

ROLE OF THE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Chaplaincy programs in Australian schools aim to assist school communities through the provision of help and care to support the personal and social wellbeing of students and the school community.

The role of the School Chaplain includes:

- 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 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.
- Supporting students, their families and staff of all beliefs and not seeking to impose any beliefs or persuade an individual toward a particular set of beliefs.

School chaplains provide support for a range of day to day matters affecting the school community and communicate effectively with a diverse group of people. They can become involved in a wide variety of issues including health, social and values education and emotional support.

Taken from: *National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program Guidelines, December 2013*

At Subiaco Primary our Chaplain:

- Facilitates the BUZ resiliency program.
- Works with the Year 4-6 students as part of the Social Justice Group.
- Attends incursions, excursions, camps and assists teachers in classroom programs as appropriate.
- Attends Year 1-3 and Year 4-6 sub-assemblies and addresses the sub-assemblies as appropriate.
- Assists Peer Mediators during recess and lunchtimes.
- Provides recess and lunchtime support to students. The chaplain also uses these times to encourage students to use their BUZ skills to resolve conflict and to develop resilience where appropriate.
- Meets and greets parents at the front gate before school for informal chats.
- Attends meetings such as termly Chaplain Cluster Meetings, District Council Meetings, Youthcare Professional Development and meetings with the Area Supervisor.
- Helps coordinate the timetable between mentors and teachers in the School Volunteer Program to provide selected students with one on one support once a week.
- Reports weekly to the Assistant Principal to exchange relevant information about the Chaplaincy role and events.
- Involved in the organisation for the annual Chapathon.
- Assists with Pre Primary to Year 1 transition with the setting up of a Buddy program.
- Provides pastoral care for students, families and staff.