



Role Description

College Psychologist/Social Worker

The College Psychologist/Social Worker has responsibility for the provision of professional counselling, consultation and referral for students and their families in a manner which is consistent with the Charter for Edmund Rice Schools. In so doing, the College Psychologist/Social Worker demonstrates support for Catholic philosophy and values and promotes sound practices especially as they relate to the support of staff, students and their families. The College Psychologist/Social Worker reports to the Director of Pastoral Care and the College Principal and is an integral member of the Pastoral Care team. Within this general principle, the Psychologist/Social Worker has the following specific responsibilities.

College Ethos

- Demonstrate support for the philosophy and values of the College
- Demonstrate active leadership and promotion of the EREA Charter and its Touchstones.
- Support College policies and programs
- Model high professional standards
- Demonstrate loyalty to professional colleagues
- Contribute actively to College life and extra-curricular programs.

Liaison / Support

- Work with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Director of Pastoral Care, Pastoral Care team and teachers who are part of the pastoral network within the College
- Advise the Principal on matters/issues pertaining to the welfare of the College community
- Support and contribute to the development of community within the College
- Work as a member of the College's Critical Incident Management Team
- Promote and uphold all policies and guidelines, eg: Child Protection mandates
- Undertake other duties as requested by the Principal.

Student Counselling

- Provide a professional counselling service to students in the school
- Contribute to the development and implementation of educational and early intervention programs
- Receive referrals from teachers, parents, students and outside sources, and assess and determine the appropriate approach and/or intervention
- Provide feedback to relevant personnel and parents, as appropriate, regarding students' needs and possible interventions, within the limitations of client confidentiality and privacy law
- Refer students and/or their families to other community agencies and specialist consultants when appropriate.

Parent and Staff Support

- Contribute to the development and implementation of parent education programs within the College
- Assist parents to locate appropriate counselling and support services
- Contribute to staff development and awareness of welfare issues within the College





- Assist staff if requested to locate appropriate counselling and support services for their own personal/professional needs.

Community Networks and Consultation

- Develop and maintain a positive network/working relationship with local welfare agency personnel and health professionals
- Assume a Case Manager role, providing a liaison link between agencies, other welfare services, school, families, students etc
- Refer to and consult with agencies when faced with situations which extend the boundary of the College's competence or knowledge.

Professional Expectations

- Maintain confidentiality within ethical and legal constraints and in accordance with College guidelines
- Maintain and safeguard appropriate professional records
- Foster client autonomy
- Establish and maintain professional boundaries within the therapeutic relationship
- Attend regular clinical supervision sessions
- Attend, participate and maintain relevant community/professional networks
- Maintain professional skills through activities such as reading, professional development, study, clinical supervision, peer-networking and/or peer supervision and self-evaluation.

Ultimately the College Psychologist/Social Worker is responsible to the Principal and, from time to time, may be asked to carry out other duties. The College Psychologist/Social Worker reports to the Principal through the Director of Pastoral Care and the Deputy Principal. Close collaboration is necessary at times with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Director of Pastoral Care and the Pastoral Care Team.

