



Special Religious Instruction – Parent Consent Form (CFMD141)

School Name:

Date form issued:

Schools are obliged to provide parents with this form if approached by an accredited and approved SRI volunteer. Once this form has been provided to parents and returned forms compiled, the principal will decide whether there are sufficient resources to enable SRI to be offered at the school.

The school has been approached by a Special Religious Instruction volunteer offering SRI in the following religion:

If it is offered by the school, it will be delivered by the following instructor(s) and organisation(s) with the following religious affiliations:

Volunteer Instructor Name(s):

Provider who has accredited the SRI volunteer:

Religious affiliation/auspicing church:

If it is offered, it will be delivered for _____ minutes per _____ The program will be run

Further information and program overview/materials may be accessed online at:

If offered, I authorise my child/children

| Student's Family Name | Student's First Name | Year Level |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|
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| | | |

to participate in Special Religious Instruction in the religion specified above, should it be offered at the school.

I confirm that I have read the information about SRI on p2 of this form prior to signing

I understand that there may be an associated fee to purchase materials for my child's use in SRI, and that this will be collected once it is determined whether SRI will be offered in the school

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Address:

Signature:

Date:/...../.....

If you would like your child to participate in SRI, please sign and return this form to the school by

If you do not return this form, your child will not participate in SRI, should it be offered at the school.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Special Religious Instruction Policy can be accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/religious.aspx>

Special Religious Instruction – Parent Consent Form (CFMD141)

Special Religious Instruction – Parent Consent Information

The provision of Special Religious Instruction (SRI), delivered by churches and other religious groups, in government schools is authorised under section 2.2.11 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*.

Special Religious Instruction Policy

SRI may only be offered and delivered in accordance with Department policy and Ministerial Direction MD141. SRI can be offered only where accredited and approved volunteer religious instructors have approached a particular school, are available to provide a special religious instruction program and where a school has the resources to comply with legal requirements and ensure that duty of care obligations are met to all students during SRI.

Schools are obliged to provide parents with this form if approached by an accredited and approved SRI volunteer. Once this form has been provided to parents and returned forms compiled, the principal will decide whether there are sufficient resources to enable SRI to be offered at the school.

MD141 and the policy are available online at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/legislation/Pages/sri.aspx>
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/religious.aspx>

What is Special Religious Instruction?

SRI is instruction in the specific religious beliefs and tenets of a religion, and is not to be confused with General Religious Education (GRE). GRE is education about religions (which may or may not include using representatives of a particular faith to explain the workings and belief structure of their religion), whereas SRI programs are instruction in a particular religion and may include scriptural studies, and instruction in how to live and behave according to the tenets of the particular faith.

SRI **does not** provide an overview of all faiths or religions. Each particular SRI offering is instruction in one faith only, provided by a church or other religious group. Given the religious nature of the program, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development **does not endorse program content** used to deliver SRI by accredited volunteer instructors.

Who delivers Special Religious Instruction?

Special Religious Instruction is available to schools in a range of faiths including Christianity, Catholicism, Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Bah'ai, and Sikhism. The religions available to schools will vary depending on whether any instructors approach the school. Currently the providers accrediting the volunteer Special Religious Instructors are:

| Religion | Agency/Provider | Provider website for further information | Provider phone number |
|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Christianity | ACCESS Ministries | http://www.accessministries.org.au/ | 1800 063 341 |
| Catholicism | Catholic Education Office | http://www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au/ | 9267 0228 |
| Islam | Arkan Toledo/Islamic Council of Victoria | http://arkan.org.au/ | 1300 857 797 |
| Judaism | United Jewish Education Board | http://www.ujeb.org.au/ | 9038 5028 |
| Buddhism | Religions for Peace Australia (RfP) | http://religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au/ | |
| Orthodox Christianity | | | |
| Bahá'í faith | | | |
| Sikhism | | | |
| Hinduism | | | |

Volunteer instructors are associated with a church or religious organisation. Their role is not that of a teacher. To obtain accreditation, they must have undertaken training through one of the providers listed above, and signed up to a code of conduct which outlines how they are to conduct themselves in a government school. It is a requirement of accreditation that volunteers have a valid Working With Children Check.

Participation in Special Religious Instruction

Participation in Special Religious Instruction is voluntary. Schools cannot place children in SRI unless parental consent is provided for a child to participate (opt-in). SRI materials are available online and via the agency delivering SRI for parents to review.

Parents are requested to complete and return this form to the school if they wish their child to participate in SRI, should it be offered at the school. If this form is not returned, the child will not participate in SRI, should it be offered. Students not participating in SRI will be engaged in educationally valuable activities that are outside the core curriculum in a separate classroom or learning space to the students participating in SRI.

If SRI in more than one religion is being offered at your child's school, you will be provided with a consent form for each religion.

You may withdraw your child/children from Special Religious Instruction at any time by notifying the school principal in writing.

Further information

MD141 and Department policy can be accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/legislation/Pages/sri.aspx>
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/religious.aspx>