National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program Policy

Rationale:
As part of our broader Student wellbeing program developed to optimise the personal and social wellbeing of our students the School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Officer program “assists our school community to provide pastoral care and general spiritual, social and emotional comfort to all students irrespective of their faith or beliefs. p5”

Guidelines:
• Participation by our school community in the program is voluntary and will be reviewed by our School Council.
• Community consultation will occur every 12 months about the demand for and role of a school chaplain / student welfare officer
• Community consultation will take place at the beginning of Term 4 of each school year to ascertain either the continuation of the Chaplaincy program or changing to a student welfare officer role
• A community consultation plan will be developed and made available on our website
• The school will inform parents and students of the voluntary nature of the program and written consent will be sought from parents to utilise the services of the school chaplain / student welfare officer see attached form
• A Chaplaincy Committee has been established to provide support for the work of the Chaplain.
• The Chaplain will report directly to the Principal who will be responsible for the Chaplain’s Performance Review
• The Complaints Officer will be the Principal. A complaints log has been established and is monitored by the School Council National Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program subcommittee.
• A Risk Management Plan has been developed

Implementation
• The primary role of the Chaplain / Student Welfare officer is in the Prevention area of our student wellbeing program with a focus on providing “protective factors” such as the provision of a supportive other adult in a child’s life, in enhancing our students’ emotional wellbeing. The Student Wellbeing Prevention Coordinator will act as mentor and coordinator for the Chaplain / Student Welfare Officer.
• At times the Chaplain / Student Welfare Officer may be requested to work in the area of Student Wellbeing: Intervention providing individual support for a student. All referrals for this support is directed through the Assistant Principal and/ or Student Wellbeing: Intervention Coordinator. Referrals may come from teachers, parents, guidance officers, the Chaplain/ student welfare officer and students themselves. Parent consent must be obtained before intervention can occur.
• Individual staff and parents may contact the Chaplain / Secular Welfare Officer directly for support

• The school will facilitate ongoing professional development for, and support to, Chaplain / Secular Welfare as part of our Performance and Development Culture.

• Information about the School Chaplaincy / Student Welfare Officer program will be provided to parents at the beginning of the year through information nights and newsletters.

• In Term 4 of each year the School Council will facilitate community consultation through a community survey and request for written feedback.

• DEEWR provides a base level of funding to meet a minimum level of qualification and experience. If the selected applicant has a level of qualification and experience exceeding the base level the school will fund the salary gap for either position.

Evaluation

• This policy will be reviewed by School Council every three years.

• Approved: School Council November 2012

National Schools Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCWP) Guidelines July 2012
www.deewr.gov.au/schoolchaplaincyandwelfare

To be reviewed in November 2015