

School Psychologist (Educational and Developmental Psychologist)

Position Overview

The School Psychologist supports young people in achieving psychological health, social and emotional wellbeing and academic success through evidence-based counselling and wellbeing services.

As well as short term counselling, the School Psychologist facilitates small group programs; provides consultation and support for parents and teachers, and works proactively at a school-wide level to create and maintain a safe, effective and supportive learning environment.

Statement of Duties

Students	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the needs of students who self-refer or are referred to the service. 2. Provide evidence-based interventions and confidential counselling. 3. Assess students with concerning behaviors and provide intervention, strategies and behavior plans to enhance engagement, and reduce or eliminate restrictive practices. 4. Conduct risk assessments across a range of mental health presentations, and provide advice to staff working with high-risk students. 5. Facilitate small group programs that assist students in developing their social emotional wellbeing, mental health literacy and study skills. 6. Promote mental health awareness within the school community. 7. Make referrals to other professionals, as appropriate.
Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide advice, resources and professional learning in relation to mental health, wellbeing and the developmental and the psychological needs of young people. 2. Consult with teachers to determine the programs, strategies and the most appropriate intervention and prevention approaches for individual students or groups of students. 3. Collaborate with the Deputy Principals (Pastoral Care and Learning), the Learning Diversity Leader, Year Level Leaders and teachers regarding the care, engagement and management of specific students, within professional and ethical boundaries. 4. Participate in case conferences to ensure that all school services are working cohesively to support at risk students.
Families	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist families to support their child's psychological, developmental, educational and mental health needs. 2. Link families to external support agencies where appropriate. 3. Liaise with external health professionals and families, as the need arises. 4. Facilitate parent education evenings on student wellbeing and parenting.
General	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administer psychological, developmental, educational and mental health

	<p>assessments as needed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Practice according to relevant school, VCEA and MACS policies. Consult, collaborate and liaise with external health professionals. Where appropriate, contribute to the development of Personal Learning Plans (PLP's), Behavior Plans (BP's) and Safety Plans (SP's) for students at risk, or for students or groups, with particular needs. Provide information for the NCCD process, as required. Contribute to the development and review of student wellbeing policies, procedures and programs. Take an active role in crisis prevention and management. Attend relevant meetings and networks.
Accountability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide professional and ethical psychological support and counselling, in a manner consistent with the expectations and requirements of AHPRA, the Psychology Board of Australia, and other legislative bodies. Is responsible to the Principal and the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care). Report to the Principal each semester on case load, counselling issues and possible implications for the College and student wellbeing. Meet fortnightly with the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care) to discuss caseload, individual case management, and other activities. Undertake regular professional supervision.
Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain records and case notes consistent with College policies, and best practice, as advised by AHPRA and PBA. Maintain confidentiality, security and accuracy of records.
Child Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Be familiar with and comply with the school's Child-Safety and Wellbeing policy and Code of Conduct, and any other policies or procedures relating to child safety. Assist in the provision of a child-safe environment for students. Demonstrate duty of care to students in relation to their physical and mental wellbeing.
Professional Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in professional development in accordance with AHPRA requirements and the needs of the school. Maintain up to date ICT skills, consistent with professional and organizational requirements.
General Duties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to a healthy and safe work environment for yourself and others and comply with all safe work policies and procedures. Attend staff and other meetings as relevant. Be involved in the broader life of the College by attending activities like

	<p>Family Nights, school and year level-based activities.</p> <p>4. Engage in a professional manner with students, families, staff, legislative personnel and external health professionals.</p> <p>5. Other duties as requested by the College Principal.</p>
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SELECTION CRITERIA	
Commitment to Catholic Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A demonstrated understanding of the ethos of a Catholic school and its mission. • A demonstrated commitment to the vision and mission of the College.
Commitment to Child Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A demonstrated understanding of child safety. • A demonstrated understanding of appropriate behaviors when engaging with adolescents. • Be a suitable person to engage in child-connected work. • Must hold or be willing to acquire a Working with Children Check card and must be willing to undergo a National Police Record Check.
Education and Experience	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full registration as a Psychologist with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). • Experience in working with adolescents from diverse backgrounds. • Capacity to establish authentic, trusting and collaborative relationships with young people, their families and staff. • Ability to assess young people’s psychological, developmental, educational and mental health needs. • Ability to develop tailored and evidence-based interventions. • Ability to provide assessment, counselling and referral for young people and families from traumatic, disadvantaged and / or mainstream backgrounds. • Ability to respond to, and manage critical incidents. • Ability to work autonomously and in a team.
	<p>Desirable Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement in Educational and Developmental Psychology. • Experience conducting cognitive and neurodevelopmental assessments, and report writing. • An interest in, and understanding of, trauma and trauma informed practice, and of positive psychology.

‘Love one another as I have loved you’

Skills and Attributes

- A commitment to student wellbeing.
- Ability to engage in reflective and sustainable practice.
- A strengths-based and neurodiversity affirming approach to practice.
- A vision for the role.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills; appropriate for building rapport with students from diverse backgrounds, and with staff and external professionals.
- Effective conflict resolution and mediation skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team and to cultivate credibility and respect.
- Presents a positive demeanor.
- Demonstrates a respect for, and acceptance of, difference in students, families and staff.
- Skills in research, policy development and writing, with the ability to develop documents that are clear, precise and accessible.
- Proven capacity to work both collaboratively and independently, to take initiative, and to accept responsibility.
- Strong organizational and time management skills, with an ability to prioritize tasks, manage competing priorities, meet deadlines and to respond to issues and / or referrals in a timely manner.

Time: 0.6 FTE (Monday, Tuesday and **one of** Wednesday, Thursday or Friday)

Hours: 8.30am – 4.30pm