



St Joseph's School

Millar Street, Waroona, Western Australia

PO Box 129, Waroona WA 6215

Telephone: (08) 9782 6500

Email: admin@stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au

Web Site: www.stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au

7/2/19

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Cathie Cresswell and I have the privilege of being appointed the role of School Chaplain (Counsellor) for 2019 at St Joseph's School on **Wednesdays**.

As the School Chaplain, I am available to students and their families to assist with any school transitions, social or emotional difficulties and support with mental health and wellbeing of students. I provide a confidential, non-judgemental space to discuss any concerns students or parents may have in these areas.

As Chaplain, I am here to assist with:

- contributing to improving student engagement and connectedness by providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment
- providing pastoral care and guidance to students
- providing support in areas such as attendance, engagement, and mental health
- providing students and their families with support and/or appropriate referrals in difficult situations such as times of grief, or when students are facing personal or emotional challenges
- supporting staff to create an environment which promotes the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development and well-being of all students
- providing critical incident response to support children, school staff, and families
- supporting schools and teachers to identify and develop social and emotional programs to support children who are vulnerable or at risk
- supporting children impacted by trauma
- liaising with community service organisations, government agencies, hospitals, specialist programs and other allied health professionals where needed

If a student is having troubles and asks to speak with the Chaplain during the school day, or if they are involved in a critical incident, the teacher or student can contact me to check availability for immediate response. If I am unavailable, a time will be made to follow up with the student as soon as possible.

Further to my role as Chaplain, I am also a qualified Art Therapy Counsellor and will be available for ongoing counselling of students upon request from parents. However, ongoing counselling of any student will only commence once a signed parent permission form has been received (**please see reverse side of this letter**).

If you have any questions about the Chaplaincy or Counselling roles, please feel free to contact me on 9782 6500.

Kind regards,

Cathie Cresswell
School Chaplain



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PARENT PERMISSION TO ACCESS SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

As part of the schools counselling service, your child will be provided with a quiet space to talk about any concerns they are having. They may also wish to express their feelings with the use of art therapy counselling processes such as visual art materials, body movement, music, drama, sand tray, or narratives.

We/I..... being the legal guardian/s hereby give

consent for my son/daughter..... to participate in counselling sessions with the school counsellor.

We/I understand the counsellor's involvement *may* include: interview with parents/guardians, interview with teacher, classroom planning, observation, 1:1 student counselling, group work, direct individual assessment, and liaison with other professionals or agencies (if required) e.g. School Principal, Doctor, Psychologist, other professionals or specialists *where appropriate*. Please note that you have the right to withdraw this permission at any time by contacting me on 97826500.

If your child is seeing a counsellor/psychologist outside of school, would you like the school counsellor to liaise with this person? YES NO

If yes, please provide counsellor/psychologist contact details:

Name:

Phone:

We/I give permission for the school to contact the child's counselling service as named above.

Signed..... Date..... Print name

I would like to be contacted by the school counsellor for more information about this service.

Phone Email