



School Chaplain



Hi, my name is **Melinda Gurling**.

I am the school chaplain for Springwood Road State School. I'm employed by Scripture Union Queensland and have been placed in the school to give care and support to the entire school community.

I have worked with young children and youth for over a decade serving in the local community and several non-for-profit organisations. I have a desire to see children reach their full potential and to give them hope for a brighter future. I have lived in the local area for over 20 years and I am committed to helping create a strong and safe community for young children, youth and families.

The chaplaincy service at Springwood Road State School is provided for all students, staff and their families regardless of race, religion or values. All matters raised are dealt with in the strictest confidence and without judgement. Part of my role is to network and link with other professionals/businesses in the area to provide the best care possible for those in need of a little assistance.

I work with the Guidance Officers, Youth workers and other school staff to provide pastoral care, social support and personal development to our students. I am here to help and care for the students and school community by being the listener, the supporter and the encourager.

Here are some things I do at school:

- ✚ Extend friendship and pastoral care to students and their families
- ✚ Listen and support when life becomes unsettled
- ✚ Participate in school events
- ✚ Assist children with transitions in life
- ✚ Support with spiritual inquiries
- ✚ Help run programs to support the wellbeing of children at the school

Chaplaincy works on a voluntary basis no-one is made to speak to me! Parents, teachers and students can refer to me but ultimately it is the individual's choice to utilize this service provided.

Some reasons you would see me would be if:

- ✚ You just need someone to talk to
- ✚ Your family or friends have experienced a tragedy
- ✚ You're struggling with school or study
- ✚ Somethings happened that has upset or shaken you and you need some advice
- ✚ You need help and want pointing in the right direction
- ✚ Parents need advice about parenting or family matters
- ✚ You're concerned about someone around you with regards to health and wellbeing
- ✚ You need a friend who will not judge or criticise

Most of you have met me but for all who haven't I'm looking forward to meeting you and working with as many parents, staff and students as possible as together we can make a difference in young people's lives and bring **HOPE** to a young generation!

You can contact me on Thursday and Friday by ringing the school on **3457 8333** or e-mail me at melindag@chappy.org.au.