



Dear Parents

Attached is a new consent form for your child/children's participation in Special Religious Instruction (SRI). This new form is being issued midway through the year because a new Ministerial Direction which governs the way SRI is delivered in schools has been issued, and takes effect on 14 July 2014 (the first day of Term 3).

The requirements of schools and SRI instructors are different under this new Ministerial Direction, and as a result existing parental consent does not extend into Term 3.

This form will be issued again for the beginning of the 2015 school year and, following that, annually and/or each time the school is approached by an SRI instructor seeking to deliver SRI in the school.

Please ensure that you thoroughly read the second page of the consent form, as it contains important information on what SRI is (that is, that it is not education about the religion, but instruction in how to live according to the tenets and beliefs of that religion), and the process through which it is delivered. SRI does not deliver on the AusVELS curriculum – it is an extra-curricular activity delivered by volunteers associated with religious organisations.

Your child will only be eligible to participate in SRI if you tick both acknowledgement boxes, sign, and return the consent form to school by the date specified. If SRI is offered and your child does not participate, they will be engaged in positive, educationally valuable activities while SRI is running.

Please note that even though forms are being issued, SRI sessions may not run in the school. Once consent forms have been received and compiled, I will then assess whether SRI can be offered within available resources.

In addition to reading the information on the consent form, I would encourage you to familiarise yourself with the changes to the way SRI is run, both through the Ministerial Direction

(<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/legislation/Pages/sri.aspx>)

and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policy (<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/religious.aspx>).

Regards

Lena Clark
Principal