



CRE Curriculum Overview



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The CRE Curriculum

Overview

The CRE curriculum is Biblically based, educationally sound, student-focussed, theologically clear and contextually appropriate. The material is constructed around a theological framework that intersects with **values, students' lives and educational emphases**.

Biblically based

The Bible forms the basis of each of the sessions in the material. The students discover God's plan to restore people to Himself through the stories and teaching of the Old and New Testaments. The material uses the Contemporary English Version (CEV) as its Biblical reference because of its suitability as a text for the students to read and understand.

Educationally sound

The curriculum **complements** student learning in other areas of the curriculum, by engaging with themes and concepts met in the classroom. Shared emphases include values, teamwork, social responsibility, reflection and metacognition. The program is based on the inquiry approach to learning. It encourages thinking and engaging with the material at a number of levels, using a variety of approaches.

Student focussed

The curriculum recognises that **effective learning** takes place when students are actively **engaged** in the learning process. Students are challenged to discover what the Biblical material is teaching and to explore how it might affect the choices they make as individuals and as members of a community.

It is acknowledged that students vary in their abilities and learning styles. Activities and approaches cater for these differences. It provides opportunities for the students to make connections between life values, rules and celebrations and the Christian faith.

Theologically clear

The material is intentional in its aim to provide students with a clear understanding of the main theological themes of the Bible. The lessons are structured around an overarching **theological framework** that explores God's plan of salvation. This enables Bible stories to be told as part of this bigger plan.

Contextually appropriate

The CRE curriculum recognises that the setting of the state school is multicultural. It does not presume a particular or any faith position. It does not call for a faith commitment from the students, but commends the choice of living God's way. The students are free to engage with the material at their own level.

Outcomes

The CRE curriculum makes connections between the student, values, the Bible and the Christian way of life. It does this by working toward the following outcomes:

- *knowledge of how God has revealed himself through creation, His interactions with the people of Israel, the faith of individuals, and through Jesus;
- *knowledge of the purpose of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection;
- *knowledge of the growth of the Early Church;
- *knowledge of biblical themes and stories;
- *knowledge of God's rules and ethics for community living
- *appreciation of the Bible as literature;
- *appreciation of the Bible in its historical setting;
- *respect for themselves and others as special to God.
- *respect for the natural and built environments.

The CRE curriculum introduces students to the key **beliefs** and **values** of the Christian faith and makes **connections** with their lives as individuals and as members of a community. It challenges them to apply the values they learn in the context of Biblical teaching to the decisions and choices they make on a day-to-day basis.



Values and the CRE Curriculum

The importance of values in national, community and one's personal life is being increasingly recognised. In the CRE curriculum, there are strong correlations between the content of the lessons and values. The values espoused in state and national curricula are reflected in the material. These values are listed in the Search and Quest material and implicit in the other material.

Curriculum Materials

The CRE curriculum is designed for use in both single and multi-age classrooms. Each series provides a minimum of thirty-six half hour lessons arranged in two semesters. Material is produced for students from 5-14 years of age. The material is structured around a three year cycle for students in three age levels:

6-8 years

8-10 years

10-12 years

The material for each program consists of the following components:

Two Student Workbooks, one for each half year. Each lesson is developed using a full colour double page spread

Two Teacher Books, one for each half year. These provide detailed lesson plans for each lesson as well as additional photocopiable worksheets to cater for the individual needs of students.

Additional resources include CDs of recommended songs, sample lessons and additional student activities on the ACCESS ministries' website.

The material for children in their first years at school is structured on a two year cycle. Each Teacher's Book contains detailed lesson plans for one half year as well as photocopiable sheets and activities to consolidate learning.

Something Else! is designed for students aged 12- 14 years. The four modules are independent and can be taught in response to student need. Each Teacher Book provides detailed lesson ideas as well as photocopiable student activities.

An overview of the content and application of each lesson is provided at the beginning of each book. The sessions and units of work are listed. See the tables below for details.

CRE curriculum for children in their first years of school

Life experience and issues	Connecting the Bible with life		
	Jump for Joy	Look and Wonder	Values
Who am I?	All of creation is significant to God including me. Jesus welcomes people, listens to people and helps people.	Jesus was a child like me. Each person is special to God.	Significance Inquiry Respect
Where do I belong?	We are able to trust God's care. God is able to help us contribute to our community. A King learns to trust God.	The Psalms teach of God's steadfast love and care of us.	Community Integrity Understanding, tolerance and inclusion
Relating to others.	The stories of Peter, Mary, Phillip and Paul demonstrate that we can learn to share and help each other.	Moses, Zacchaeus and the early believers show that God helps people to work together and to care for others.	Care and Compassion Responsibility
Wondering and discovering	The world is an amazing place created by God. We can talk to God anywhere.	The Bible has many treasures to seek out. Creation teaches us about God.	Inquiry Freedom Excellence
Ideas and beliefs	The Bible records many stories about people and God. They are good role models to follow.	Jesus sums up God's way in two commandments. We are to hear and act on good advice.	Responsibility Integrity Doing your best

CRE curriculum for children aged 6-8 years

Life experiences and issues	Connecting the Bible with life			
	Look Around	Let's Start	Here We Go	Values
Changes	We learn as we ask questions and seek answers.	As the children hear stories of people who met Jesus, they reflect on who they are and what they can do.	Moses, Samuel and David grew to love God. Jesus grew in His understanding of His special role.	Inquiry Doing your best Understanding, tolerance and inclusion
Relationships	People like David and Nathan teach us more about being a good friend.	The Bible gives us examples of people who learned to resolve conflict and work together.	Jesus' special friends the disciples teach us about friendship and communication.	Respect Responsibility Integrity Humility
Choices	Joseph and Daniel had to make wise choices.	Lydia and Luke had to make choices. The Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices.	The parables teach us about good choices. Rules help us make good choices.	Fair go Understanding, tolerance and inclusion Responsibility
My world	The stories of Christmas, Easter and creation help children to see their place in the wider world.	Communities celebrate together. We can celebrate Christmas and Easter.	We are to care for God's world. We celebrate the world, and the seasons of Christmas and Easter.	Responsibility Freedom Environmental sustainability

CRE curriculum for children ages 8-10 years

The BIG Ideas	Search Green	Search Yellow	Search Blue	Values
Meeting Jesus	Jesus is someone worth getting to know, talking with and listening to.	Jesus is a servant to others. He heals the sick and helps those in need.	Jesus teaches us how to treat others. He shows us by example.	Fair go Respect Freedom
Easter	Easter is a story of forgiveness and restoration. Peter learned this; we can too.	Easter is part of God's rescue mission. Jesus did this for us.	Jesus is the king who shows us how to care. Even though he was King, He chose to die and rise again for us.	Integrity Love Respect and care
Living as God's friends	Ordinary people can help fulfil God's purposes for the world.	Jesus wants us to forgive others and give them a fair go.	God helps us to be better team members.	Responsibility Understanding, tolerance and inclusion
The Bible- God's Word to us.	Who wrote the Bible and what is it about?	The Bible tells us of God's dealings with people.	The world of the Bible is real.	Integrity Inquiry
God's wonderful creation	God is a wonderful creator	Creation teaches us about God. God wants us to care for His creation	God wants us to look after his world. People matter to God.	Environmental sustainability Fair go
Christmas	Christmas is a special time of celebration	Christmas is part of God's special plan.	Many celebrated the good news of Christmas	Inquiry Celebrations

CRE curriculum for children ages 10-12 years

The BIG Ideas	Quest Green	Quest Yellow	Quest Blue	Values
Meeting Jesus	Who is Jesus and why is he important?	Jesus has authority over the natural world and welcomes all. He welcomes the social outcast, the sick and the foreigner	Who is God? Who is Jesus? We discover this by looking at what He is like and what he has done.	Inquiry Understanding, tolerance and inclusion
Easter	What happened at Easter and why?	Easter was all part of God's plan. We follow the story from the book of Mark.	We can investigate the Easter events.	Inquiry Integrity
Living as God's friends	God's rules are best. The Ten Commandments and other laws protect individuals and communities. We can trust God.	We are to persevere and stand up for what is right. The Holy Spirit can help us be strong.	God help us live in community. God's values make for healthy communities.	Excellence Respect Responsibility
The Bible-God's word to us.	God shows us what he is like through the lives of people such as Abraham, David and Barnabas.	The Bible records God's promises. This gives people hope.	Look at the evidence. The Bible is real.	Integrity Inquiry Respect
God's wonderful creation	The Creator God is holy, awesome and personal.	We can see God reflected in creation. We are all made in His image.	God made the world. What has happened to His world? We have a part to play.	Care and compassion Responsibility
Christmas	Christmas is worth celebrating	Jesus came in fulfilment of prophecy.	One solitary life that changed the world. This is worth celebrating.	Integrity Celebrations

CRE curriculum for children ages 12-14 years

The BIG Ideas	Module	Overview	Values
Communication	1	The function and importance of communication is explored and related to the question of who Jesus is.	Inquiry Respect
Growth and Change	1	Jesus suffered grief and loss. He can understand our grief and loss.	Celebrations Integrity
Self and identity	2	The questions of identity and personal worth are explored using the characters of Peter, Onesimus and Zacchaeus. Jesus shows love and acceptance of us.	Understanding, tolerance and inclusion Respect
Relationships and Friendships	2	The story of Joseph illustrates that healthy relationships require forgiveness, integrity and good conflict resolution skills.	Integrity Responsibility Excellence
Choice and Responsibility	3	The story of David and others is used to explore the relationship between attitudes and behaviour.	Respect Integrity Freedom
World and Action	3	God's continuing involvement with people is explored through the stories of Noah, the prophets and Jesus. Faith in action is explored in the lives of people such as Mother Teresa.	Fair go Responsibility Understanding, tolerance and inclusion
Community	4	The story is important as a means of creating identity, preserving history and teaching truths. Stories chosen include the Parable of the Lost Son, the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the story of Abigail from the Old Testament.	Integrity Excellence Community
Creativity and Celebration	4	Celebrations help us to value life and our uniqueness. Seasons and festivals of the Christian Church are explored.	Celebrations Inquiry

Sample lesson

Scope and Sequence sample