School Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy Services provide spiritual, ethical, and personal support to school communities. SU Qld Chaplains provide positive adult role models for students. Chaplains are present in schools at the invitation of the Principal, in consultation with the local community, and with the support of the P&C Association.

**What does a School Chaplain do?**

A School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school and provides a listening ear, caring presence, and a message of hope. Chaplains run positive, fun activities for students and assist in fostering supportive, caring school communities.

Working with other members of the school’s support team, the Chaplain cares for students struggling with issues such as difficult relationships with other children or family members, poor self-esteem, family breakdown, and depression.

The partnership between the school and the Chaplaincy Service, supported by local churches, businesses and community organisations, provides a network of local support and assistance. These positive relationships help young people to face difficult issues, and provide hope, connection, meaning, and purpose.

The Chaplaincy Service is available to everyone in the school community regardless of their religious beliefs.

**Who is the Wamuran State School School Chaplain?**

![Chaplain Image]

*My name is Tania Byers* and I am the chaplain at Wamuran State School. I began in chaplaincy with the 2009 Victorian bushfires, supporting the relief centre and working in four different schools. In the 2011 Lockyer Valley floods, I was on the Chaplain Disaster Response Team. In March 2012 I began as SU QLD chaplain at Caboolture Special and Wamuran State Schools. I grew up in an active fun family from country Victoria. I have always had a heart to work with children to achieve their goals and equip them with life skills that complement their needs and abilities. I enjoy connecting with children and young people in creative and
joyful ways. I love to brighten up another person’s day with a smile, a listening ear or a word of encouragement. I enjoy connecting with the wider community and have established strong connections between businesses, churches and Caboolture Special School.

**What will Chaplaincy look like at Wamuran State School in 2013?**

Chaplaincy support at Wamuran State School can be with individuals, small groups or large groups. One to one sessions can be accessed to help, amongst other things, children who are experiencing difficulty with friendships, children who have challenges with setting personal boundaries and children who are experiencing grief and loss.

The Unlimited program is implemented across the Year 6 year level. This program provides the opportunity for the Year 6 students to learn about and experiment with personal values such as: TRUST, COURAGE, HONESTY, HONOUR, ACCEPTANCE OF SELF, SELF-CONTROL, SELF-WORTH, PERSEVERANCE, and USING POSITIVE SELF-TALK, and Interpersonal values such as: ACCEPTING OTHERS, WORKING IN GROUPS, HAVING COMMITMENT TO A TEAM, CONSIDERING OTHERS, LISTENING WELL, COMMUNICATING WELL, HAVING EMOTIONAL TRUST, and BEING SOMEONE PEOPLE CAN RELY ON.

I really love showing interest in children’s interests and do this by coaching the netball team, assisting in soccer and coordinating a Year 3 lunch program which involves learning about values through games.

Breakfast is provided for children on Thursday mornings in the hall. Along with having breakfast and making sure that tummies are very full, Brekkie Club is a great social occasion. It is enjoyed by many as fun activities, supported by a helper, are run at the same time.

Restorative practice is an important element of my approach to being a Chaplain. Restorative practice helps me to partner with the children and to empower them to build a new bank of strategies that will help the children successfully navigate the social and family situations that they may encounter.

Children, teachers and parents can recommend or suggest that Chappy’s help may be beneficial to a child. Consent forms can be sourced from and returned to the office.

**Will my child be involved?**

Involvement with the Chaplain is entirely voluntary and students choose whether or not they want to be a part of the activities that are offered. Parents will be consulted if their child wishes to be involved in ongoing one-to-one meetings with the Chaplain or in any programme or group involving spiritual or ethical content. Parents have the right to refuse permission for their child to be involved in any Chaplaincy activity or event.

**How can I contact the Chaplain?**

I work at Wamuran State School every second Wednesday and every Thursday and Friday. You can contact me on the school office number 54299444.