Dear Parents and Caregivers of students in Years 5 and 6,

I am writing to you to ensure that all parents of children who have opted out of SRE in 2010 are aware of changes resulting from the recent amendment of the Education Act, 1990.

In 2011 a class on philosophical ethics may be offered at our school as an option for students in Years 5 and 6 who do not attend SRE/Scripture.

St James Ethics Centre is the approved provider of classes in philosophical ethics. Primary Ethics (www.primaryethics.com.au), a new organisation established for this purpose, is responsible for all aspects of course delivery, including providing trained volunteers and resources. Primary Ethics will make philosophical ethics classes available in Years 5-6 in some schools from Term 1, 2011 and will progressively roll out the program across all primary school years thereafter.

The course will be taught and managed by volunteers. See attached information sheet seeking Expressions of Interest.

To assist school planning and to determine the level of interest among parents, please complete a preliminary registration of your child online at: www.primaryethics.com.au, if and only if:

- Your child will not be attending Special Religious Education and
- You would like your child to attend an ethics class, if available.

Please note that students not attending either Special Religious Education or Philosophical Ethics classes will continue to be provided with supervised activities by a teacher.

Preliminary registrations for 2011 should be completed no later than 5.00 pm on Friday 17th December.

If you would like to know more about the philosophical ethics course, volunteering or other arrangements, please visit www.primaryethics.com.au

Michelle Hulme
Principal
Dear Parents and Community Members,

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN BECOMING A TEACHER OF PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS AND/OR ETHICS COORDINATOR**

Philosophical ethics may be offered at your child’s school in 2011, as an option solely for students who have opted out of SRE/scripture. A volunteer Ethics Coordinator will manage the ethics program at each school.

Parents or community members interested in teaching philosophical ethics, on a voluntary basis, are invited to complete an online Expression of Interest form at www.primaryethics.com.au

Interested persons must:

- Satisfy the following essential selection criteria:
  - be comfortable working with and be able to engage with children
  - have an interest in helping young people to think about ethics
  - have an open-minded, inquiring outlook
  - be a good listener
- Commit to teaching the course for at least one year,
- Be available to attend a two day training course (dates and venues to be determined, although the first one is scheduled for Sydney on February 1-2, 2011),
- Have daily access to the internet and email,
- Complete a Working with Children Check - Student/Volunteer at their own expense ($12.50) and not have a criminal conviction for:
  - a crime against a minor; or
  - violence; or
  - sexual assault or
  - the provision of prohibited drugs.
- Complete a *Keeping Them Safe* online child protection module,
- Successfully complete a training course conducted by *Primary Ethics*,
- Diligently participate in any other training or support activities provided by *Primary Ethics*,
- Diligently teach the approved course in philosophical ethics, using the materials and following the processes given by *Primary Ethics*,
- Cooperate with the school Principal and Staff, and
- Consistently and punctually attend classes for which he or she is responsible.

Interested persons might also satisfy one or more of the following desirable criteria:

- A degree in some relevant field (e.g. arts or humanities)
- A teaching qualification
- Group facilitation experience
- Classroom experience
- Previous work with young people

For further information about the philosophical ethics course and to register your Expression of Interest as a Volunteer Ethics Teacher and/or an Ethics Coordinator, please go to: [www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au)