Most frequently chaplains deal with behavior management issues such as anger, peer relationships, loneliness, bullying and harassment. Family relationships are also frequent issues addressed. In other words, the most common issues addressed by chaplains revolve around peer and family relationships and developing relationship skills.

One of the ways in which we help with this is through helping the students to think through consequences of their actions and examining how their behavior can not only impact on their feelings but also the effect on people around them.

Another is through small group programs which encourage healthy social interaction through creative activities, such as art, building timber models, crafts, drama etc.

A second group of issues has to do with self: the sense of self-esteem, self-concept, sense of purpose and achievement.

Chaplains deal with spiritual issues. Usually, this only occurs when students raise such issues themselves. The Chaplains don’t push their convictions onto others and respect different belief systems to their own. ‘As chaplains we are willing to explain our personal views if asked and encourage students to think about the ‘big picture’ issues of life for themselves.

**NB:** While our chaplain talks with students about many issues, or run groups designed to assist them in relations to self-esteem, chaplains refer to professionals those students who are in need of support with mental health problems or at risk.
Under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program, Terranora Public School is pleased to be able to provide this service. Terranora’s chaplain is here to support the students, teachers and school community.

Our School Chaplain is Naomi Harry, who is here to work alongside other caring professionals. Chaplains care for young people’s emotional and spiritual needs through activity programs, pastoral care and adventure-based learning.

‘I am in the prevention and support business’ (says Naomi) helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from family breakdown; loneliness; peer relationships; self esteem; managing feelings; change; loss and depression.

‘I provide a listening ear and a caring presence’ for children in crisis and/or those who just need a friend’ Said Naomi. Chaplains also provide support for staff; carers and parents in our school community.

Chaplains are ‘on the ground’ connecting with students on an everyday basis discussing issues and walking with them through the difficult situations that face so many of our young people today.

Naomi Harry moved into the area in 2003 and commenced working in our school in 2007. Prior to the move she had worked in the medical field for over 15 years, 9 of these in psychiatry, and worked at Camperdown children’s hospital often supporting children & families while waiting to go into theatres.

She is the mother of two boys aged 12 and 14 years. Naomi is also a volunteer in our community at one of the local soccer clubs. She has a great love of children and empathy, support and enthusiasm for their needs and their families.

Many programs and activities are run throughout the year to support and encourage students. Listed below are some of these:

**Seasons for Growth**: This program is facilitated in small groups and highlights the importance of social support and the need to practice new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. We recognise that when changes occur in families; young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision making, effective communication and support networks.

**Touch Football**: A huge success for not only the competitors but also the committee of students selected to set up the organisation and running of the sport. Years 3-6 students participate. This helps with sportsmanship, team building, fitness, sense of belonging. It is run at lunch time by students for the students with Naomi Harry assisting and overseeing.

**Social Skills**: This is a referral based program based on targeted skills that teachers feel they may benefit with some help or need work on with particular skills such as meeting and greeting, making friends, Looking after belongings, appropriate playground play, playing fair, peer pressure, joining in, bullying to name a few.

**Chap Shack**: Runs 2-3 lunches a week where students can come at their own leisure and do crafts/art. This is an open door policy for those who want to do an activity with like minded students, giving them a sense of belonging to a group and assists in building peer relationships and boosting confidence in a supervised environment.

**Dodge Ball**: A program introduced in 2013. To date this has been a success again for not only the competitors but also the committee of students selected to set up and run this round robin tournament. Years 3-6 students participate. Like touch football it helps with sportsmanship, team building, fitness, sense of belonging, leadership skills and responsibility. This is run at lunch time by students for the students with Naomi Harry assisting and overseeing also.

**Arts and Crafts**: This is a great tool to hold conversations when trying to build a rapport with individuals. Some students find it hard to express themselves with words and can use drawing/art to express themselves. Naomi makes a lot of use of craft when working with our students. She has used crafts such as wood work and fossicking for gems. ‘It is amazing how much of a rapport is made when you find a common interest to do together. It is a real icebreaker’.

**Friends for Life**: A program created to assist children to build resilience, confidence and self-esteem and to learn important skills and techniques to cope with feelings of fear and worries. It teaches cognitive, behavioral and emotional skills in a simple, structured format. It is a positive program which targets all children, regardless of their risk levels. It focuses on equipping children with skills to overcome daily challenges and negative life events which we all encounter.

**Minute to Win it**: Another program run over the last 2 years designed from the ever popular television program. Students from past and present programs assist with the set-up and running of this lunchtime activity. This activity was introduced for those who are not sporting to be involved in an activity which gave them a sense of belonging. This is run again by students for the students with the support of Naomi Harry assisting and overseeing.