

Our DSM understands the issues Defence students and their families face and uses skills, knowledge and experience to help them feel welcome and identify support needs during their time at Claver and as they depart on new adventures.



Contact the DSM

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Defence School Mentor Program.

Supporting Defence
Force Families

ST PETER CLAVER
COLLEGE



CONCERN • LOVE • JUSTICE

Defence School Mentor Program

More than half a million Australians have served or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

St Peter Claver College is passionate about supporting our Defence Force families and proudly participates in the Defence School Mentor Program (DSMP).

Our Defence School Mentor (DSM) understands the issues Defence students and their families face and uses skills, knowledge and experience to help them feel welcome and identify support needs during their time at Claver and as they depart on new adventures.

The Defence School Mentor is an employee of the College, with funding provided annually by the Department of Defence to facilitate the best possible educational outcome for children of Defence members.

Together, we can help young people be the best they can be.



How Does The Program Work?



The program has four objectives:

1. Connect with Defence families and provide information about the College environment and available support relevant to their child's development.
2. Support Defence students to access school-based social and emotional groups, in line with College policies.
3. Facilitate opportunities for Defence students to build relationships and connections through events and other initiatives.
4. Raise awareness among College staff and the wider College community about the unique Defence lifestyle.



How does the DSM support families?



Moving to a new school can be exciting, but it can also disrupt well-built relationships and routines. The DSM will:

- Welcome new students and introduce them to the College community.
- Meet up regularly, initiating non-curriculum focused chats and showing interest to discover unique strengths and challenges.
- Use personal experience to show an understanding of frequent moves, periods of separation and isolation from extended family.
- Monitor social and emotional wellbeing and personal issues.
- Establish a relationship and continue as an ongoing point of contact between home and school.
- Liaise with teachers and staff to ensure they are informed about the Defence students under their care and guidance.
- Share resources, support networks and local events available to ADF families.
- Help young people establish a sense of belonging; both in friendships and peer groups, and in ensuring that contributions to the College are recognised.

