

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL CHAPLAINS IN NT SCHOOLS

The Code of Conduct applies to all chaplains delivering chaplaincy services in NT schools. This Code of Conduct, or one that adheres to the intent of this document, must be signed by the school chaplain before any chaplaincy services are delivered.

School chaplains who refuse to sign the Code of Conduct will not be permitted to provide chaplaincy services in NT schools.

Code of Conduct for the provisions of chaplaincy services at (school name).

The school chaplain will provide pastoral care, general spiritual advice, and comfort and support to students and the school community irrespective of their spiritual beliefs.

The role of the school chaplain is to support school students and the wider school community in a range of ways, such as assisting students in exploring their spirituality; and providing guidance on morals, values and ethical matters; and in cases of bereavement, family breakdown and other crisis and loss situations, as required.

In providing these services, the school chaplain must sign and observe the following:

The school chaplain will:

1. recognise, respect and affirm the authority of the school principal and/or the school council, and will work in consultation with them
2. respect the rights of parents/caregivers to ensure the spiritual and moral education of their children is in line with their own convictions
3. adhere to all relevant Commonwealth, state or territory policy and legislation, including those concerning privacy and confidentiality
4. contribute to a supportive, inclusive and caring learning environment within the school
5. avoid physical contact with a student, recognising however that there may be some circumstances where physical contact might be appropriate, such as where the student is injured or distraught
6. not put themselves, or allow themselves, to be placed in a compromising situation, recognising that there are circumstances where confidentiality may be sought by the student
7. provide accurate and impartial information about the support and services available in community groups, including religious groups, and in the broader community, where this is necessary

8. act as a reference point for students and other members of the school community on spiritual issues, values, human relationships and wellbeing issues

In doing this, the school chaplain will:

- a) respect, accept and be sensitive to other peoples' views, values and beliefs that may be different from their own
 - b) uphold a parent/caregiver and individual's right to choose their beliefs and values
 - c) actively discourage any form of harassment or discrimination on the grounds of religious ideology or doctrine
 - d) under certain circumstances, refer a student to a chaplain who is in accordance with the student's own beliefs and values.
9. not take advantage of their privileged position to evangelise or proselytise for their own denomination or religious belief (noting that an individual chaplain will in good faith express views and articulate values consistent with their denomination or religious beliefs)
 10. will not perform professional or religious services for which they are not qualified or authorised.

Use of information

The signed Code of Conduct will be shared with the NT Department of Education in support of the chaplain's suitability to deliver services in the school. The document can be disclosed without the chaplain's consent, where authorised or required by law.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

The school chaplain holds a special position of trust and must be accountable for their actions. The school principal must take all reasonable steps to ensure the school chaplain complies with the Code of Conduct.

If there is an actual or perceived breach of the Code of Conduct, the school chaplain may be required to immediately cease providing chaplaincy services. The school principal is required to notify the department immediately if they become aware of such a situation, and adhere to all department or relative non-government school policies relating to the reporting of critical incidents. In such circumstances, the school chaplain must not continue to provide services to the school unless the department provides written agreement for the chaplaincy services to continue.

School chaplain acknowledgment

I understand and agree to the terms of this Code of Conduct.

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Name of school chaplain

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Name of school principal

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Signature of school chaplain

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Signature of school principal

Date:

Date: