunteers (their name and accrediting provider) are not available at the time this form is issued, they will be provided to parents who have indicated they wish their child/children to participate in SRI prior to the commencement of the program. Parents can opt their child/children out of SRI at any time, by notifying the school principal.

I confirm that I have read and understood the information about SRI on page 1 (please tick)

Do you consent to your child/children participating in the SRI program proposed above? YES (please tick one)

NO

If you have indicated yes, please list your child/children's details:

Student's Family Name	Student's First Name	Class	Which SRI programs do you consent to your child participating in?

I understand that a fee of \$10 will be charged, to purchase materials for my child's use in SRI. (please tick)

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Signature:

Date:/...../.....

