



Thurgoona Public School

Excellence, innovation, opportunity – student success in a caring environment

Special Religious Education Participation Letter

An additional Special Religious Education program, Ethics, will be available at this school for students in Kindergarten only, effective from Term 1, 2023. Please complete this form if you have not already done so by indicating your preference for Special Religious Education OR if you would like your child to participate in Ethics. The Ethics program can ONLY accommodate 20 Kindergarten students, spots will be allocated upon receipt of the completed permission note.

A feature of the public education system in NSW is the opportunity to provide time in class for education in faith and morality from a religious perspective at the choice of parents. It is delivered by authorised representatives of approved religious groups to students who have nominated that religion. For more information about Special Religious Education (SRE), please visit: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics>

The following options are available at Thurgoona Public School:

Special Religious Education (Combined Christian SRE)

Christian SRE engages students in conversations as they question life, explore values and discover faith. Christian SRE is provided by SRE teachers from different Christian denominations and churches. The approved providers in this combined arrangement are Presbyterian Church of Australia (NSW); CRC Churches International NSW; Albury Bible Church (Albury); ACTS Global Churches (previously Apostolic Church Australia); Associated Christian Ministries; Lutheran Church of Australia, NSW District (Rhodes); Australian Christian Churches; Churches of Christ in NSW (Fresh Hope). All Christian SRE teachers are authorised and trained by an approved provider. The Christian SRE curriculum is authorised by Anglican Diocese of Sydney and the Presbyterian Church of Australia (NSW). The name of the curriculum used is Connect (CEP) (Stage 1-3), Beginning with God (CEP) (Stage Kindergarten) Curriculum and Quizworx. The curriculum is based on Good News about Jesus Christ and learning the key elements of our Christian life and culture and can be found at:

<https://cepconnect.com.au/curriculum>

<https://cepconnect.com.au/images/uploads/BWGSyllabusall.pdf>

<https://www.quizworx.com/>

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Catholic Religious Education

The curriculum scope and sequence for Catholic religious education has been authorised by the Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga. The link to the authorised curriculum scope and sequence is available at <https://www.wagga.catholic.org.au/Education-Catechesis/SRE-Catechesis.aspx>

Ethics (Kindergarten only – the program can ONLY accommodate 20 students, spots will be allocated upon receipt of the completed permission note)

Ethics classes support children to develop a life-long capacity for making well-reasoned decisions about ethical issues. Through the give-and-take of reasoned argument, students learn to disagree respectfully, to challenge ideas and to support their arguments with considered evidence rather than according to habit or peer pressure. Volunteer ethics teachers, which are trained members of the school and broader community, use detailed lesson materials which present a range of stories, scenarios and questions to generate discussion. Ethics teachers are trained to impartially facilitate student discussions, helping students develop their critical thinking and collaborative inquiry skills. The link to the authorised curriculum scope and sequence is available at <https://primaryethics.com.au/>

No Religious Education

In the allocated time set aside for SRE, students not attending are provided with supervised alternative meaningful activities. This could include reading, private study or completing homework. They are supervised in a separate physical space from SRE classes by a member of the school staff. Supervision of students is consistent with the department's duty of care requirements. Students do not participate in lessons in the school curriculum or other extra-curricular activities during this time.

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.

SRE Options Please choose one.

- Option 1: Special Religious Education (Combined Christian SRE)
- Option 2: Catholic Religious Education
- Option 3: Ethics (see page 3 for more information and to sign specific Ethics permission, only 20 students can be accommodated)

OR

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

Student name: _____ Year: _____

Signature of parent/carer: _____ Date: _____

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Ethics Classes at Thurgoona Public School (Kindergarten only)

[This expression of interest note is for distribution to the students in alternative meaningful activities (non-scripture)]

Dear parents and carers,

Are you interested in your child attending ethics classes?

In ethics lessons, students explore everyday issues suitable for their age. They learn to listen closely to each other, to disagree without putdowns and to think carefully as they form their opinions. Classes are free and are run by specially trained Primary Ethics volunteers, who are often parents and grandparents. Classes run in the SRE/SEE timeslot each week – Fridays 11:45-12:30.

Ethics is for children of all faiths or no faith. The curriculum is prepared by Primary Ethics (a not-for-profit organisation which organises volunteers who teach ethics in NSW public schools) and approved by the Department of Education.

Primary Ethics will help us set up ethics lessons in our school if there is enough interest from families. We already have a trained Kindy teacher.

Ethics teachers present stories and questions that encourage children to think about what they would do – and what they ought to do – in that situation. The volunteer teachers use fully scripted lesson plans – they don't give their own opinions – to help the children develop their own ideas and discuss the issues amongst themselves.

Ethics explores topics like:

- Is it important to own up when you make a mistake?
- Is it ever okay to be lazy?
- Are there times when acting in your own self-interest doesn't count as being selfish?
- Should voting be compulsory?

Primary Ethics always needs more volunteer ethics teachers so that all parents at our school can have the option of choosing ethics classes for their child. You don't need any past teaching experience. You will receive free, comprehensive training with online self-paced learning plus trainer-led workshops (by Zoom or face-to-face).

Contact anuya.velpanur@primaryethics.com.au if you're curious about volunteering or visit <https://primaryethics.com.au/>

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