

Bunker's Hill Chaplaincy Program

A Chaplaincy Program is in place at Bunker's Hill State School.

Our Chaplain:

- *is an extra set of hands and ears, helping to support all the members of the school community - students, staff and parents;*
- *provides pastoral care (listening, supporting, encouraging and befriending) for students and be a positive role model to them;*
- *respects all the cultural beliefs and backgrounds in the school community;*
- *may explore religious or spiritual matters with school community members. This will only occur with parental consent.*

Support to the school community includes:

- working with school staff to encourage healthy relationships between students at the school, and all members of the school community;
- assisting school staff with a range of school activities, from regular classroom activities to camps and excursions;
- meeting informally and formally with parents to discuss student welfare and other concerns.

Pastoral care at the school includes:

- providing some activities that have religious, spiritual and ethical content and some activities that do not, including social and life skills programs;
- providing social and emotional support to students;
- meeting with students individually, with parental permission (these are not formal counselling sessions. The Chaplaincy Service is not a counselling service);
- where necessary, reporting issues of concern to the school principal. The principal is responsible for referring students to outside services.

Participation by students in all Chaplaincy activities is voluntary, and those activities involving religious or spiritual content require parental consent.

The Chaplain works together with school staff and other support services in the school such as the Guidance Officer, Learning Support Teachers, and visiting professionals such as Speech Language Pathologists.

The Chaplain is required to report suspicion of harm or risk of harm to a student to the Principal. The Principal is required, by legislation, to report the disclosure to the Department of Child Safety, the Queensland Police and Education Queensland as appropriate.

How the School Chaplaincy Program operates:

- The Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC) approves an Annual Operational Plan which outlines the Chaplain's planned services and activities for the calendar year;

- The Program must comply with legislation, policies and guidelines established by the Queensland Government;
- The school community is clearly informed what programs involve religious, spiritual or ethical content;
- Regular reports on the Chaplaincy Program, issues and successes, are provided to the principal and the LCC;
- Parents or guardians give permission in writing, through the principal, prior to the Chaplain starting regular one-to-one meetings with a student. Students can initiate a one-to-one conversation with the School Chaplain, after which parental consent must be obtained for further meetings;
- Provision of any chaplaincy service with a student is stopped immediately upon receiving a formal request from parents or guardians for the withdrawal of chaplaincy services for their child;
- The School Chaplain must not evangelise or proselytize (that is, encourage students to adopt or change their religion) in the delivery of chaplaincy services.
- The Chaplain position at Bunker's Hill State School is a paid position. The Chaplaincy Program is provided by Scripture Union, overseen by a Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC), and funded in large part by the Federal Government's National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. The Chaplain is an employee of Scripture Union, which is the Accredited Employing Authority (AEA).
- The Chaplain's performance is reviewed on an annual basis by Scripture Union in partnership with the Principal and the LCC.

The Chaplaincy Program is not connected with Religious Instruction at the school. Religious Instruction is provided by Church groups from the local area who are represented in the student population. The Chaplain will work with a variety of community groups from religious, faith-based or secular backgrounds eg, scouts, community organisations and local churches or religious groups to support the school community.

Local Chaplaincy Committee

There is a Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC) for Bunker's Hill and Drayton State Schools.

The LCC is made up of members of the school community including staff and parents.

Their aim is to identify the needs of our local school community and assist the Chaplain to prepare and implement programs that will help to meet these needs. The LCC also provides guidance and support to the Chaplain.

The LCC meets once per month. It approves the Annual Operational Plans the Chaplain uses to implement programs in the school, and oversees the Chaplaincy Program at both schools. The LCC may also organise fundraising to maintain and develop the Chaplaincy Program.

LCC members:

- respect the cultural and religious customs and needs of individuals and groups within the school communities and the range of services and support currently available and/or required;
- represent the overall school communities;
- support and mentor the School Chaplain;
- advise the school principal regarding chaplaincy services and activities;
- may undertake fundraising activities to continue and build on the Chaplaincy Program.

Consent for Chaplaincy Services

All parents or guardians at enrolment, and on request, are able to access a consent form for Voluntary Student Participation in the Program of Chaplaincy Services. This form outlines any activities that contain religious or spiritual content in the Chaplaincy program at Bunker's Hill State School.

This form enables parents to:

- know the range of activities within the program of Chaplaincy Services provided at this school which include religious or spiritual content;
- make an informed decision regarding their child's participation or non-participation in those activities which include religious or spiritual content; or
- withdraw their agreement to or consent for their child's participation in those activities which include religious or spiritual content.

Location

The Chaplain's office is located in E Block, between the Year 4 and Year 5 classrooms, but the Chaplain works in areas throughout the school. The Chaplain works at Bunker's Hill on Mondays and Wednesdays, but may reschedule days around commitments to other schools.

Complaints

Should a parent or student wish to make a complaint regarding the Chaplaincy Services or the Chaplain, then the school complaint processes can be used. Complaints can be lodged in writing, by telephone or in person to the Principal. The Principal will investigate complaints and liaise with Scripture Union and the LCC to respond to these.