

Chaplaincy

A School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school, providing a listening ear, caring presence, and message of hope. They care for students struggling with a wide range of issues, including: family problems, confusing relationships, friendship issues, peer pressure, self-esteem issues, bullying and stress and anxiety.

Aim of Chaplaincy Services at Flagstone State Community College:

1. Support students exploring their spiritual beliefs and world views

- Assist students to explore their worldview and beliefs through education and conversation
- Facilitate Christian activities on school campuses with voluntary student participation

2. Facilitate and provide pastoral care for students and be a role model to them

- Facilitate and provide pastoral care and personal support for students, staff and parents of the school community within a Christian framework in cooperation with the school's support staff
- Provide pastoral care & support following critical incidents within school community
- Provide students, their families and staff with support and or appropriate referrals, in difficult situations such as during times of grief or when students are facing personal or emotional challenges

General activities the Chaplain may be involved in:

- Participate in school camps, excursions, sports days, awards nights, assemblies and school committees
- Facilitate groups, events and activities with voluntary student participation, including lunchtime groups, breakfast clubs, etc
- Participate in life skills/personal development programs
- Provide support for teachers
- Facilitate parenting programs

3. Engage with local churches, religious groups and community groups, and with parental consent, connect students with resources and programs provided by these groups

- Facilitate community partnership programs between the school and the wider community.
- Liaise between the school and local churches
- Connect students with local churches with parents' / caregivers' permission
- Publish a regular newsletter for distribution to local churches and Chaplaincy supporters
- Network with support services, other agencies and organisations in the local community to provide a broad range of support services to the school community

4. Events and activities (Outside of School Hours)

Promote, facilitate and participate (with students) in camps, outside school hours activities and student leadership events

Interrelationship between Chaplaincy and other School Support Services:

The chaplain is a key member of the school's Student Services Team (including Guidance Officer, School Nurse, Industry Liaison Officer, Youth Worker). The chaplain works within this welfare team to support students within the school. The Student Services Team meet regularly to allocate student referrals and determine who within the team would best be able to support the student. Students are also able to self-refer. A member of the Student Services Team meets with Administration on a regular basis to determine new referrals.

Programs Run by the Chaplain

Programs run by the school chaplain include:

- Shine – a girls group aimed at improving your girl's self esteem
- Compass – students from the high school visit classrooms at the primary school and engage in a peer mentoring program as they work with primary school students and teachers
- New Students Program – helping new students to the College settle in by providing them support and assistance around friendships, organisation etc.
- Breakfast Club – providing breakfast in a supportive environment where students are encouraged to make friendship and discuss concerns

Religious & Spiritual Content

When delivering services under the program, school chaplains must adhere to the Program Guidelines and the Code of Conduct. Services provided during Program must not include:

- providing religious education
- attempting to convert students to a religion or set of beliefs
- School chaplains must not:
 - coerce students to attend activities that have religious content/focus
 - ask or encourage students to convert to religion
 - deliver activities/services that promote a particular view or religious belief without prior approval and consent
 - put students in a position of feeling manipulated or intruded upon by intense persuasive conversation
- While recognising that an individual school chaplain/student welfare worker may respond to questions and in good faith express views and articulate values consistent with his or her own beliefs, a school chaplain/student welfare worker must not take advantage of his or her privileged position to advocate for a particular view or spiritual belief
- attempting to undermine students' religious or other beliefs

Student Participation

Students may be referred to the school chaplain via the school's Administration or Student Services Team. Students can also self-refer to access chaplaincy services.

Parental permission is required for ongoing, individual meetings with the school chaplain. Parental consent is not required for infrequent meetings or group programs. Parental consent is however required for any specific programs with religious or spiritual content.

Complaints Management

As the School Principal has an overall duty of care and is ultimately responsible for all students and staff within the school setting, all complaints about the school chaplain or the chaplaincy program should be directed to the School Principal, in the first instance.

All attempts should be made to resolve complaints at the local level. However, if a complaint cannot be resolved at the school level, or if a complainant does not wish to address their complaint to the School Principal they may be made directly to the Department by:

- completing the complaint reporting form available at the Program website:
www.deewr.gov.au/schoolchaplaincyandwelfare
or
emailing schoolchaplaincyandwelfarecomplaints@deewr.gov.au
or
- posting to:
NSCSWP - Program Manager
GPO Box 9880
ADELAIDE SA 5001
or
- telephoning the *National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program* Hotline on 1300 363 079.