

National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

At Laura Primary School, the Chaplain supports the wellbeing of students and the school community; complimenting other care that is provided.

The Chaplain liaises with the Principal and teaching staff to offer programs and activities on a needs/request basis and on her own initiative; both in school time and voluntarily. These include a family wellbeing program, the Café which focusses on respect and inclusion for students their siblings and parents, a variety of regular lunch time activities involving cooking, craft and games; and student/parent integration opportunities to link with the wider community. The school also provides seasonal Christian seminars to students: these are funded separately by the local churches in the community.

Supporting the school's underlying values and recognising positive attitudes and behaviour, the "Bee Attitude Award" is presented twice a term to a nominated student. All awards and other initiatives are negotiated with teaching staff.

The chaplain supports students, staff and families in referral mentoring/counselling processes, with a focus on relationships, care and wellbeing; in an environment of collaboration and mutual respect. She also negotiates with staff to provide personal support information for families who may be experiencing difficulties or crises, connecting them with appropriate agencies and resources.

An introductory welcome letter which outlines her role is sent home to all families new to the school; and letters of invitation to activities or specific programs are sent at appropriate times in negotiation with the staff. Another important role of the Chaplain is linking members of the school community together, through a friendly personal approach in a variety of ways.

Families are provided opportunities to access services, but also to opt out if desired. Communication to all families also includes the provision to contact the Principal if they have a concern which needs to be addressed.

This year the staff, students and parents have been consulted through surveys and reports that have been provided to the school's Governing Council; who all value the Program and support its continuation.

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