



Chaplaincy Aims and Program Overview

Introduction

A chaplaincy program is an optional service introduced into Coominya State School to provide students, staff and parents with support which may have a religious and/or spiritual component.

Our chaplaincy program is compatible with policies and practices that apply to delivery of any service in a multi-faith and multicultural state school community.

The role of our chaplain:

1. Chaplaincy services provide an additional adult role model in schools. Whilst personally modelling and owning their own faith positions or belief, chaplains avoid any implications that any one religion, denomination or other set of beliefs is advantageous or superior to any other denomination, religion or belief. Our chaplaincy program is inclusive of and shows respect for all religious and nonreligious beliefs and other stances represented in the school community.
2. All activities and events provided within a chaplaincy program are non-discriminatory and equitably available to students of all beliefs who choose to participate. Chaplains participate in these activities:
 - Participate in a range of agreed school functions;
 - Organise and develop lunchtime activities;
 - Be available to support staff and families at times of need;
 - School holiday camp run by Scripture Union.

Religious Instruction is not part of a school's chaplaincy program and occurs only in accordance with legislation and departmental policy.

Accessing the Chaplain

Our chaplain attends the school two days a week. In 2016, they are Monday and Tuesday. Children may approach the Chaplain at any time that is convenient to the Chaplain and their class teacher. After an initial meeting, should your child wish to engage in a series of meetings with the Chaplain, parental consent must be obtained. This consent is usually obtained as part of the enrolment process at the school.

Parents wishing to meet with the Chaplain, should either organise it through the school office or approach the Chaplain directly.

It should be noted, that the Chaplain is required to report to the Principal, if they suspect any incidents of child harm. (This is no different to the obligations of any staff employed at the school.)

Local Chaplaincy Committee

Our Chaplaincy runs under the guidance of the Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC), with representatives from parents and staff, local Churches, and Scripture Union (the major employing authority for school chaplains in Queensland.) The Local Chaplaincy Committee is charged with representing the diversity of religious, faith and non-religious beliefs in the school community. Members of the LCC understand the cultural and religious customs and needs of individuals and groups within the school and range of services and support currently available and/or required.

Funding

Chaplaincy at our school is funded through a federal government grant. School funds provided by the Queensland government for educational purposes are not used to support chaplaincy services.

Complaints

Should you have a complaint about the Chaplain, you should follow the standard complaints process for the school. This includes putting your complaint in writing.