

The School Chaplaincy Program at Summerland Christian College

The aims of the service within the school:

Chaplaincy is a service that complements the care offered by other helping disciplines and aims to assist school communities through the provision of help and care to support the personal and social wellbeing of students and the school community. Services and actions could include:

- Assisting the school counsellor and wellbeing staff in the delivery of student welfare services.
- Providing 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.
- Supporting students to explore their spirituality and providing guidance about spirituality, values and ethical matters or referring students to, or sourcing appropriate services, to meet these needs; and facilitating access to support agencies in the community, where applicable and in accordance with the policies of the College.
- Supporting students and staff to create an environment which promotes the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development and wellbeing of all students.
- Supporting students and staff to create an environment of cooperation and mutual respect, promoting an understanding of diversity and the range of cultures and their related traditions.
- Being approachable to all students, staff and members of the school community.
- The provision of all the services above are contingent upon them being compatible with the ethos of the College, and also dependent upon them fitting with the working time granted to the Chaplain by the College, the priority of need, the meeting of the operational requirements of the College and their approval by the Principal.

An overview of the role of the chaplain within the school

The school chaplain will be responsible for supporting the spiritual, social, and emotional wellbeing of the students. The school chaplain will provide support for a range of day to day matters affecting the school community and will endeavour to communicate effectively with all members of the school community. The Chaplain can become involved in a wide variety of issues including health, social and values education and emotional support.

The School Principal is ultimately responsible for the welfare of students within their school. In interactions with students, the school chaplain will adhere to existing school operational requirements and report to the School Principal.

Since parents/guardians have demonstrated that they accept the school is faith based and they agree to the values of the school by enrolling their child in a religious school, additional consent for general chaplaincy services is not required, beyond current education authority or school arrangements.

The voluntary nature of the service

It is not compulsory for students to participate in the Chaplaincy service. Participation in the service is voluntary and parents and students have a choice of whether or not to utilise the services of a school chaplain.

How to opt-out of services

If a parent decides that they do not wish their child to participate in the Chaplaincy service they must inform the College in writing. However this option does not extend to other compulsory

aspects of school life or to religious instruction which are separate and distinct from the Chaplaincy program.

How the service links into other school support services and networks

It is expected that the school chaplain will support and work with the School Principal, the school's student wellbeing staff and will refer students to appropriate services where required and is in accordance with the policy of the College.

To assist in facilitating this, the school chaplain will develop an appropriate and suitable external network of professional groups working with the community. The Chaplains will endeavour to be aware of current student wellbeing, anti bullying and cyber safety strategies such as the National Safe Schools Framework.

The School Principal is ultimately responsible for the welfare of students within their school. In interactions with students, the school chaplain will adhere to existing school operational requirements and report to the School Principal.

Religious Education and other Student Welfare Services

Religious education e.g. Praise and Worship Times, Pastor's Class, Biblical Studies, Chapel and Devotions are compulsory for all students enrolled at SCC. These are separate and distinct from the Chaplaincy program. Other student welfare programs, such as counselling with Mrs McKee are also separate College funded programs.

How to access activities such as arranging for one-on-one sessions

If a one-on-one session is being sought, a request/consent form is necessary from the parent or carer. These will be made available to all parents/ carers via the newsletter early in term 1 each year. After that time a parent or carer may gain a request/ consent form from the office or the Chaplain. In general the Chaplain will then make a suitable appointment time to see the student. However, all requests will be considered in terms of their appropriateness (some matters may need to be referred to more suitable agencies) and in terms of priority of need, time constraints and the meeting of other school requirements.

Complaints handling avenues

Complaints from parents or carers are to be presented in writing on the approved complaints register form and directed to the Principal. The complaints forms are available from the College office. The College will maintain a complaints register and will log all complaints that are made and include details of the source of the complaint; the nature of the complaint; the dates/duration of the complaint; action officer; resolution process; and outcomes and escalation processes.

Details of school community consultation

Prior to the 2012 program commencing, a meeting was held and the school community surveyed. The survey will be distributed via the newsletter and a copy will be available on the school website. In each following year of the program a school community meeting will be held during term one and the survey conducted.

Disclaimer

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Acknowledgement

This project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

Date reviewed: 5/12/11 Note: This outline, along with the school policy relating to the Chaplaincy Program, may be updated from time to time.