

## The School Social Worker:

- Supports students where social and emotional issues may be impacting on their learning.
- Works closely with school staff but also respects the privacy of families and of students'.
- Can provide advice and information on parenting matters, community resources,
- Will refer students/ families to outside counsellors or community agencies as necessary.
- Supports the religious values of the Catholic School Community
- There is no cost to parents/guardians for the school social work service.

## What training does a Social Worker have?

Social Workers have university qualifications that includes counselling, the study of human behaviour, social policy, group work and community development.

To be employed in a school they need to be experienced Social Workers and be eligible to belong to the Australian Association of Social Workers and to adhere to their Standards and

Code of Ethics.

If you have any questions about the social work service at the school, you are welcome to contact the Social Worker or the Principal.



## Information about counselling

In addition to other student-support tasks, the social worker provides counselling for students as part of the school's pastoral care program. Students, with the permission of their parent/guardian are welcome to use this service if they need assistance. Discussions and any records made are considered as private and treated confidentially. Any communications with other school staff or other agencies will only be as required for the student's welfare.



## Some reasons for contacting the School Social Worker:

- Change or loss in the family— separation, divorce, death.
- Reluctance to attend school.
- Friendship and social difficulties.
- Physical or mental health issues affecting family and student, such as anxiety.
- Difficulty settling in to school.
- Issues related to learning
- Developmental and behavioural issues.

Supporting individual students is the main part of what the School Social Worker does. Other roles include:

- Supporting teachers with resources and information about programs such as the PATHS Program (Social Skills) Child Safety (Protective Behaviours) and Rainbows (loss and Grief).
- Providing staff development on matters to do with student well-being.
- Helping engage parents new to the School Community.



  
**To make an appointment**

**Contact: School Social Worker**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays**  
**In person, by phone or email**

**St Joseph's School  
Social Work Service**

**Christine Pittman**  
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**Master of Social Work**



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