WANT TO KNOW MORE?

An overview of the program as well as sample lessons from each year level, are available online at www.accessministries.org.au

SRI has been part of the Victorian education system for over 100 years. And while teaching methods may have changed, the intrinsic value of helping a child engage with and understand the place of faith and spirituality in life remains a constant.

The Explore Christianity program stands separate from the school curriculum. However there are natural linkage points between what is learned in Christian SRI (Explore Christianity) and the state school curriculum.

These include the development of knowledge skills and attitudes which foster:
- Care and Compassion
- Respect
- Intercultural Understanding
- Tolerance
- Inclusion

Find more information about ACCESS Ministries and Christian Special Religious Instruction

"The ACCESS ministries material is fantastic... it is well thought out with plenty of scope for instructors to choose activities to suit our students... and is in tune with our school values."

Principal, Melbourne

AN INTERACTIVE FUN WAY TO EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH!

A Special Religious Instruction program for your child

Contact:
ACCESS ministries
GPO Box 5124, MELBOURNE VIC 3001
T: (03) 9804 0733
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FREECALL™ 1800 063 341
Q. What is Explore Christianity?

A: Explore Christianity provides an opportunity for students to learn about Christian beliefs and values in the context of their school learning experience.

It is a contemporary, relevant and engaging program that is usually offered once a week, generally for a 30 minute session.

Explore Christianity recognises that spirituality is a part of our overall human development, and creates a safe place for the discussion of the spiritual dimension in life. This is consistent with the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (2008) on which the Australian Curriculum is based.

Explore Christianity introduces students to the biblical narrative, and the stories and values which have significantly shaped the character of our nation.

Explore Christianity represents Christianity broadly, respecting other faith groups who are also able to offer Special Religious Instruction (SRI) under the Education and Training Reform Act (2006), thus working towards a more tolerant and inclusive society.

Q. Who is ACCESS ministries?

A: ACCESS ministries is an interdenominational organisation supported by 12 Christian Churches:

- Anglican Church
- Australian Christian Churches
- Baptist Union of Victoria
- Christian Community Churches of Victoria
- Christian Reformed Churches
- Churches of Christ in Australia
- CRC International
- Lutheran Church
- Presbyterian Church Victoria
- Salvation Army
- Uniting Church
- Wesleyan Methodist Church

Our SRI Instructors are drawn from all Christian denominations.

Q. Who runs the program?

A: Explore Christianity is run by teams of accredited volunteers, in the presence of classroom teachers, for the benefit of your child.

Before they are accredited by ACCESS ministries and then approved by the Minister for Education, they must attend Accreditation Training, be endorsed by the Minister of their church, satisfactorily complete all training requirements and hold a current Working with Children Check. They team-teach for one term and undergo regular continuing education and are reviewed each year.

Q. What value is it to my child?

A: Explore Christianity gives your child some of the knowledge and tools to live in today's multicultural and multi-faith society.

The Christian faith and stories have had a profound influence in many of the cultures which make up Australia.

Explore Christianity is an optional activity; parents are free to determine whether their children participate or not.

Q. What does it cost?

A: There is a small participation fee which contributes towards the cost of running the program.

These costs include administration, material and training. The consent form sent home for you to sign will show these fees.
2016 Explore Christianity Update

Some significant changes are coming in 2016 which affect the way in which the Explore Christianity SRI program will now be delivered in schools.

Depending on the requirements of the school and availability of approved and accredited instructors, these programs may be offered before school, at lunchtime or after school hours.

Prep/Foundation
Students will be able to access a 30 minute, book-based program that is designed for their age/stage. If the program is offered before or after school, you as parent/s are invited to participate alongside your child.

Years 1 to 4
Students will participate in a new activities-based SRI program that is developmentally appropriate and is designed to engage the students in an interactive and fun way, through stories, games, songs and crafts.

Years 5 and 6
The book-based program for this group (epiQ) is a new inquiry-based program that engages the students’ minds and allows for exploration of concepts appropriate for this age group.

In all of these 30 minute sessions, your child will be engaged in a fun and interactive journey of discovery, helping them to learn how to make good choices, how to build healthy relationships as well as to understand the Christian story and some of its significance for who we are as a nation.

A participation fee of $10 per child will apply; this covers all materials used in the program for the school year.