

Position Description

School Psychologist



Position:	School Psychologist
Position Allocation:	0.6FTE. Term 2 2023.
Reports to:	Deputy Principal – Head of Learning

A message from the Principal

Education for a sustainable future is education of a different kind. It is education that aims to take students to depths of understandings that are transferable beyond school, preparing them to make a difference for a better world.

The Cornish College Rings of Sustainability provide a lens through which we can operate, design curriculum and engage in critical thinking. The Rings represent four dimensions of sustainability that are interdependent – personal, socio-cultural, urban/technological and natural. We understand that each of these dimensions must be in balance in order to ensure a future where there is enough for all, forever.

Our educational vision is about so much more than numbers. Every outcome that our students achieve, whether it be related to their ATAR; sporting achievements; participation in gifted and talented programs; social justice initiatives or the assessment of a unit of inquiry, should be an outcome that develops essential understandings about our world and builds upon the skills, knowledge and attitudes young people require for a sustainable future.

Employment at Cornish College offers teachers the opportunity to design and implement curriculum that makes a difference. It offers the opportunity to be part of a team where responsibility is shared, ideas are welcomed and pushing the boundaries of a curriculum framework is encouraged.

Background

Located on 100 acres of natural parkland next to the National Water Sports Centre adjacent to the suburbs of Patterson Lakes and Chelsea, Cornish College opened in 2012 and offers programs from ELC to Year 12. Cornish College has a double stream at all primary year levels and triple stream in all secondary year levels with a fourth stream Year 10 in 2023. Currently there are 710 students from ELC to Year 12. The College offers an ELC program influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach to education and runs the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme from ELC to Year 6. This approach to teaching and learning is embraced in a multidisciplinary, concept-driven and inquiry-based program in the secondary area. The Victorian Certificate of Education is offered in the senior secondary years.

With a strong emphasis on inclusion and respecting individual differences the College strives to see all young people thriving in the areas in which they have special aptitude. In line with this thinking the College offers vibrant programs across the curriculum.

The Position

Cornish College is seeking to appoint a part-time School Psychologist of 0.6 FTE.

The successful applicant will form part of a team of student support staff made up of another School Psychologist, two Individual Needs Teachers and the School Chaplain.

The Person

The applicant should be an experienced psychologist who is eligible for membership of the Australian Psychological Society. Preference will be given to applicants who have experience in teaching and counselling school children from ELC to Senior Secondary and working with their families.

Duties will include:

- Counselling individual students
- Counselling families
- Working with teachers, as appropriate, to develop social and learning strategies etc for students in their classes
- Liaising with the Principal on matters relating to student welfare and progress
- Developing pastoral care programs, eg drug and alcohol awareness, anti-bullying, human relations and development
- Conducting intellectual assessments including individual assessments
- Liaising with outside agencies as appropriate

At Cornish College, our focus is on sustainability, and integral to this is personal sustainability and student well-being. The school psychologist at Cornish College offers support for students and families, and works collaboratively with students, staff and families when issues arise in a student's academic, emotional or social development.

Students are referred to the school psychologist via the Deputy Principal, Team Leaders, Individual Needs Teachers, Class Teachers, and parents and students may also self-refer.

Types of issues that may be referred to the school psychologist include (among others):

- Counselling to assist with motivation, organisation and study skills
- Social issues – relationships with peers, conflict resolution, etc
- Behavioural and emotional issues – such as anxiety, anger, depression, managing emotions and behaviour
- Family difficulties
- Help with challenging circumstances
- Parent education
- Assessments (cognitive, educational, behavioural and emotional)

The school psychologist works with students individually and confidentially, within small groups, classroom programs and activities, group and individual testing, parent and staff consultation, running specific group programs as required and policy development. The School Psychologist is registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority, and is bound by the professional code of ethics for psychologists.

Applicants

We are looking for applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Expertise and experience and excellent subject knowledge
- A desire and proven ability to work in teams
- An outstanding record in building relationships with students, parents and staff

The successful applicant will be required to produce original copies (from which a photocopy will be made) of any professional registrations, transcripts of academic and teaching qualifications claimed.

To Apply for this Position

To apply for this position, please write a letter to the Principal, Nicola Forrest, outlining your interest in this position and giving us an insight into who you are.

Accompanying your letter should be your resume including contact information for three confidential referees and your personal response to the Position Description (preferably as one combined PDF file).

Applications should be submitted by 9.00am on Monday 27 March 2023 to: employment@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Advice to Applicants

In your cover letter please outline your qualifications and your main areas of expertise in working with young people. The rest is up to you! We'd like to get to know you a little through your letter. Your response to the Position Description should focus on the following:

- Your experience in education and care of young people
- Your experience with working in teams
- Any other information demonstrating your suitability to working in this role at Cornish College

Applicants should note:

- Cornish College staff are expected to be involved in the College's cocurricular program depending upon their particular skills and interests. With all these tasks it is the expectation of the College that staff will work collaboratively to share responsibilities as evenly as possible
- The College is committed to an active partnership with parents and that parent expertise is used to enhance the educational program wherever possible
- All staff are expected to attend staff meetings as arranged
- There is also an expectation that all members of staff will attend the major school functions of the year
- All staff are expected to be supportive of the Christian ethos of the College as would be expected of a school associated with the Uniting Church

Child Safe Statement

Cornish College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and all staff are expected to observe the College Code of Conduct.

The College Child Safe employer and is committed to the safety and welfare of children in our protection.

Cornish has systems to protect children from abuse and will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and respond to them consistently, in line with our policies and procedures.

All potential employees and volunteers will be required to comply with the College's Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct, which are available on its website. Cornish performs thorough assessments of potential and existing employees in accordance with the legislated Child Safe Standards. The assessments will be used to ascertain whether the potential or existing employee is a fit and proper person and is suitable for child related work in a school environment and in the position applied for or held. The screening process includes, but is not limited to, Police Checks, Working with Children Checks, identity, qualification, VIT registration and reference checks.

Equal Opportunity

Cornish College is committed to Equal Employment Opportunity principles and is committed to the principles of merit-based selection, equity, diversity and procedural fairness in our recruitment process.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are encouraged to apply for all positions at Cornish College.

Summary

This Position Description should not be seen as limiting and may be altered to meet the needs of the College at any time.