

SRE Email Update - December 2010

Greetings to all SRE Teachers, Helpers, Coordinators, Advocates and Prayer Partners!

The Advent Season is well and truly upon us! In the spirit of preparation, I have includes some links below to SRE resources that are useful at this time of year as well as heading into the 2011 school year.

Resources for Promoting SRE

Some SRE coordinators have been very proactive about keeping people in their school communities informed about SRE using PowerPoint slide shows, information brochures, and letters to classroom teachers and parents. ICCOREIS (the Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools) has brought together some of these resources so that anyone can access, customise and use. It's also worthwhile to have a look at the rest of the ICCOREIS resources page which includes things such as helpful advice for organising SRE assemblies and seminars.

To access Promotion resources:

<http://www.iccoreis.asn.au/resources.htm#promotion>

ICCOREIS Resource Webpage: <http://www.iccoreis.asn.au/resources.htm>

Ethics Classes in 2011

As you may be aware, after several years of lobbying, a 10 week trial, an independent review and much deliberation time, the NSW parliament passed an amendment to the Education Act 1990 which now allows schools to host 'special education in ethics' classes as an option for those children whose parents do not wish them to attend a Special Religious Education class.

These ethics classes can happen from Term 1, 2011 but will only happen where there is sufficient interest from the school community and sufficient suitable volunteers to adequately coordinate and teach ethics classes. SRE classes will remain the primary options and ethics classes will only be on offer for those who have 'opted out' of SRE. The group responsible for coordinating the ethics curriculum, volunteer training and other administration across the state is 'Primary Ethics' a company founded by St James Ethics Centre.

Below are links to statements and articles from ICCOREIS, the Department of Education and Training, and 'Primary Ethics' which contain further information about the ethics classes, the assured place of SRE, and preparations for 2011.

Statement from the Chairperson of ICCOREIS Ann Maree Whenman

<http://www.iccoreis.asn.au/news.htm#news1>

DET News Articles

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/about-us/news-at-det/news/ethics-classes-to-start-in-2011>

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/about-us/news-at-det/news/law-ensures-ethics-classes-can-start-in-2011>

Further Information from 'Primary Ethics'

<http://www.primaryethics.com.au/principals.html>

SRE FAQ

(Special Religious Education Frequently Asked Questions)

A great way of making information widely available almost anywhere anytime is our Synod children's ministry website www.childrensministry.org.au Here you will find a new frequently asked questions (FAQ) section for SRE. This is just one way we can offer you more information at your fingertips.

SCTA Safe Church Awareness Workshops

In 2011, there will be an emphasis on bringing Safe Church Awareness Training to as many regions as possible. In conjunction with other SCTA approved training partners Uniting Church members should have more options to attend a Safe Church Workshop to meet to child protection requirements to attend awareness training every 3 years.

For a preliminary list of 2011 Safe Church workshops see:

<http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/safe-church/scta/scta-workshop-calendar>
(This calendar is updated almost every week with new workshops added!)

For more information on SCTA Safe Church Workshops see:

www.childrensministry.org.au/safety-and-protection

Got a question about SRE in schools or Child Protection / Safe Church?
On the phone (02 8267 4290) or via email (emmap@nsw.uca.org.au) I am more than happy to help.

Blessings for a Safe and Happy Christmas Season!

Emma Parr

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