



# WELCOME

The Churches Education Commission (CEC) is developing innovative Christian Religious Education programmes because we believe it's important to meet the needs of today's schools. The **Champions** programme is a new way of delivering what has been traditionally known as Bible in Schools or CRE.

A **Champions** programme aims to:

HELP TEACH CHILDREN VALUES.....

- that the New Zealand curriculum requires all schools to teach (The New Zealand Curriculum pp7-13)
- that parents buy in to; values such as respect, tolerance, diversity, and helping others

You'll find all these commonly shared values in the Bible. Therefore we use stories and characters from the Bible to teach these values.

DELIVER A FUN PROGRAMME THAT IS RELEVANT TO THE CHILDREN'S LIVES

**Champions** is a large group programme, presented by teams trained specifically for large groups of 50+ students.

The 25 - 30 minute programme is best suited for year 3 to 6 students and will typically have:

- a high energy, upbeat and contemporary vibe
- songs and games
- a story that teaches the value
- an explanation of how that value plays out in the day-to-day life of children at school and at home

The **Champions** programme has been successfully investing in school communities across New Zealand and we are committed to providing a high quality programme that complements, encourages and enhances your school's existing values.

Thank you for considering **Champions** as an option for your school.  
If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

CEC National Office

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# WHAT HAPPENS IN A CHAMPIONS LESSON?



Introduction of a Christian value, for example 'Kindness'.



A bible story or story of a Christian that illustrates the value being taught.



'Words to live by' are taught i.e. a short phrase or proverb from the Bible about the value we are teaching eg "Be kind to one another"



Sometimes we have a song for the children to sing along with, or music playing as they arrive and depart.



A game. This can involve the whole group, or a small number of children up front.



A conclusion that includes ideas for how the children can apply the value in their own life. A Karakia/Prayer may be said here - the children can choose to participate in this if they wish.



# Overview of Units

UNIT	SESSION	VALUES	KEY COMPETENCY	WALT we are learning to...
1. Making right choices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All about me</li> <li>2. Help! Help! (Good Samaritan)</li> <li>3. Choosing to ask (Bartimaeus)</li> <li>4. Happy, not jealous (The prodigal son)</li> </ol>	Community Participation Integrity Equity Thinking	Relating to others Contributing Managing Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What the bible says about children</li> <li>- Help others in trouble</li> <li>- Ask for help</li> <li>- Where God is</li> <li>- Be generous not jealous</li> </ul>
2. Love your neighbour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tarore's world is changed (Tarore part 1)</li> <li>2. Peace, not war (Tarore part 2)</li> <li>3. The Grumpy Old Man (part 1)</li> <li>4. The rescue mission (The Grumpy Old Man part 2)</li> </ol>	Respect Integrity Equity	Relating to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Treat others as we would like to be treated</li> <li>- Be brave and do the right thing</li> <li>- Be slow to judge others</li> <li>- Show respect</li> </ul>
3. Biblical role models	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bothersome brothers (Joseph part 1)</li> <li>2. Special slave (Joseph part 2)</li> <li>3. Prison to palace (Joseph part 3)</li> <li>4. Best mates (Joseph part 4)</li> <li>5. My two bothers</li> </ol>	Excellence Integrity	Managing self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not be jealous</li> <li>- Do our best all the time</li> <li>- Always be patient and do the right things</li> <li>- Forgive others</li> </ul>
4. Easter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Love is a superpower</li> <li>2. Putting others first</li> <li>3. Forgiving others</li> <li>4. The Easter peacemaker</li> </ol>	Excellence Respect Diversity Equity Community Participation	Managing self Relating to others Thinking Participating & contributing Using symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Show love</li> <li>- Put others first</li> <li>- Forgive others</li> <li>- Make peace/be peacemakers</li> </ul>



# OUR COMMITMENTS

Every **Champions** team is committed to the following principles:

## EXCELLENT AND PROFESSIONAL

Champions will be EXCELLENT and PROFESSIONAL because:

- Schools are professional environments with professional expectations and professional teachers doing an amazing job of trying to teach the width and breadth of the NZ Curriculum with limited time resources. Therefore we are strongly committed to maximising the value to the school of any time that is made available for a Champions programme.

## FUN AND ENGAGING

Champions will be FUN and ENGAGING because:

- Children are.
- Learning should be.

## CULTURALLY RELEVANT

Champions will be CULTURALLY RELEVANT because:

- Children learn more effectively using the language, symbols, metaphors, and media that they interact with in their everyday lives.

## ADDING VALUE TO THE SCHOOL'S VALUES

Champions will ADD VALUE to the school's existing Values programme and emphases:

- We are committed to effectively teaching values to the children that, when applied, benefit the children and develop the 'common good' of the school and local community.

## SAFE

Being SAFE means:

- Being committed to respecting boundaries and honouring the CEC Code of Expectations. (copy included at the back of this folder)
- Being accountable to the schools we serve in, regularly seeking feedback to ensure a quality service is provided.
- Training and observing our Champions Presenters regularly, and Presenters undertaking Police Vetting.
- Serving the school and honouring the choices made by the children, parents, school staff and local communities.





## CODE OF EXPECTATIONS FOR CRE TEACHERS

It is a privilege to be invited into a school to offer a CRE programme; and therefore we expect all CRE teachers to abide by the following Code of Expectations:

- Become an accredited CRE teacher by completing the 6 module training course (can be completed via the online CEC iLearn training platform), undergoing Police Vetting every 3 years, complete Church Endorsement every three years, and commit to attending a Professional Development workshop on an annual basis.
- Teach from a curriculum approved by CEC New Zealand.
- Accept that the purpose of CRE is to educate children about Christian beliefs and values; a CRE teacher must not use their position to engage in evangelism.
- Teach positively. Use language that students understand and not religious jargon.
- Respect the variety of experiences and beliefs represented among the students in the class (and their parents/caregivers).
- Always be on time and leave the class in a settled condition. Advise the school and Team Leader beforehand if you are unable to teach.
- Co-operate with the CRE Team Leader, Principal and school staff in every possible way.
- Abide by the school's policies on behaviour management, discipline, safety and emergency procedures.

# FAQs

## WHAT IS CHAMPIONS?

Champions is a high energy, fun large-group Christian Religious Education programme that uses the Bible to teach children commonly shared values in a culturally relevant manner. It is a half hour programme, typically presented to 50 plus students in a school hall or large open space.

## HOW IS CHAMPIONS DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL BIBLE IN SCHOOLS?

Traditional CRE or Bible in Schools usually involves one CRE Teacher per classroom. Champions is a large group programme presented to a number of classes at once.

## DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO ATTEND THE CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME IN THEIR SCHOOL?

Because Champions is a Christian Religious Education programme it is NOT compulsory for children to attend.

It is the responsibility of each school to decide:

- if the school will utilise the programme
- if so, whether it will be opt-out (parents must let the school know if they do not want their child to attend) or opt-in (parents must let the school know if they want their child to attend).
- if the programme will run during or outside of class time. Currently most Champions programmes operate during class time.

## DOES IT COST THE SCHOOL OR STUDENTS ANYTHING TO HAVE A CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME AT SCHOOL?

No. There is no cost for this programme.

## WILL CHAMPIONS PRESENTERS TELL CHILDREN TO GO TO CHURCH OR BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

No.

This is not permitted in the Churches Education Commission Code of Expectations for CRE Teachers which we are strongly committed to. Our presenters actively encourage children to practise commonly held values (e.g. kindness, sharing, integrity etc). When talking about things that are particular to a Christian worldview, presenters use 'ownership language' in order to respect those from other religions/worldviews and to ensure no pressure is felt by the students. For example, a presenter might say 'Christians believe that God cares about every person....'

## WHAT CURRICULUM DO WE USE? WHAT DOES IT TEACH?

Our presenters will use either the CEC produced 'Life Choices' curriculum or 'Inspire' from Cool Bananas. These are both NZ curriculum. At the back of this folder is a sample overview of both of these curricula.

## ARE CHAMPIONS PRESENTERS TRAINED AND POLICE VETTED?

Yes. After their initial Champions training our presenters commit to attend yearly professional development and go through the Police Vetting process.

## WHAT SHOULD A SCHOOL'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES KNOW ABOUT CHAMPIONS?

The Churches Education Commission recently created a 'recommended guidelines' document for Boards of Trustees, aimed at ensuring each school is fully aware of what the responsibilities and expectations are for the CRE provider (eg Champions) and what the responsibilities and expectations are of the school where CRE is being provided. You will find this document at the back of this folder.

## HOW DO WE GET CHAMPIONS IN OUR SCHOOL?

The Principal and the Board of Trustees will need to decide whether this is something they want for their school. Once this has been decided please contact the CEC National Office who will connect them with their Regional Advisor to discuss the next steps.

