



MOWBRAY
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Special Religious Education/ Special Education in Ethics Programs

Below is the list of approved special religious education programs provided at the school for 2019 and a brief outline of what each program offers for the students to help you make the best choice for your child.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Bahai

It is a Bahá'í teaching that we cannot begin to understand the concept of God (or 'the Unknowable Essence', as God is referred to in the Bahá'í Writings). We explain that, just as the sun is the source of physical life on the planet, so God is the source of our spiritual life. Spiritual qualities or virtues such as trustworthiness, joyfulness, kindness etc are the signs of God within us. We teach the children that our essence is spiritual and that it needs to be nurtured, fostered and educated just like our bodies and minds do.

The students will develop an understanding about the fundamental principles of the Bahá'í Faith such as: The oneness of God: that irrespective of which religion we adhere to, we worship the same God (only the name and the form of worship differ) The oneness of religion: that all the world's major religions are chapters of the one book - a book that is still unfinished. The children learn about the major world religions from a Bahá'í perspective. The oneness of humanity: the need for the eradication of prejudices of race, class, creed, nationality, gender. The equality of women and men. Prayer and meditation The history of the Bahá'í Faith Collective decision making through the process of consultation The importance of fostering good character and the development of spiritual qualities such as honesty, compassion, justice and service which form the foundation of a peaceful world.

Option 2: Catholic

Catholic SRE teaching programs are approved by the Bishop of the Diocese in liaison with educational experts, for use by the Catholic SRE Teachers. Programs contain suitable lessons for children from Kindergarten to Year 6 and there are a variety of programs for Secondary Schools students as well. SRE can be considered as part of “a well-rounded education that values and supports the intellectual, creative, physical, social and emotional development of each child.”

Children attending the Catholic SRE Classes receive lessons that give them background preparation for the Sacraments that may be available to their age group.

Catholic SRE Teachers (also referred to as Catechists) are volunteers who are approved, authorised, and trained by the local parish and the Diocese of the Catholic Church. They liaise with the local Catholic Parishes to ensure that students and families are aware of the Sacramental programs offered locally.

Option 3: Jewish

BJE provides a structured curriculum for students in Jewish 'Scripture' classes. Students are encouraged to feel positive about being Jewish and to identify with the Jewish community. They learn about Jewish holidays, values, synagogue basics, and Israel. Older children also explore ethical aspects of Judaism and explore some areas of Jewish history. Basic Jewish prayers are incorporated into each lesson. Where possible, lessons are also enriched with activities such as demonstration Sedarim for Pesach (Passover), hands-on experiences, craft activities, guest presenters and visits from Jewish youth groups.

Option 4: Protestant

In Protestant SRE, children are introduced to the truths of the Bible through age-appropriate use of music, drama, video, reading and writing, puzzle solving, drawing and discussion. Students in our classes are encouraged to explore the deeper questions of the nature of mankind, the character of God and our relationship with God as well as the moral implications of how we should live.

All of our teachers are Christians who are authorised by the Anglican church in Sydney and are required to complete their accreditation training prior to commencing SRE teaching. Our authorised teaching curriculum is called Connect which has been designed for use in Australian schools. If you have any more questions or you would like to see the curriculum, please go to www.whysre.com.au.

Option: Non-scripture

In the allocated time for SRE/SEE, students not attending one of the offered programs will be provided with supervised activities. This could include reading, group activities or private study. These students are supervised by a member of the school staff during this time.

Option: Ethics

As an alternative to Special Religious Education classes, Mowbray offers parents the opportunity for their children to attend Ethics classes. These classes are taught by specially trained volunteers and cover topics that encourage skills such as reasoned decision-making, disagreeing respectfully, and critical thinking. Detailed information about the Ethics program is available at <https://primaryethics.com.au>.



Special Religious Education and Special Education in Ethics Participation Letter

A feature of the public education system in NSW is the opportunity to provide 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 <https://mowbray-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/> provides information on these options to support parent/carer choice.

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.

For more information about Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE), including the list of approved providers, please visit: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics>

If your preferred SRE or SEE option is not available please contact the approved provider. Students not attending SRE or SEE are given supervised alternative meaningful activities.

The following options are available at Mowbray Public School. Please choose one.

SRE Options

- Option 1: Bahai
- Option 2: Catholic
- Option 3: Jewish
- Option 4: Protestant

OR

- Please check this box if you do not wish for your child to attend SRE. Your child will participate in alternative meaningful activities.

SEE Option - If you have declined for your child to attend SRE above please check below if you would like your child to attend SEE.

- Special Education in Ethics

Student name: _____ Year: _____

Signature of parent/carer: _____ Date: _____