

School Chaplain

Chaplaincy services provide spiritual, ethical, and personal support to school communities. Scripture Union Queensland Chaplains provide positive adult role models for students. Chaplains also provide pastoral care for student, staff, and families within the school community. Chaplains are present in schools at the invitation of the Principal, in consultation with the local community and with the support of the Parents and Citizens 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, depression, and grief at the passing of a loved one.

The partnership between the school and the chaplaincy service, supported by local churches, businesses, and community organisations, provide 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 Sunnybank State School Chaplain?

My name is Jeff and I am the Chaplain at Sunnybank State School. I have been involved in Chaplaincy since 1998 (in Townsville NQ, my family moved to Brisbane at the start of 2017). I love the opportunity as a Chaplain to support young people and their families as they journey through school life. I am married to an incredible lady Mechelle, we have two children, one who is in university and the other in Year ten. My family and I attend a local Baptist church.



I have always had a love of sports (Cowboys and Lions are my teams), and I have played Rugby League, soccer, golf, cricket, cycling, AFL and some others. I also enjoy umpiring sport and have been an accredited Rugby League and Cricket umpire, as well as currently umpire AFL (along with my children). I have furthermore spent six years as a Sports Chaplain with the Townsville Crocodiles NBL Club.

How can you contact the Chaplain?

Chappy Jeff, is available at school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To make an appointment to see Chappy Jeff you can contact him by calling the school office, or emailing him cthom768@eq.edu.au

Will my child be involved?

Involvement with the Chaplain is entirely voluntary and students choose whether 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 program 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.