

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY POLICY DE LA SALLE COLLEGE 2018

Chaplaincy is about “presence”, witnessing to God’s presence, and accompanying the De La Salle College community as it lives the gospel. The Chaplain “loiters with intent” as a pastoral friend, encouraging students to live the best lives they can. He or she exercises a key community building role that bridges the boundaries between staff and students and supports their spiritual and moral formation. The availability of the chaplain extends to home and hospital visits, retreats, actions on social issues and prayer celebrations.

THE CHAPLAIN:

- Is a person of faith who is committed to the teachings and values of Christ
- Animates the spiritual life of the De La Salle College.
- Acts on behalf of the church and the De La Salle College community and is available to accompany each person on the journey through life.
- Responds to the spiritual and religious needs of the staff and students, under his/her pastoral care, while respecting the freedom of the religious and personal conviction of each individual.
- Supports the teaching of religious education.
- Works in close co-operation with the Board of Management, Principal, Deputy Principals, Religious Education Department, teachers, students, parents and guardians.
- Is there to counsel students. Like the career guidance in the school when the issues are beyond them they can refer to the relevant professionals.
- Provides individual/group accompaniment and spiritual guidance.
- Is available to staff members in a pastoral care role and for consultation with parents including parent/teacher meetings and through house visits.
- Home visitations are an integral part of chaplaincy of De La Salle College.
- Keeps a record of visits made by students, staff and parents. These records should include the name of the person, the date, time and duration of the visit and a brief summary of the visit.
- Offers and organises retreats or days of reflection to staff and students.
- oversees the prayer room and sacred/religion space in the school
- Maintains a close link with the local parish community. De La Salle College has a strong link with St. Joesph and Benildus

STUDENTS

Pastoral role of the Chaplain:

- Is available to students during school hours, especially during lunch breaks or when necessary, and as requested by the Principal, outside college hours.
- Has direct and regular contact with individual students, small groups and class groups by arrangement with the teachers involved.
- Maintains a lively interest in recreational, cultural and outreach activities.

LITURGICAL & PARA-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

The Chaplain ensures:

- The provision of liturgical celebrations and prayer services.
- That activities are arranged to mark and celebrate the major feasts and the seasons of the Liturgical year, other religions and important world international days.
- That liturgies which take place in De La Salle College based facilitate participation by students of other belief systems where such is desired and appropriate.
- That the characteristic spirit of De La Salle College reflects the De La Salle founding intention and the mission statement, and finds practical expression in faith formation as well as pastoral, liturgical and outreach activities.
- That daily prayer and/or reflections are communicated through the intercom system or electronic board, at school and/or year group assemblies.

OUTREACH ACTIVITY

The Chaplain:

- In consultation with the Principal and in co-operation with other members of staff, students, local community and clergy seeks opportunities for students to become involved in outreach activities. We visit hospitals and have charity fundraising events to promote care in our community.
- Promotes pastoral or other activities within the school/college that may benefit the local community.
- Gives updated feedback on activities to the Principal, staff members and students.

COMMUNICATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

The Chaplain:

- Is present in De La Salle College each day the college is in operation.
- Works within agreed structural arrangements as outlined by the Principal and as approved by the Board of Management.
- Is accountable to the Principal or delegated person.
- Meets with the Bishop's delegate i.e. the Post-Primary Diocesan Advisor
- Participates in an evaluation process every two years with the Post-Primary Diocesan Advisor.

CONFIDENTIALITY

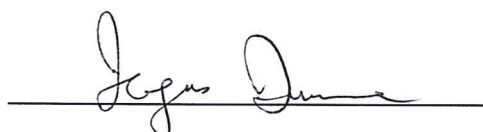
The Chaplain acknowledges and respects the students' and staff members right to confidentiality. This right is of vital importance and must be upheld at all times except where to do so would endanger the student, Chaplain or others. Professional confidentiality is mandatory. The Chaplain, however, does not operate in isolation but is part of the wider school community. The Chaplain may need to confer with the school Principal and/or Deputy Principals and/or the Counsellors or other designated persons as appropriate.

The Chaplain, in the discharge of the duty of his/her duty of care must adhere to both the requirements of legislation, good practice and guidelines in relation to the reporting of incidents e.g. risk of harm to oneself or somebody else, safeguarding children issues, matters of a criminal nature etc.

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 22/10/2018

It will be reviewed every three years or more often should the Board of Management think it necessary in light of changed or amended legislation. Any review will continue to be guided by the school's characteristic spirit and commitment to its responsibilities under data protection legislation.

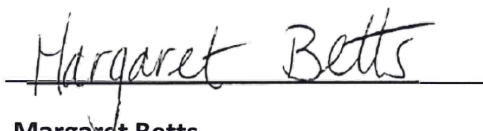
Signed:



Fergus Dunne

Chairperson BOM

Signed:



Margaret Betts

Principal

Date of next Review _____