

# Special Religious Instruction – Parent Consent Form (CFMD141)

School Name:

Date form issued:

This form is for students in years:

Please Return By:

This form provides parents the opportunity to indicate whether or not they wish to enrol their child/children in Special Religious Instruction (SRI). Once forms have been returned and assessed by the school the principal will decide whether SRI will be scheduled at the school.

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

Religion	Agency/Provider	Further info (volunteer name, religious affiliation/auspicing church)	Minutes/ hours per week, fortnight/ month	Program Length (for example: one month, term 2 or one year)	Expected Maximum Fees

If details of individual volunteers (their name, accrediting provider and religious organisation) are not available at the time that this form has been issued, they will be provided to parents prior to the commencement of the program either through the school newsletter, information which can be collected from reception or by other appropriate means as designated by the school. On receipt of this information, parents will be able to withdraw their child/children from SRI if they wish. Parents can withdraw their child/children from SRI at any time by notifying the school principal in writing.

**I confirm that I have read and understand the Parent Consent Information about SRI on page 2**  (please tick)

**Do you consent to your child/children to participate in SRI should it be scheduled at the school?** YES  (please tick one)

NO

**If you have indicated yes, please list your child/children's details:**

Student's Family Name	Student's First Name	Year Level	Which above offered Religion is SRI participation consented for?

**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 scheduled in the school**  (please tick)

Parent/Guardian's Name: .....

Address: .....

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

If you would like your child/children to participate in SRI, tick yes and please return this form by the date specified above. *Please note that if you do not return this form you are indicating that you do not consent for your child/children to participate in SRI should it be scheduled by the school.*

## 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 can only be offered and delivered in accordance with Department policy and Ministerial Direction MD141. SRI can be offered where an accredited and approved volunteer religious instructor(s) has approached a school 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. SRI may be offered for no more than an average of 30 minutes per week.

Schools 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	<a href="http://www.accessministries.org.au/">http://www.accessministries.org.au/</a>	1800 063 341
Catholicism	Catholic Education Office	<a href="http://www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au/">http://www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au/</a>	9267 0228
Islam	Arkan Toledo/Islamic Council of Victoria	<a href="http://arkan.org.au/">http://arkan.org.au/</a>	1300 857 797
Judaism	United Jewish Education Board	<a href="http://www.ujeb.org.au/">http://www.ujeb.org.au/</a>	9038 5028
Buddhism	Religions for Peace Australia (RfP)	<a href="http://religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au/">http://religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au/</a>	
Orthodox Christianity			
Baha'i 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 generally 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.

**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>