



Buddhist Council of NSW
Working for the Buddhist Community

Buddhist SRE Information for School Principals

What is the Buddhist Council?

The Buddhist Council of New South Wales is the peak body representing more than 120 Buddhist temples and societies. These are Buddhist Council's core programs:

- Representing Buddhism to government, media and other religious faith groups
- SRE teaching in government schools
- Chaplaincy programs in hospitals and prisons
- Support and advice for member organisations

Each week, SRE teachers who are trained and supported by the Buddhist Council help thousands of young people to live better lives.

The Buddhist Council's SRE Program has these features:

- The syllabus represents the core teachings of all Buddhist traditions
- The training of SRE teachers is inclusive of all Buddhist traditions
- The syllabus uses a multi-dimensional pedagogy based on four strands (see below)
- It is the largest Buddhist SRE program in Australia (many times larger than the others combined)

What is in the Syllabus?

The Buddhist SRE Syllabus is structured into four parallel strands of topics graduated from Stage 1 (K-2) through to Stage 5 (years 9 and 10), with age appropriate topics at each stage.

- **Being a Buddhist:** The understanding and practice of the Buddha's teachings from an individual perspective.
- **Buddhism in Society.** The context of Buddhism, how it has evolved, how Buddhism and society interact and the forms it takes.
- **Values and Attitudes.** The values which underpin the Buddha's teachings, exemplified by the virtues of the Buddha, such as compassion and generosity.
- **Life Skills:** Effective ways to manage life such as managing negative emotions, developing good friendships and being mindful.

How Are Teachers Appointed?

Becoming an SRE teacher requires *accreditation*, which includes training (provided by the Buddhist Council's Training Unit), a Working With Children Check, a reference letter on the individual's Buddhist background and an interview.

After accreditation, a teacher can be *appointed* to a class at a nearby school and will be issued with a Teacher's Kit, identification badge and access to a wide range of free teaching resources which support the Buddhist SRE Syllabus, as well as the teacher's own teaching style.

How Are Teachers Trained?

The initial two-day training program for SRE teachers comprises five modules:

- TM-11 provides an appreciation of all Buddhist traditions and cultures
- TM-41 provides an introduction to the Buddhist SRE program
- TM-42 gives essential guidance on safe and proper working with children
- TM-43 overviews effective skills and techniques for teaching Buddhist SRE
- TM-45 demonstrates with numerous examples the practicalities of lesson planning

How Are Teachers Supported?

Buddhist SRE teachers are supported in a number of ways.

- **In-Service (Development).** SRE teachers come together to hear updates on SRE (e.g. government regulations), useful information (e.g. coordinated Vesak activity) and new methods (e.g. teaching meditation to children).
- **Expense Claim.** SRE Teachers can be reimbursed from the BCNSW Education Fund for allowable expenses.
- **In-Service (Networking).** SRE teachers gather together locally with other SRE teachers for example at a morning tea sponsored by the Buddhist Education Fund.
- **Library Loan.** SRE teachers can borrow resources from the SRE Reference Library.
- **Supervision.** Due to the accountability BCNSW has for the delivery of Buddhist SRE, the SRE Support Team keeps in touch with active SRE teachers.

What Governance Is Used In This Program?

The operation and governance of the Buddhist SRE Program are guided by the Program Policies and Procedures. The Buddhist SRE Program addresses the following regulatory requirements:

- Accrediting and appointing appropriate volunteer teachers
- Ensuring that the school is kept informed of the contact details of authorised SRE teachers.
- Meeting the requirements of the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012
- Authorising Buddhist SRE Program materials and pedagogy used by SRE teachers
- Providing access to the Buddhist SRE Program syllabus summary outline for parents and caregivers
- Ensuring that SRE teachers are provided with an identification badge
- Keeping the school informed of changes to the provision of Buddhist SRE teachers
- Annual assurance reporting to the Education Department

Further Information

More information is available from the SRE Support Team at the Buddhist Council of New South Wales.

PO Box 593 CROWS NEST NSW 1585
Office@BuddhistCouncil.org (02) 9966 8893