

SRE Fact Sheet: SRE Boards

This document provides a picture of how SRE Boards operate in NSW across multiple groups and stakeholders. Your Youthworks SRE Advisor represents the Approved SRE Provider (Anglican Diocese of Sydney) and can assist you negotiating between the different people listed on this sheet.



SRE Teacher

An SRE Teacher is a trained and accredited representative of one of the approved SRE Providers who teaches under the guidelines of that Provider. Without a Provider's authorisation, the teacher cannot teach SRE.

An SRE Teacher may be a volunteer or employed.

Approved SRE Provider

An Approved SRE Provider is a religious group/denomination who have applied to the Department of Education for permission to provide SRE programs in NSW Government Schools. The Provider is responsible for curriculum, teacher training, and making sure all teachers adhere to SRE Policy. The Anglican Diocese of Sydney is the SRE Provider for all Sydney Anglican teachers.



SRE Board

An SRE Board is representatives from local churches who partner together across denominations to support and fund the provision of a paid SRE teacher in a school. This is often in High Schools but can occasionally take place in Primary Schools/with Primary SRE Coordinators.

SRE Boards can only employ a teacher if the teacher is authorised by an SRE Provider. The SRE board cannot authorise a teacher.

Generate

Generate supports SRE and Chaplaincy work in public schools. In SRE, Generate supports boards to employ paid SRE teachers by offering insurances, payroll, employment, HR, recruitment.

Generate does provide training for their teachers, but this is not SRE accreditation training. It is additional training over and above their SRE Provider's requirements.



An example:

A local Anglican church, Brookvale Anglican, has an established team of SRE teachers at two primary schools. Jane is the SRE Coordinator who organises the team, negotiates with the school, updates the parish data file and orders materials.

The church is also part of an SRE board that has employed a young man, Tom, to teach SRE in the local high school as well as in the high school of a neighboring parish. The board has members from both Anglican churches as well as from the local Baptist church, Presbyterian church and an independent Protestant church. Tom attends Brookvale Anglican.

The board was set up by Generate, and Tom attends their yearly conference and other networking events.

In this scenario:

- Tom is employed by the SRE Board, but his authorisation needs to come from an approved SRE Provider. It could be from any of the denominations represented on the SRE Board (that is, he could be authorised through the Baptist system) but since he attends Brookvale Anglican, it makes the most sense for him to be authorised by his own rector.
- As an Anglican SRE Teacher, Tom would need to be included on the SRE data file for his parish. This is currently updated by Jane on behalf of her rector. Tom would need to be in touch with Jane regularly to make sure she has up to date information for the data file.
- The SRE Board and Generate may be involved in some of the administration of SRE but neither can authorise the SRE Teacher. Every SRE Teacher, whether employed or volunteer needs to be authorised by an Approved SRE Provider.
- Tom is required to fulfil the requirements of his SRE Provider including annual development training, observations and maintaining up to date WWCC and Safe Ministry training. His SRE Board may also have additional requirements and policies to follow.
- Youthworks has regional SRE Advisors who support both Jane, as the SRE Coordinator, and Tom, as a high school SRE Teacher. These Advisors are able to also support Board members with ensuring the right administration of the employed SRE teacher, and in negotiating with schools if necessary. It is strongly recommended that both the Board members and the employed SRE Teacher knows how to contact their Youthworks Advisor.
- If there are problems or complaints, those involved need to follow the Complaints Handling policy (https://youthworks.net/s/SRE_Complaints_Policy.pdf). Your Youthworks Advisor can provide support through this process.

In many places, SRE Boards operate smoothly and successfully, often with the support of Generate and in regular contact with their Approved SRE Providers. SRE Boards provide an excellent way in which local churches can collaborate in SRE ministry and provide an important link between school and church communities.

This fact sheet provides a basic outline of the place of an SRE board in relation to other significant stakeholders. There are many variations in the details of how these roles and responsibilities interact.

For Anglican churches, Youthworks SRE Advisors are there to support local churches in all SRE ministry whether or not an SRE board is operating. Find out who your regional Advisor is [here](#).