

## Benefits of being a SRE

### 1. Quality relationships

Discover new friendships and build quality relationships with like-minded people that will enhance your self esteem and empower your creativity.

### 2. By giving, we receive

We share in love that we know brings new life. Proclaiming the Good News profits not only those who hear it, but those who proclaim it. Truly, "It is in giving that we receive" (St Francis of Assisi). Never forget, God will not be outdone in generosity!

### 3. Spiritual enrichment

Explaining how you have come to experience the belief that 'God loves you' expands your mind, you gain wisdom and come to know God in a deeper way. Essentially, by preparing to teach, you grow in knowledge and faith.

### 4. Mastering new skills

As a SRE, your confidence and abilities will grow in many ways, including the development of your interpersonal, leadership, story-telling, speaking, use of technology and teaching skills. Many experts tell us that mastering new skills has enormous physical and mental health benefits.

### 5. Being part of something important

You can make a difference and share the most basic message of God's love and this brings great hope to young people. You will be amazed at how simply sharing your own experience of faith brings children to know Jesus and His Church. For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News is a great source of joy and meaning.

## Contact us

Are you interested? Please give us a call:

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## Requirements

Catholic Special Religious Educators, are from all walks of life, reflecting the rich tapestry of our Church. The one thing they have in common is a desire to nurture the faith of the young people in NSW and ACT. All SRE must go through a simple but important screening process, including Child Protection, and be in good standing with the Church as verified by their Parish Priest.

Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools (CCRESS) is the representative for the SRE in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. CCRESS works to ensure that the Catholic Church provides an authorised quality curriculum, resources and Catholic Special Religious Education teacher training. SRE Training is delivered in each diocesan deanery several times throughout the year. Annual SRE training, as agreed by the NSW and ACT Bishops, is a requirement for all SRE volunteers.



# Are you interested in being a Special Religious Educator?

[www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au)



## Catch the vision

The work of a small group of concerned Catholics in the 16th century has since grown into one of the most prolific ministries in the Catholic Church. These few passionate souls dedicated themselves to teach people and share their faith, and this has grown into a ministry. Since 1880 this ministry has been exercised through the provision of Special Religious Education (SRE) in public schools of NSW. It is supported by years of faithful service and has enhanced the lives of thousands of young people. Welcome to the world of a Special Religious Educator (SRE)!

## Why be a SRE?

Because you can! The impact you will have on our youth is unique and lasting. You will be welcomed by young people who are eager to hear about God's love. You will form a trust relationship with those you teach, that in many ways lives on in their minds and hearts long after they finish school. You will witness amazing growth in the spiritual life of some individuals over time. There has never been a more critical time to engage in the faith formation and character development of young people.

## What do I teach?

Each diocese uses SRE authorised curriculum that has been specially designed to use in the classroom. It is detailed and sequenced to make teaching easy. Lessons usually contain an opening and closing prayer, orientation, story and activity – all of which are covered in your basic training.

## A lesson in five easy steps

1. An SRE Coordinator allocates you a class at one of the local public schools that suits you. This is your class for the year!
2. Grab your copy of the curriculum teachers guide and student activity book.
3. Read over your lesson for that week. Pray about what God wants you to share with the kids. Look at the student activity book and, if you like, gather some extra simple resources from the parish or other SRE.
4. Arrive at the school with the other SRE and SRE volunteers for a brief prayer before you start your lesson of around 30 minutes.
5. Take a deep breath... you are about to participate in the amazing transformation of hearts and minds – bringing about the Kingdom of God, sowing seeds of joy and faith.

**Remember:** You won't be 'thrown in the deep end' and many people start as a classroom helper; you will receive quality training in the curriculum and classroom management, so that you feel confident in the classroom and can focus on sharing the joy of the Gospel.

We know that God revealed Himself by becoming man on earth through the person of Jesus Christ. He did so to allow that open invitation to Him:- being there on earth confirms to us that we are all welcome in God's kingdom. Witness and proclamation are the key components to evangelisation. God's plan is to use His people to allow others to know Him and to spread the word about Him. As a SRE, you are, by your words and deeds, a testament to the story that we are all God's children and are all a part of the Kingdom of God.

