



MERINGANDAN STATE SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

Janelle Groves (Principal)

Introduction

A chaplaincy program is an optional service introduced into Meringandan State School to provide students, staff and parents with support which may have a religious and/or spiritual component. 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 compatible with policies and practices that apply to delivery of any service in a multi-faith and multicultural state school community (please see [SCM-PR-012: Chaplaincy Services in Queensland State Schools](#)). A chaplaincy program is inclusive of and shows respect for all religious and non-religious beliefs and other stances represented in the school community. All activities and events provided within a chaplaincy program are non-discriminatory and equitably available to students of all beliefs who choose to participate.

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

Our Chaplain, Joeleene Lochel (**Chappy Jo**), works at our school on Thursdays and Fridays each week. The Chaplain is available between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm and may be contacted through the School Office.

Aim

The chaplaincy program is an optional service introduced at Meringandan to provide students, staff and parents with pastoral care and support. The program operates under a pastoral care model.

The Chaplain exist to facilitate and provide pastoral care and personal support for students, staff and parents of the school community in cooperation with the school's support staff; facilitate and provide pastoral care and support following Critical Incidents; and provide additional school-specific role elements as required. The Chaplain will be involved in general activities in the life of the school. The Chaplain will network with support services, other agencies and organisations in the local community to provide a broad range of support services to the school community.

The Chaplain will be responsible to:

- The School Principal in matters related to management within the school
- The LCC in matters related to local policy decisions and operation
- Local SU Qld Field staff in matters related to agreed principles, employment matters and overall policy.

Accountability

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The Chaplaincy program runs under the guidance of the Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC), with representatives from parents and staff from Meringandan, Goombungee and Kingsthorpe , local Churches, and the Accredited Employing Authority (AEA) Scripture Union Queensland.

Funding

Chaplaincy is funded through a combination of federal grant monies and donations from local Churches, community organisations and individuals. School funds provided by the Queensland government for educational purposes are not used to support chaplaincy services.

Networks

The Chaplaincy Service is one of a number of support services available to students and their families at Meringandan State School. Our chaplaincy program compliments other services in the school such as those offered by the Guidance Officer, the school Behaviour and Support team, regional support advisors and other outside agencies.

The Chaplain is also available to address community organisations and local Churches on the work of Chaplaincy at our school.

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Chaplaincy Activities

The following duties will be performed	
Duties without religious and/or spiritual content	Duties including religious and/or spiritual content
Participate in school camps, excursions, sports days, speech nights, staff meetings and committees. Facilitate groups, events and activities with voluntary student participation, including lunchtime groups. Coach sporting teams, participate in and develop adventure based learning/outdoor education. Participate in Life Skills/Personal Development programs. Assist with special needs and behaviour management programs. Provide resource support for teachers.	Speaking at local churches about Chaplaincy Meet monthly with LCC Quarterly report to local churches, mosques and synagogues via newsletter. SU Primary Club

The following duties <i>may</i> be performed	
Duties without religious and/or spiritual content	Duties including religious and/or spiritual content
Facilitate parent programs. Visit students who are absent from school, including hospital visitation and bereavement, with principal approval and parental consent.	Public prayer at school functions.

Consent for Chaplaincy Services

Prior to their participation in any school programs or activities involving the chaplain that have religious and/or spiritual content students will require written [parental consent](#). Should any programs be introduced containing such content, a letter will be provided to parents outlining the content of the program and seeking written permission for participation. At all times the activities made available through the Chaplaincy Service will be transparent and approved by the principal.

When ongoing regular support of an individual student is to occur, an [Ongoing Parental/Guardian Consent for One on One Meetings with the School Chaplain](#) must be completed by parents or guardians. The Chaplain may sometimes attend school camps and excursions in the role as adult supervisor and this is advertised to parents before camps/excursions begin.

Parents or carers are informed by letter, newsletter and website when new Chaplaincy activities are introduced into the school.

Accessing Chaplaincy Services

All members of the school community may access the Chaplain. Discussions with the Chaplain are private and confidential except in the event that there is harm, or risk of harm in which case the Principal will be notified. There are various ways to access the chaplaincy service including:

1) Student-initiated

Sometimes students approach the Chaplain directly to discuss any matters or issues which are occurring. Prior to the provision of any ongoing support parental permission is required. [Ongoing Parental/Guardian Consent for One on One Meetings with the School Chaplain](#)

2) Administration/Teacher-initiated

Teachers and other school staff may become aware of situations or difficulties that a student and/or their family are experiencing. Initial contact with a student may be made by a School Chaplain however prior to any ongoing support being offered, parental permission is required.

3) Parent/Guardian Initiated

Parents/Guardians are welcome to request a meeting with the Chaplain to discuss concerns related to their student or family. The Chaplain may then negotiate ongoing support with the Parents/Guardians. Prior to any ongoing support being provided, parental permission is required.

Grievances

Complaints Management applies to complaints about state schools and related services provided to students through schools.

For [complaints](#) relating to the Chaplain or the chaplaincy service, the [complainant](#) may refer their complaint to either:

- The Principal; as the supervisor of the Chaplain or
 - any Education Queensland personnel if the complaint relates to harm or possible risk of harm to young people
- Complaints are responded to as a matter of priority and will be used as a mechanism for improving services to students and parents/carers. [Complaints procedures](#) are available to all students, parents and members of the public.

Parties should attempt to resolve complaints at the point where the problem or issue arose.

If a complaint is made about the Chaplain, that person has the right to know the details of the complaint and be given the opportunity to make a statement of reply.

All people involved in the complaint process have the right to be supported by an appropriate third party.

The complaint management process will be unbiased, objective and impartial.

Education Queensland will manage all complaints fairly and with due regard to the rights of employees of the department who are the subject of complaints.