

From: Deputy Secretary
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2015 12:45 PM
To: @PSNSW All Principals EEC; @PSNSW All Principals Central; @PSNSW All Principals Secondary; @PSNSW All Principals SSP
Cc: @PSNSW Executive Directors; @PSNSW All Directors; @PSNSW Directors Educational Services; @PSNSW State Office Directors
Subject: PRAYER GROUPS OPERATING IN SCHOOLS WITH SECONDARY ENROLMENTS

Dear colleagues

Thank you for completing the audit of prayer groups operating in schools with secondary enrolments last week. It is now an appropriate time to highlight a number of policy requirements which are mandatory.

The Religious Education Implementation Procedures state that prayer groups may operate under the auspices and supervision of the principal.

Principals in their supervision of prayer groups must ensure that:

- parental permission is obtained
- there are appropriate child protection checks and practices in relation to any volunteers coming from outside the school
- the content of the activities undertaken are monitored
- students or members of religious persuasions do not engage in attempts to proselytise or convert non-adherents of their religion to their faith in the course of school authorised activities.


I ask that you now take immediate action to ensure that these procedures are fully implemented in your school. Directors, Public Schools NSW are available to provide support and advice. Clarification and advice in relation to the Religious Education Policy and Religious Education Implementation Procedures is also available from the Early Learning and Primary Education Unit in state office on telephone number

Directors, Public Schools NSW will follow up with schools with secondary enrolments to ensure compliance with these policy requirements.

Regards

Gregory Prior
 DEPUTY SECRETARY, SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND PERFORMANCE
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Adjunct Professor, School of Education
 University of Western Sydney

Document tendered by <i>Mr Murat Dizder</i>
Received by 
Date: 31/8/15
Resolved to publish <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

NSW Department of Education | Public Schools NSW | Level 2, 35 Bridge Street, Sydney 2000