



## Advice for SRE authorising agents on behalf of local Church Councils

An authorising agent is the person who, on behalf of your congregation's Church Council, is responsible for authorising an SRE teacher. This means they must be satisfied the person requesting authorisation has met the basic criteria for authorisation and understands what is required in undertaking the role of an SRE teacher. An authorising agent would be a Minister in placement or a member of the Church Council Executive from the SRE teachers sending congregation.

When a Church Council's authorising agent signs an SRE engagement form and an authorisation card (green card), the Church Council are authorising that person to represent your congregation and the Uniting Church in Government Schools.

If an SRE teacher is also going to be teaching joint denominationally, you also need to be confident that they can effectively represent the other denominations that you and other local churches will be cross authorising them to teach.

(For more information about Cross Authorisation see: [www.childrensministry.org.au/sre](http://www.childrensministry.org.au/sre))

### A Simple Checklist for a Pre-authorisation Conversation/Interview

To help simplify the process, here is a checklist of things to discuss with new or continuing Special Religious Education teachers prior to signing their SRE engagement form and subsequent authorisation card.

- They understand that they are representing their congregation and the Uniting Church, and if teaching as part of a joint program, the other denominations involved.
- They are living their Christian faith and have the desire to pass on that faith appropriately to children.
- They are able to manage a class of children on their own, or they will teach alongside a competent teacher until they are able to manage the class effectively alone.
- They have curriculum materials and know how to use them.
- They know what support is available to them, who their coordinator is, and that they can keep informed about in-service training and any changes to procedure or guidelines via the website: [www.childrensministry.org.au/sre](http://www.childrensministry.org.au/sre)
- They have completed the appropriate NSW Working With Children Check declaration/consent to check. (For volunteers this is the *Volunteer/Student Declaration* and for paid employees/Ministers this is a pre-employment *Applicant Declaration and Consent* prior to starting in their position).
- They have attended an SCTA endorsed Safe Church Awareness Workshop (at least modules 1 & 2) OR will accept provisional authorisation until they have participated in an SCTA Safe Church workshop.

It is important to find time for this conversation with an incoming SRE teacher so they are fully aware of the support they have and what is required of them.

Another useful information source for people interested in teaching SRE is the *Uniting Church NSW SRE Guide*. As an authorising agent it might also be helpful to have a look at this booklet to get an idea of the background and contexts of SRE.

If you have any queries or would like more information, please contact Emma Parr – SRE Coordinator (02 8267 4290; [emmap@nsw.uca.org.au](mailto:emmap@nsw.uca.org.au) )