



SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE) PARTICIPATION LETTER

Dear parents and carers,

Thanks to the support of the combined churches of the Hunter our school is able to offer classes in Special Religious Education (SRE), sometimes known as scripture. This is a well-organised program which is not linked to any specific denomination. The program allows students the chance to discuss, question, think and ultimately make decisions for themselves regarding the Christian faith.

This opportunity is part of the NSW public education system, which allows time in class for education in ethics, faith and morality from a religious or non-religious perspective at the choice of parents. The school website www.westwalls-h.schools.nsw.edu.au provides information on these options to support parent/carer choice. Further information about Special Religious Education (SRE) can also be found at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics>.

The SRE provider for West Wallsend High School is a combined churches program using the Baptist Union of NSW WBCEA Discovery Curriculum. SRE is delivered 1 period per timetable cycle. Further details may be found here: <https://nswactbaptists.org.au/authorised-sre-curriculum/>.

Students who participate in SRE will *not* in any way be disadvantaged regarding their normal class time as the curriculum will not progress during SRE. Students not attending SRE are provided with supervised alternative meaningful activities. **A parent/carer may at any time notify the school in writing that they wish to change their decision.** *Students will continue the same arrangement as the previous year unless a parent/carer has requested a change in writing.*

SRE options – please complete and return this note to the front office

No, I do NOT wish for my child to attend SRE.

OR

Yes, I DO wish for my child to attend SRE.

Student name: _____ Year: _____ Date: _____

Parent/carer name: _____ Signature: _____



FAQs

Special Religious Education (SRE)

What is SRE?

SRE stands for Special Religious Education. This means education in one specific religion rather than an overview on all world religions. In this case, non-denominational Christianity.

What work will my child miss out on if they do SRE?

Core work is not completed in time-tabled classes while SRE is on. This is so students who choose SRE don't miss out or get left behind in any way. This is DoE policy, to ensure students do not have a conflict of choice.

What will my child be taught?

SRE at West Wallsend High School is taught from the WBCEA Discovery Curriculum, which is approved by the NSW Baptist Association. To learn more and to read a program outline please visit <https://nswactbaptists.org.au/>. Please be assured that sensitive political and ethical issues are not addressed in SRE and SRE teachers must always abide by DoE policy regarding sensitive topics.

Should my child go?

It's completely up to you as a parent/carer. However, any student is welcome in SRE regardless of their faith or religious observance at home. SRE aims to give students an opportunity to ask meaningful questions about how faith impacts a person's beliefs, values and identity. It never tells students what they must believe or how they must think.

Who teaches SRE at West Wallsend High School?

SRE lessons will be taught by Lysander Lawrence who has years of experience working in school settings, as well as the necessary qualifications, having obtained a Bachelor of Theology and a Graduate Diploma in Child and Adolescent Development. Lysander has been teaching SRE at West Wallsend High School for over 10 years.

Does SRE cost anything? Or does the school pay for it?

There is absolutely no cost to you or the school if your child engages with SRE. It is funded by local churches and individual donations. There is also no special equipment required for SRE classes.