



Position Title:	Junior School Counsellor
Prepared:	November 2020
Reports To:	Director of Pastoral Care
Prepared by:	Head of Human Resources

Position Purpose

The role of the Junior School Counsellor is to provide psychological advice and support to students, families and staff from ELC to Year 4 and to make a professional contribution to the College counselling team.

Position Status

This role is a permanent part time position, two days per week.

Working Relationships

The position works closely with the Head and Deputy Head of Junior School, Director of ELC, all classroom teachers and the Counselling team.

Duties & Essential Job Functions

Counselling and psychological services:

- Provide counselling for students, families and groups where appropriate
- Maintain case notes and student files in accordance with APS Guidelines
- Provide feedback and support for families regarding individual students
- Provide brief counselling or referral for staff
- Conduct psycho-educational and other relevant assessments
- Brief teachers and contribute to educational planning based on assessments received from external professionals

Professional relationships:

- Liaise with teachers where appropriate to develop personal, social and learning strategies for students
- Liaise with the Junior School Leadership Team in matters relating to individual and group needs
- Refer to, and liaise with, external agencies and professionals as required
- Collaborate with the Junior School Leadership Team
- Actively participate in the counselling team – case discussion, planning, critical incident response, development of knowledge and processes
- Attend relevant Learning Support Team Meetings.

Professional contributions

- Contribute to the professional learning of staff on child development, emotional and psychological issues
- Promote a model of good mental health for staff, students and families
- Contribute to the planning and delivery of parent education seminars
- Advise on the interpretation, access and use of ability data
- Participate in relevant classroom programs as required (unassessed type) and/or offer specialised groups on targeted areas, e.g. Social skills, anxiety prevention programs.

Other

- Attend relevant parent information evenings
- Assist with the critical incident response team
- Contribute to the CONNECT cross-age program, including training of CONNECT Leaders
- Participate in relevant professional development activities.

While not required at the College during the term breaks there will be a roster of no more than 8 days across the year during term breaks (Monday to Friday, not public holidays) where emails need to be checked throughout the day and responded to if there is a parent or student concern. This may require contact with a family. These events are not common, but the College needs to ensure we can offer assistance if required during breaks.

Core Competencies and Skills

- Proficiency in core psychological test administration, interpretation and report writing
- Competency in psychological/counselling intervention, using recognised, evidence-based approaches
- Capacity to present effectively to a range of audiences
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Capacity to work independently and as a member of a team
- Proven integrity and reliability
- Ability to present to a range of audiences
- Flexible, adaptable and able to initiate responses in a range of situations
- Ability to work effectively and efficiently under pressure
- Competency in Mindfulness.

Program Delivery

Desirable expertise in the following:

- Expertise in mindfulness with the capacity to support the delivery of mindfulness programs to staff and students;
- Expertise in parent training programs;
- Expertise in the delivery of student mental health prevention programs.

Qualifications

- Registered Psychologist

Other Skills and Attributes

- Discretion and confidentiality are essential attributes to this position
- Competence in technology
- Initiative and confidence to make contributions/suggestions
- Highly effective verbal and communication skills, using tact and diplomacy
- Critical thinking when problem solving
- Time management and organisational skills - able to work to deadlines and capable of directing others when necessary
- Ability to remain calm under pressure
- Overall good interpersonal skills when working in a team environment.

General Responsibilities

All staff are to be supportive of the St Leonard's College Mission Statement and to enhance the school's reputation as one which is a warm and caring environment, characterised by efficiency, professionalism and a willingness to meet the individual needs of those within its community.

It is a condition of employment that all staff provide an Employee Working with Children Check or VIT before their position will be confirmed. A Criminal Record check may also be requested in certain circumstances.

- The College:
 - is an equal opportunity employer
 - complies with the requirements of the Privacy Act
 - has a strong commitment to OH&S
 - will not tolerate harassment of any kind.
- College Standards - all staff are expected to actively support the following standards:
 - Communication – effective, helpful and positive
 - Confidentiality – Protect the privacy and confidentiality of all personal information (staff/families/students)
 - Teamwork – work together as a team to achieve the best results. Share information and collaborate across all sections of the College; trust, respect and support
 - Accountability – we do our work with honesty, integrity and enthusiasm
 - Performance – we perform to the best of our ability
 - Initiative – looking for opportunities to improve the way we work; flexible, adaptable and efficient.

Child Safe Responsibilities

St Leonard's College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of our students.

The College has zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse. In this context, the College implements a comprehensive Child Safe Programme across the entire College community.

All staff are responsible for understanding and applying the College's Child Safe Policy including being compliant with the Child Safe Code of Conduct and being proactive in reporting any concerns or identified risk.

Where students are under staff care, there is an obligation to take all practical steps to protect students where a risk to students' safety has been identified.