



School Chaplaincy at Smithton High School

School chaplaincy

- Supporting and caring for students, staff and families
- Helping people to discover their own story

School Chaplaincy at Smithton High School is funded by the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program, Smithton High School and local funding through the Local Chaplaincy Committee.

The chaplaincy service at this school is approved by the School Association. Each year a school community consultation process is conducted through the School Association to establish approval for funding for the following year and the continuation of the service.

The chaplain is available to support students, parents and staff. If you would like to make an appointment for your child or yourself to see the chaplain, please contact the school office.

N.B. Participation by students in the chaplaincy program is voluntary.

If you do not want your child/ren to be involved in the chaplaincy service in this school, please register your intention at the office.

What is a School Chaplain?

- This program aims to help our school community support the spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing of our students.
- Chaplains are a part of the student support services team in this school.
- Chaplains provide students, their families and staff with support and appropriate referrals.
- Chaplains participate in school activities e.g. camps, excursions, sports events, garden and cooking programs.
- Chaplains have relevant qualifications, with a minimum of Cert IV in Youth Work and Diploma level or working towards Diploma level.
- Chaplains participate in regular professional learning/training.



Aims of the School Chaplaincy Service

Our school chaplain is at school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The chaplain is:

- a role model for students
- a listening ear/confidant
- a caring presence
- a resource on spirituality, values, meaning and purpose
- a link between your school and its community

Roles and Responsibilities of Chaplains

NSCSWP Guidelines

The roles and responsibilities of School Chaplains can be viewed in the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program Guidelines (pages 9-11) at:

<http://deewr.gov.au/news/updated-national-school-chaplaincy-and-student-welfare-program-guidelines>

Introducing our chaplain, Christine Blake



Hi, my name is Christine Blake and I have been chaplain at Smithton High since the beginning of 2008. I have completed a one year chaplaincy training course with Tabor College, a 3 year mentoring course with John Mark Ministries and a 4 year Spiritual Direction course. All these trainings have equipped me for the role, along with ongoing PD with Scripture Union and other relevant organisations.

On a personal note, I am married with 4 adult children. They have all attended Smithton High, as have I, my husband and my parents, giving a long connection and commitment to this school. In my spare time I love to read, walk, spend time with my husband and children and travel as much as time and finances allow.

At the school I am part of the support team and am involved in various activities including;

- facilitating small groups of students around discussions to do with hopes, dreams, goal setting, self-worth and connecting with others
- co-ordinate the Mentoring, Meals on Wheels and Brekkie volunteer programs
- an extra person on excursions
- offering general pastoral care, which involves being a listening and supportive presence
- facilitating a referral to a professional counsellor or social worker in consultation with the senior staff at the school as requested
- doing whatever comes up on a daily basis which is constantly changing

I enjoy what I do and being part of the team at Smithton High. If I can be of any assistance to you or your student please don't hesitate to contact me at school on my days of work.



How can you support our chaplain?

- Become part of the Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC) which oversees the service. The LCC meets once a term to review the chaplain's work and to make recommendations and goals for future action. The dates of these meetings can be obtained from the school newsletter
- Volunteer as a helper in programs run by the chaplain – a current Department of Education Good Character Check is essential
- Contribute feedback in person or via email to the chaplain or Principal.

What if you have a complaint about the chaplain?

- If you have reason to make a complaint regarding the chaplain, arrange to meet with the complaints officer – Keith Billing on the school number 6452 1376.
- Scripture Union Tasmania, the funding recipient and service provider for the service, can also be contacted (details below). You are entitled to make an anonymous complaint. All complaints will be kept strictly confidential.
- All attempts will be made to resolve complaints at the local level.
- If do not wish to address your complaint to the School Principal, Complaints Officer or Funding Recipient, they may be made directly to the Department by completing the complaint reporting form available at the Program website: www.deewr.gov.au/schoolchaplaincyandwelfare or emailing schoolchaplaincyandwelfarecomplaints@deewr.gov.au



Scripture Union Tasmania is the Funding Recipient and Service provider of the Australian Government's National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program at this school and the Tasmanian Department of Education approved provider of school chaplaincy in the state.

This chaplaincy position is supported and managed by a Local Chaplaincy Committee comprising representatives from the school and local community.

Contacts

Scripture Union of Tasmania
23 Clarence Street, Belle rive 7018
Phone: (03) 6244 8422
Fax: (03) 6244 8477
Email: enquiries@sutas.org.au

Our Chaplain's contact details
School Phone: 6452 1376
christine.blake@education.tas.gov.au



Acknowledgement

This project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

Disclaimer

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.