

# SPIRITED ACTion!

“Imagine having the opportunity to talk about Jesus with children who have no other way of knowing him. Imagine being part of a team that puts aside its differences to share the common beliefs of the Christian faith. Imagine teaching children the Christian stories that underpin social culture — its laws, music, art, language, values. Imagine yourself playing a part in passing on God’s message of love, peace and hope. Imagine being a part of this action.”

*Chris Ellis — Weetangera CRE team*

“All the kids who go to the Christian education program at our school love it! The CRE team tell a bible story or act out a bible verse. It’s cool because they always involve some of us in their performance. Everyone wants a turn! They also have some really good songs.

In the end all the kids know what God is like and how he loves them. We say a prayer too!

We always want the team to come back!”

*Year 5 student — Gungahlin*

## MORE INFORMATION

The following documents provide further information in regard to Christian Religious Education:

**Religious Education in ACT Government Schools**  
Department of Education and Training 2005

**Working with Children and Young People  
– Volunteering Policy and Procedures**  
Department of Education and Training 2003

**Christian Religious Education  
in ACT Government Schools**  
ACT Churches’ Council 2008

Copies are available at [www.det.act.gov.au/policies](http://www.det.act.gov.au/policies), from your school or from the CRE Coordinator.

**DONATIONS** *If you are interested in supporting this project financially or with a donated service, please contact the CRE Coordinator.*



### Christian Religious Education in ACT Government Schools

*A project of the ACT Churches’ Council*

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# JOIN THE ACTion!

**CHRISTIAN  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

*a project of the ACT  
Churches’ Council*



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Education in the ACT is currently governed by the Education Act 2004. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that every child receives a high quality education, based on principles such as:

- > promoting respect for and tolerance of others
- > recognising the social, religious, physical, intellectual and emotional needs of all students
- > encouraging innovation, diversity and opportunity within and among schools
- > recognising the partnership between the home, community and educational providers

**Section 29** of the Education Act 2004 states that if parents of children at a government school ask the principal for their children to receive religious education in a particular religion, the principal must ensure that reasonable time is allowed for their children's religious education in that religion. This section of the Education Act affirms the place of religious education in the school curriculum.

## CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CRE)

The ACT CHURCHES' COUNCIL offers a coordinated approach to address Christian Religious Education (CRE) in ACT government schools, including:

- > professional guidelines
- > screened volunteers
- > a CRE program inventory
- > approved curriculum resources
- > teaching and support for students in:
  - the belief, values and life of Christian faith for individuals and in society
  - the Bible as the basis of Christianity
  - Christian festivals
  - respect and harmony between all people

## EXISTING PROGRAMS

CRE programs already exist in various schools across the ACT, some initiated at the school level but all requiring parental permission for children to attend. Your school may already have an in-class program, special assemblies or term visits. Check with your principal if you are unsure as to whether any CRE is happening at your school, if you would like to discuss further options or if you are able to volunteer in a CRE program.

## REQUESTING CRE

To place a request for CRE at your school please complete the enclosed form and speak directly with your child's school principal. You may network with other interested parents and encourage them to do the same. You may also indicate your interest in becoming a volunteer in a CRE program.

## ESTABLISHING CRE IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Once your Principal has received requests for CRE s/he will contact the CRE Coordinator to access the service of the ACT Churches' Council. The Coordinator will:

- > notify participating churches
- > liaise between your school and the churches to assist in the establishment of a suitable CRE program
- > record details of the CRE program
- > ensure that all documentation is in order and facilitate training opportunities
- > be a point of contact
- > provide further information should your school desire Christian links beyond CRE

## REQUEST FOR CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parent to complete and give to school principal



I \_\_\_\_\_ (parent name) hereby request religious education in the Christian religion for my child/ren listed below, at \_\_\_\_\_ Primary School, in accordance with the Education Act 2004.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD	CLASS

YES, I would like to receive information about VOLUNTEERING for a CRE program.

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### RECEIPT OF REQUEST FOR CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Principal to sign – parent to retain

I have received a request for Christian Religious Education to be held at our school. The request has been placed in the RECORD OF REQUESTS FOR CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION envelope.

Principal's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_