



Armidale Secondary College

Special Religious Education (SRE) Participation

A feature of the public education system in NSW is the opportunity to provide time in class to support the spiritual wellbeing of students through Special Religious Education. SRE offers a safe place for students to discuss matters of faith and spirituality in a way that is consistent with their family's beliefs. Parents and carers are provided the choice of enrolling their children in SRE (see further information over page).

Armidale Secondary College currently offers Combined Christian SRE. The following approved SRE providers have cross-authorized the program under a combined arrangement:

Anglican Diocese of Armidale
Australian Christian Churches
Baptist Union of NSW
Churches of Christ in NSW (Fresh Hope)

Presbyterian Church of Australia
Seventh-Day Adventist Church NSW
The Salvation Army
Uniting Church in Australia

Students not attending SRE are given alternative supervised meaningful activities such as reading, revision or homework. If your preferred SRE option is not available, please contact the approved provider at www.education.nsw.gov.au.

A parent/carer may at any time notify the school in writing if 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. Please choose only one option below and return the tear-off slip to the school office or email to armidale-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Ms Bree Harvey-Bice
Principal



Special Religious Education Participation 2023

Please choose ONE of the options below and return this slip to the school office.

I wish for my child to attend Combined Christian SRE.

or

I do not wish for my child to attend SRE.

Student name: _____ Year: _____

Signature of parent/carer: _____ Date: _____



An Invitation from Armidale Youth Futures

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Chairman of Armidale Youth Futures I would like to invite you to enrol your child in Christian SRE (Special Religious Education) at Armidale Secondary College. Christian SRE gives students the opportunity to gain an understanding of the basic beliefs of Christian faith, explore their beliefs and values, engage with ethical issues from a faith perspective, and discover how people apply faith to life.

When recently asked about their experience of SRE at ASC, most students responded very positively. Here are some answers from Year 9 and 10 SRE students to the question,

'What's one thing you have learnt in SRE this year?'

- "There are lots of stories that can help us with life in the bible."
- "That everyone has their beliefs and you should respect what other people believe in."
- "A Christian's worldview can offer real hope and purpose."

**"A Christian's
worldview can
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and purpose"**

Year 9 SRE student

The NSW Government published the independent SRE review findings and recommendations in 2017. These highlighted how SRE positively contributes to students' understanding of their cultural heritage, is an avenue for their spiritual care, builds tolerance in schools, promotes multiculturalism, contributes to a well-rounded education, and connects schools with their local community. The review also recognised Harvard University research which found that religious participation in adolescence provides students with *'greater subsequent psychological well-being, character strengths, and lower risks of mental illness and several health behaviours.'*

For further information or to view the Christian SRE curriculum please visit our website ayf.org.au.

Please consider opting-in your child to SRE via the SRE Participation Letter (overleaf).

Sincerely,

Graham Truscott
President & Chairman, Armidale Youth Futures

Mobile: 0458 733711

Email: chair@ayf.org.au

Website: ayf.org.au

Inspiring hope and purpose