A few facts about Christian Pastoral Support Workers in SA schools

In a government school, the Christian Pastoral Support Program is primarily a service of pastoral care for students and their families, who want this support. Christian Pastoral Support Workers are not in the school to evangelise on behalf of a particular faith group. Their role requires them to respect both the secular character of the Government School and the variety of thoughts and beliefs within the school community.

As a Christian presence in the school, the Christian Pastoral Support Worker represents and encourages key Christian values, and celebrates the diversity of Christianity.

The School Christian Pastoral Support Worker at Upper Sturt PS is jointly accountable to the Department of Education and Children's Services through the School Principal, and the Stirling District Ministers Association.

Who employs our Christian Pastoral Support Worker?

Jess is employed for 8 hours a week by the Stirling District Ministers Association through the Federal Government’s National School Chaplaincy Programme, and with support from the following local Christian Churches:- Stirling Family Church, Sunset Rock Uniting, Stirling Uniting, Aldgate Baptist, Aldgate Church of Christ, Bridgewater Lutheran, Bridgewater Uniting, Bridgewater Catholic Church, Anglican Parish of Stirling, Mylor Uniting, Upper Sturt Uniting, Plympton Anglican Church.

Upper Sturt Primary School

Contact Information

118 Upper Sturt Road
Upper Sturt SA 5156
Phone: (08) 8339 2640
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Christian Pastoral Support Program

Supporting our future generations

Upper Sturt Primary School

JESSICA LANG
Christian Pastoral Support Worker

A positive initiative that has emerged from encouraging community involvement in Government schools
Upper Sturt Primary School is fortunate to have the services of a School Christian Pastoral Support Worker. A Christian Pastoral Support Worker is a Christian with special skills for working with young people and their families in the school community.

As School Christian Pastoral Support Worker, Jess will –

- work in co-operation with teachers and the Principal to support students;
- be available to students as a listener, supporter and carer;
- be a support, resource and referral person for families in the school community;
- be a support, resource and referral person for teachers and other staff;
- work with others in the school and its community to develop services, programs, and strategies, that meet the needs of 5 to 13 year old children living in our area;
- provide a Christian presence in the school on behalf of the local churches.

Who is the Christian Pastoral Support Worker?

Hi, I'm Jess Lang and I am the Christian Pastoral Support Worker at Upper Sturt Primary School. I am currently in my final year studying a Bachelor of Visual Art Specialisation at UniSA and have a passion for working with young people in our schools. I grew up in the Adelaide Hills and love the atmosphere of the Hills community. I attend Norton Summit Baptist Church and enjoy playing tennis for Summertown Tennis Club. I was recently married and am now living in Norwood. Some of my interests include painting, drawing, sport, singing and gardening.

Being a Christian Pastoral Support Worker means I have an opportunity to connect with students and families in our school community in a unique way. I am able to spend time talking to students in groups and individually about school life, friends, their hobbies and interests. Being a safe person students trust and can talk to is key to this role as it is about creating positive relationships between students, staff, families and the wider community. I am employed for 8 hours a week and always happy to have a chat. I look forward to a fantastic year working with the students, families and staff at Upper Sturt Primary School.

Jess will be at school on:

- Tuesdays 9.00am to 11.30am
- Fridays 9.00am to 2.00pm

Jess connects with students and parents/carers informally by:

- being visible in the school yard and accompanying teachers on yard duty;
- working alongside teachers and students in the classrooms;
- running lunchtime programs for students on Fridays;
- accompanying classes on some excursions and camps;
- being at school during "special occasions" eg School Discos and End of Year Celebrations.

How to Contact Jess at School

You can contact Jess by leaving a message in the Christian Pastoral Support Worker's Message Box which is located in the Front Office;
or
by leaving a message with the Front Office for Jess who will call you to make an appointment.