



# TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Parents/caregivers in public schools have the right to have their children receive instruction in their preferred religion, where authorised teachers of that denomination are available.

A special religious education program (**Scripture class**) is available at the school and is run by authorised volunteer scripture teachers.

We are able to offer Scripture classes to all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Scripture lessons are held once a week. Please note a classroom teacher will be present at all times with the Scripture teacher.

**Unfortunately, there are not enough catholic teachers available and Catholic Scripture will ONLY be offered to certain year groups, depending on availability. As an alternative for catholic students in years where Catholic Scripture is not available, the GODSPACE curriculum, which is approved by the Hunter Catholic diocese, will be taught in Combined Scripture.**

Students continue in the same arrangements each year, unless a parent/caregiver has requested a change in writing. At any time, you have the right to change your SRE nomination or to withdraw your child from the nominated lessons. A note to the Principal will affect this change.

Regards,

Nicole Heazlewood  
Principal

I wish my child to attend the following Scripture class

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

- Anglican/Baptist Combined Scripture
- Catholic Scripture (**if available**)
- Non-Scripture

Signature of Parent/Caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **FAQs about Scripture at Tacoma Public School.**

### **What is SRE?**

SRE stands for Special Religious Education. This means education in one specific religion rather than an overview on all world religions. At Tacoma SRE covers non-denominational Christianity as well as catering specifically for the Catholic faith.

### **Who teaches SRE?**

People who volunteer from local Christian churches. All Scripture teachers have mandatory working with children checks and ongoing training in child protection. They also have training in classroom management, lesson preparation and what is appropriate for the age they teach.

### **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 our school is taught from the WBCEA Discovery Curriculum, which is approved by the NSW Baptist Association or CONNECT which is an Anglican publication or the authorised Catholic curriculum. 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.

Children are encouraged to explore, question and discover more about their Christian faith by looking at the Word of God, church teaching and the faith of other Christians.

Christian SRE begins with the understanding that we were created by a loving God who has provided a picture of himself in the person of Jesus. Children are encouraged to see themselves as God sees them with the potential to be a force of immense goodness in our world. This positive, realistic self image and identity helps to build resilience in your children and supports the core values endorsed by your school.

### **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.

And the content and method of presentation is carefully crafted to be age-appropriate

You can visit [www.christiansre.com.au](http://www.christiansre.com.au) for further information.