



Walpole Primary School
Nature-Culture-Future

2022 School Chaplain Policy



Rationale

At certain times in everyone's lives, people will feel lonely, confused, hopeless and misunderstood. In schools, the guidance of a caring and supportive adult greatly assists a child's capacity to cope. Chaplains are one of the pastoral care services available to schools, along with nurses and psychologists. They provide spiritual and emotional support and help students deal with a range of issues including bullying, peer relationships, illness and family breakdown. They are expected to respect a range of religious views and affiliations and their role is not to preach.

PROCEDURES

School chaplains must adhere to existing school operational requirements and report to the school principal. The school chaplain undergoes training to assist them to meet the pastoral care needs of the students and community. They have a Working With Children Check and Police Clearance.

School chaplains must ensure that all services delivered are:

- approved by the school principal.
- have the appropriate prior parental/guardian consent.
- have the voluntary consent of students who participate.
- exercised in a way that respects the range of spiritual views and cultural traditions in the school community, and also respects the stated views of parents/guardians to ensure the spiritual and moral education of their children is in line with their own convictions.

Confidentiality

The content of the chaplain's records are confidential. Only those persons legitimately involved in the process are informed of the nature of the information. Suspected or reports of child abuse must be reported to the Principal according to the Department of Education's Child Protection Policy.

Programs

The chaplain can run various programs through the school including Rainbows and Drum Beat. This may involve a small group working with the chaplain over a number of weeks. The chaplain may be invited into classrooms by the teacher to give lessons on values or resiliency. The chaplain will make themselves available during recess/lunch times should the children want to have a chat, whether it be positive or seeking help with a problem. Parents can also request, through the office or teacher, that their child receive support from the chaplain. It is important to note that school chaplains can not provide services they are not qualified for, including counselling or psychological assessment.



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Community Consultation

The principal will collaborate with the School Board on an annual basis to review and confirm the support of the school community for the program. Evidence and feedback from the school community consultation will form the basis of progress reports and continued funding.

Funding

Funding is allocated by the federal government for each individual school and must be expended accordingly. Funding is paid to a provider who manages the service. School chaplains must provide services for a minimum of four hundred (400) hours per calendar year, to obtain maximum funding of \$20,000 (excluding GST). The school may determine the most appropriate apportioning of hours of this service. When less funding is provided by the federal government, the school will try source the funding from elsewhere and/or subsidise the service.

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