School Chaplaincy at Smithton Primary School

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

School Chaplaincy at Smithton Primary School is funded by the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program 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 Monday and Tuesday all day and Wednesday morning each week.

The chaplain is:

- a role model and mentor for students
- a listening ear/confidante
- 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:


Introducing our chaplain, Debbie Woolard

I grew up in Brisbane but started moving around when I was 18 years old. I have lived up and down the East Coast of Australia, as well as a few places overseas. I moved to Smithton in 2011 to work at the Anglican Church in Smithton. Around September 2012 I changed jobs and took up the position as chaplain at the primary school.

My biggest passion is working with young people of all ages and I think I am very lucky because I am able to spend time with so many wonderful students at Smithton Primary School. When I’m not working I spend much of my time studying — I am in the middle of completing a Diploma in Youth Work. However, for fun and relaxation my favourite things to do are to sit down with a cup of tea and read a good book or watch a movie. I also really enjoy going for drives, exploring new places and exercising my creative, crafty side. However, I’m always up for a chat so if you happen to be at the school feel free to look me up or just call the school and ask for Deb.

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 office
- 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 – Jo Hillman (principal), or fill out your complaint in the Complaints Book
- 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](http://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, Bellerive 7018
Phone: (03) 6244 8422
Fax: (03) 6244 8477
Email: [enquiries@sutas.org.au](mailto:enquiries@sutas.org.au)

**Our Chaplain’s contact details**
School Phone: 03 6452 1955

debbie.woolard@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.