THE NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY AND WELFARE PROGRAMME (NSCWP)
The NSCWP aims to support schools and their communities. Under the NSCWP project, school chaplains are available to deliver support services to schools and its community by:

- Supporting students and staff to create an environment of cooperation and respect
- Providing comfort and support to students and staff
- Promoting an understanding of diversity across the range of religious affiliations and their traditions
- Providing general religious advice to those seeking it
- Respecting the range of religious views and cultural traditions in the school and broader community
- Working in the wider spiritual context to support students and staff

School Chaplains must abide by the National School Chaplaincy & Welfare Programme Code of Conduct and operate within a strong ethical framework which supports and upholds the ‘Values for Australian Schooling’

SMALL GROUPS & EXCURSIONS
Small groups and excursions provide a safe, valuable, challenging opportunity and are flexible and relaxed. Students have the choice to participate. Parental permission is sought as required. Volunteer helpers are always welcome.

CHAPLAINS BLOG
A site full of program information and community links.
www.chaplainh.blogspot.com

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
The chaplain at LPS is a JP in NSW. Please contact the school office for an appointment.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE)
The School Chaplain collaborates closely with our volunteer teachers and assistants to ensure relationships and programs are being carried out authentically and with integrity.

Voluntary Student Activities of a religious nature in schools:
Voluntary religious activities and prayer groups of any approved persuasion are not part of Special Religious Education (SRE), but may operate under the auspices and supervision of the principal. [NSW Dept of Education Guidelines]
THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

School Chaplains are committed to the issues affecting children, young people and families today including:

- Wellbeing
- Safety & Security
- Sense of Self

The School Chaplain is a role not a job description or symbolic gesture! At LPS, the School Chaplain’s role is:

Pastoral Care & Crisis Intervention
- Provides pastoral care & counselling to students, staff or family members in a range of situations
- Offers advice and strategies for students, staff or family members facing difficult decisions
- Connects with students, engaging them in a range of activities
- Is available to assist students, parents and staff
- Responds as required when critical incidents occur
- Keeps confidential records

Education – Welfare & Enrichment Programs
- Develops programs and initiatives for student and family related needs
- Provides programs and leading groups that deal with social, behavioural and transition issues
- Provides classroom-based lessons when requested
- Presents seminars and information sessions to students and the wider school community
- Offers in-service programs for staff
- Offers religious and spiritual guidance (when invited to)

Local School Liaison
- Refers disclosures covered by mandatory reporting requirements to the School Principal or Assistant Principal
- Engages in regular liaison with staff members, especially the welfare group, executive and class teachers
- Liaises closely with classroom teachers and support staff in relation to students in their care
- Serves as the point person for Religious Education within the school, liaising with Special Religious Education (SRE) Co-ordinators and Teachers.
- Makes referrals for community groups, agencies and professionals to students and families
- Liaises with external agencies, community and church groups
- Advises the Principal or Assistant Principal of any safety and wellbeing issues related to students and families
- Engages with parents by attending a range of school and social events to raise awareness of the role in the school community
- Sources program funding

SCHOOL CHAPLAINS ARE AWARE THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GIVING ADVICE AND GIVING GUIDANCE. CHILDREN ARE OFTEN WATCHING FOR GUIDANCE, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT ACTUALLY ASKING

REFERRALS

Students are referred to the School Chaplain by parents, carers or teachers. Referrals are reviewed by the Learning Support Team.

Anyone else from the school community may seek an appointment directly with the School Chaplain

AT LPS, THE CHAPLAIN IS AVAILABLE TO THE WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

“Our children are signposts to the future of our society; they tell us what we are becoming. But they are also our most precious resource for shaping the future, so we had better make sure we are nurturing them and supporting them to the limit of our capacity”

Hugh McKay; Australian Author as quoted in The Chaplaincy Phenomena

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The content and design was compiled by Heather Pinel, School Chaplain, in consultation with School Principal, Ross Hallaways. Last updated May 2012.