



## **POSITION DESCRIPTION – SENIOR CHAPLAIN**

Ballarat Grammar is a Christian school, and the beliefs and values of the Christian Faith are central to all that we do. The Anglican expression of this Faith has deep roots in the life of the School community. This focus is seen in many ways, including our emphasis on service, and our celebration of diversity. Male and female Chaplains are welcomed at Ballarat Grammar.

**Ballarat Grammar is committed to zero tolerance of child abuse. All staff and members of our community have a duty of care to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of children in their care. As a school with a diverse population, this includes students with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.**

### **ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

The Senior Chaplain reports directly to the Headmaster and is responsible for the supervision of the Assistant Chaplains.

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

In collaboration with the Headmaster, the Senior Chaplain is responsible for the spiritual life of the School, and of all its members, and must be able to be licensed by the Bishop of Ballarat, to whom is owed due canonical obedience in all things.

The Senior Chaplain will:

- Be an ordained priest
- Be a person of good standing
- Embrace the broadly Catholic ethos of the Diocese of Ballarat
- Be a collegial member of the Diocesan Synod
- Be an active member of the Area Deanery of Ballarat
- Be a member of Chaplains in Anglican Schools
- Undergo Professional Standards checks
- Undertake duties as requested by the Headmaster

### **Ethos**

The Senior Chaplain is charged with the oversight of the School's spiritual direction. The School seeks to present the Christian Faith in a strong and engaging way, which is appropriate to the age of the cohort being addressed. The School values open-mindedness and inclusivity. Our students are encouraged to discern their own beliefs and practices, informed by careful examination of the Anglican position which the School holds, and of other viewpoints.

### **Teamwork**

The Senior Chaplain will lead a team of Chaplains, both ordained and lay, and seek to discern the gifts offered by the members of the team, and to enable their vital expression. The Senior Chaplain also works with a diverse group of Senior Staff, and with all staff, ensuring their wellbeing, and valuing their input regarding the spiritual life of the School.



A special relationship exists with the Heads of the Senior and Junior Schools, the School Psychologists, the Director of Care, the Director of Staff and the Director of Boarding.

The Senior Chaplain will maintain a special relationship with the Parish of St Matthew's, Wendouree, within whose boundaries the School lies, and with the Bishop of Ballarat and the Cathedral.

## **Liturgy**

The Senior Chaplain is responsible for the life of the Chapel of Saint Mark, ensuring that it is open and in good order throughout the school term. He or she is ultimately responsible for all acts of worship at the School. At present, there are six large services each week, all held in the Chapel of Saint Mark: two services for the Junior School; three services for the Senior School; and a service for Boarders.

All services must be conducted in a respectful manner, and in accordance with the ecclesiological flavour of the Diocese. Because of the age of the student cohort, a degree of informality may be present which is not found in parish churches. The School's approach is based upon a thorough knowledge of Holy Scripture, and of Anglican tradition. It avoids a literal or exclusive expression of Faith which risks the alienation of some students. In this sense, the School walks a tightrope, balancing a clear and faithful expression of our Faith with an open and inclusive thoughtfulness. Attendance at Chapel is compulsory for all students.

Music plays an important part in the liturgical life of the School, and the Senior Chaplain will pursue a good working relationship with the Director of Chamber and Junior Choirs, and the School Organist at all times. The Senior Chaplain will encourage student participation in liturgies, and enable liturgies which are entirely student led, with all the challenges and opportunities which this may bring.

The Senior Chaplain will be a person of prayer, and the recitation of Morning and Evening Prayer will be at the centre of their personal devotion. All opportunities to foster the life of prayer within the School will be embraced. The Senior Chaplain's role at School Assemblies is an example of this.

The Senior Chaplain will understand the central position held in Anglican spirituality by the Eucharist. A weekly Eucharist, open to all staff and students, may be held before classes begin. Once each term, the Senior School gathers in the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts for a Eucharist, which is usually choral. Such events are important in the life of the School.

Accordingly, the Senior Chaplain will prepare students for, and conduct: Baptisms, Admission to Communion, and Confirmation. Weddings and funerals are also conducted as required. The Senior Chaplain will be aware of the Church's liturgical calendar, celebrating all important events in the year. Particularly important in this are the celebrations of Easter, and festivities leading up to Christmas. At times, the Church's calendar will need to be adapted to fit the School term.

## **Pastoral Care**

The Senior Chaplain has an important role to play in the School's system of pastoral care. He or she will, in collaboration with the Chaplaincy team and other senior members of staff, contribute to the provision of thorough, evidence-based care for all members of the School community. The pastoral areas of the School include the staff, the Senior, Middle and Junior Schools, and the Boarding community. Pastoral ministry is also provided to School families and the alumni.

## **Religion, Philosophy and Ethics**

In collaboration with the Chair of the Faculty of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, the Senior Chaplain will ensure that the religious life of the School is being adequately reflected in the teaching of that subject. The Senior Chaplain will be allocated a 0.5 teaching load, reflective of their teaching areas, in addition to their Chaplaincy load.