SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Many of our students come from families who require a range of supports. While many families are engaged in counselling and community support systems which they find helpful, many have had negative experiences of schools and health and community supports available. A number of our students are in out-of-home care situations where they come into contact with a number of different carers and this can have an impact. The school can help students and their families in the following ways.

- Ensure that we have regular communication with parents/carers - at least on a weekly basis.
- Ensure that parents/carers are able to assist their children with the homework given to students.
- Ensure that the school newsletter goes out each fortnight and contains relevant information on support agencies available to parents/carers.
- Ensure that staff are trained in child protection and child protection issues are included in the school newsletter annually.
- Ensure that we promote the opportunity to gain assistance from the school counsellor.
- Ensure that parents/carers are aware of the way to make complaints if they have concerns.

- Ensure that written reports on students' progress are distributed to parents/carers twice each year.
- Ensure that parents/carers have an opportunity to contribute to students' reviews.
- Ensure that requests from parents/carers for reports are responded to promptly.
- Ensure that case conferences/workers meetings are attended and supplied with a written report.
- Ensure that communication meetings with community-based organisations are attended.

- Ensure that we are up to date on available supports in the community and that the folder of these resources on the school counsellor's desk is kept updated.
- Promote parents/carers networks available in the community.
- Connect parents/carers with support networks.
- Ensure that parents/carers have the opportunity to contribute to school policies, programs and practices.
- Ensure that the specific needs of Aboriginal parents/carers are identified and met.
- Ensure that members of the Aboriginal community are able to participate in the life of the school.