**What does a School Chaplain do?**
A School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school and provides a listening ear, caring presence, and a message of hope. Chaplains run positive, fun activities for students and assist in fostering supportive, caring school communities. Working with other members of the school’s support team, the Chaplain cares for students struggling with issues such as difficult relationships with other children or family members, poor self-esteem, family breakdown, and depression.

The partnership between the school and the Chaplaincy Service, supported by local churches, businesses and community organisations, provides a network of local support and assistance. These positive relationships help young people to face difficult issues, and provide hope, connection, meaning, and purpose. The Chaplaincy Service is available to everyone in the school community regardless of their religious beliefs.

**Who is the Vienna Woods School Chaplain?**
Our school chaplain is Carol Cock. She trained as a registered nurse in the 1980’s at RPA in Sydney and then went on to work with young adults in a training and mentoring capacity in Youth With A Mission for 16 years in Australia and overseas. More recently she has worked extensively with local children in crisis situations.

Her qualifications include a Graduate Diploma in Human Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Ministry. Carol is a mother to six children, and grandmother to two. She loves bush walking and camping with friends and achieved a lifelong goal in 2014 to complete the Milford Track. She loves being a listening ear for people when they need to chat.

**What will Chaplaincy look like at Vienna Woods in 2017?**
The chaplain will also assist with various sporting and cultural programs, attend school camps, assist in classrooms, run programs that help students develop social and life skills, and run a lunchtime interest club. Brekkie Club, Dads and Lads Camp, Mother’s and Father’s Day events, playgroup, student mentoring, various cafés, Loop Easter Camp, Spin Off and our community care freezer will be run during the year. Students may request to see the chaplain on an individual basis for support in personal matters. A parental consent notice will then be sent home to obtain permission for any ongoing matters.

**Will my child be involved?**
Involvement with the Chaplain is entirely voluntary and students choose whether or not they want to be a part of the activities that are offered. Parents will be consulted if their child wishes to be involved in ongoing one-to-one meetings with the Chaplain or in any program or group involving spiritual or ethical content. Parents have the right to refuse permission for their child to be involved in any Chaplaincy activity or event.

**How can I contact the Chaplain?**
The chaplain will be here at school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you would like to contact her about any matter you can call the school office on 3820 0777.