

2018 Chaplaincy Services Review

Following the survey of chaplaincy services in 2015, the HEA wrote to all HEIs (on 21 July 2016), requesting that institutions:

- ✓ Ensure value-for-money for any expenditure on chaplaincy services and regularly monitor and evaluate the use, value and impact of these services from a student perspective.
- ✓ Ensure that chaplaincy and other support services are available to students of all faiths in keeping with their responsibilities under the Irish Constitution and that the use of lay chaplains could be considered as a means to address that.
- ✓ Ensure that there is no discrimination between the appointment of lay and clerical chaplains.
- ✓ Ensure that public-sector appointment criteria and procurement guidelines are followed in the process of providing chaplaincy services.
- ✓ Address any with 'legacy' arrangements in place which did not involve a formal process of appointment or procurement in line with public-sector rules or guidelines should seek to do so as a matter of priority within the next 12 months.
- ✓ Ensure that there are robust agreements or contracts in place with chaplaincy services that clearly set out their services and responsibilities to the entire student base and accountability arrangements for delivering on this remit.

It was stated that the HEA would monitor ongoing implementation in this regard and would request an update from each HEI in due course. Therefore, we now invite you to complete the table overleaf.

Please submit this information to grantpayments@hea.ie no later than close of business on Friday 13th April 2018.

Survey of Chaplaincy Services (2018 Update)	
Institution: MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE	Response
a) Current arrangements for chaplaincy services in the institution	<p>The College has a full-time Chaplaincy service, which works in close co-operation with other student support services on the College Campus. The Chaplaincy service endeavors to help any member of the college community in their own spiritual development in accordance with the College's Mission Statement. The chaplaincy is a support service to students and staff of all faiths and none.</p> <p>Chaplaincy Vision Statement <i>The role of the Chaplaincy service is to provide a supportive and challenging environment that fosters a spirit of inclusiveness on campus: valuing spiritual and cultural diversity and offering a chance to live and think through one's faith. The service networks with other agencies, which promote holistic development and a sense of justice for all.</i></p> <p>Spiritual matters Religious services according to the Roman Catholic Rite are provided and arrangements are in place to facilitate other denominations. Opportunities for prayer, meditation and faith sharing exist for those who wish to avail of them.</p>
b) Number of Chaplains engaged/employed in the institution	<p>One Chaplain, Fr. Michael Wall. B.A. B.D (Hons). S.T.L. (Hons) is employed by the College. This person has lectured on a part-time basis in the College since 1982. He became a full-time chaplain in October 2000 and also continued to lecture. He delivers 3 modules per academic year. The College has a core Staff of 346 and a student population of 3,900 (2017-18). The MIC Thurles campus (223 students) avails of an externally provided local chaplain.</p>
c) Costs attached to the provision of chaplaincy services for the 2016/17 academic year (or other available information)	<p>The cost of Chaplaincy reduced from 1.5 posts to 0.5 FTE in 2012 reducing the cost by € 51,059.</p> <p>The takeover of St Pats Thurles added a cost of € 4,000 to provide a locally retained chaplaincy service.</p>
d) Source of Funding for posts (details to be broken down by denomination)	<p>Student Contribution and fee income. This is an approved HEA post.</p>
Progress in Implementing Recommendations arising from 2015 Review of Chaplaincy Services in the HE Sector	

<p>1. Describe how the institution ensures value-for-money for any expenditure on chaplaincy services and monitors and evaluates the use, value and impact of these services from a student perspective.</p>	<p>Chaplain submits a budget application each year as is the norm for all college departments. All expenditure, accounts and receipts are made available to the reporting Auditors and to the C&AG.</p> <p>Chaplaincy funds are subject to the same controls as other College departments. The chaplain is available to both staff and students on a 24/7 basis and operates an open door policy.</p> <p>The most significant portion of expenditure is pay and this is tied to the approved Pay Scale. The Students Union and Student Services report into the College executive structures on the effectiveness of chaplaincy services on an on-going basis.</p>
<p>2. Outline how the institution ensures that chaplaincy and other support services are available to students of all faiths in keeping with responsibilities under the Irish Constitution, including consideration of the use of lay chaplains.</p>	<p>Religious services according to the Roman Catholic Rite are provided and arrangements are in place to facilitate other denominations. Opportunities for prayer, meditation and faith sharing exist for those who wish to avail of them.</p> <p>The chaplaincy has a symbol free meditation space for students who prefer such a space. Ministers of other faiths are invited in on an occasional basis. Religious services for other faiths are displayed on notice boards. When requested, students of all faiths are connected up with any minister of their choice. This situation applies particularly to some of our international students. The Chaplaincy assists many of these students fulfill their service learning requirements (Voluntary Work). It should be noted that Irish student population is predominantly Catholic.</p>
<p>3. Confirm that the institution ensures that there is no discrimination between the appointment of lay and clerical chaplains.</p>	<p>In the past we had both a male and a female personnel working together in the role. Further chaplaincy service appointments will be by public tender notice and procedure.</p>
<p>4. Detail how public-sector appointment criteria and procurement guidelines are followed in the process of providing chaplaincy services.</p>	<p>There has not been a requirement to make an appointment in recent years as the current chaplain is a member of teaching staff. Any future appointment will take place under normal public procurement rules.</p>
<p>5. Note any 'legacy' arrangements that did not involve a formal process of appointment or procurement in line</p>	<p>N/A – no changes in this area since 2015.</p>

<p>with public-sector rules that have been rectified since 2015.</p>	
<p>6. Set out how the agreements or contracts in place ensure that the requirements of the service are delivered with adequate accountability arrangements.</p>	<p>The financial aspect of the chaplaincy service is controlled and vetted on the same basis as other departments in the College. The Chaplain reports to the Associate Vice – President Admin and to the College President. It has been the norm, as with other College services that the chaplain meets with the President once a month to report on progress. The chaplain has been requested on a number of occasions to make a formal presentation to both the Governing body and the Board of Trustees. The Chaplain is subject to all the same regulations and terms of employment as they apply to any other member of staff. The Chaplain, like any staff member is also subject to the H.R. policies in place at the College.</p>
<p>7. Provide any other comments/observations in relation to the role of the Chaplain(s) in the institution.</p>	<p>The Chaplaincy plays a pivotal role within the suite of support services within the College, it is available to students on a 24/7 basis. It is often the first port of call for students who are experiencing some difficulty. Since the start of this academic year (Sept), the chaplaincy team has dealt with 188 bereavements. Some of these related to close family members of students or students themselves. The degree of involvement varies and is different in each case. The hospitality room would deal with up to 80-100 students a day while the chaplain would meet with up to 25 students per week in chaplaincy office. Again the level of involvement and the time involved varies with each case.</p> <p>The Chaplaincy team supports, is involved in and co-organises or organises the following events during the College year (year 2017/18):</p> <p><i>Orientation week</i> 29th August—September 1st 2017</p> <p><i>Mass to open academic year:</i> September 20th 2017 @ 4p.m.in the College Chapel</p> <p><i>Reunion Day:</i> October 7th 2017</p> <p><i>Mass for the deceased of the College community:</i> November 23rd 2017—College Chapel at 7.00p.m.</p>

College Foundation Day:

December 8th 2017

Carol Service:

December 12th 2017 —College Chapel at 6.00p.m.

Other Special events organised by chaplaincy

Class, group, personal and bereavement liturgies celebrated as requested Liturgies and para-liturgies to mark various feasts and liturgical occasions Ecumenical and interfaith service Penance service and confession, Confession is always available on request from Chaplain's office. Support for students during bereavements.

Chaplaincy was also involved and supported or organised the following events during this academic year.

Justice Awareness Work

One World Awareness Society

World Food Day: October 16th 2017

One World Week: November 18h to 26th 2017

Trócaire and Concern fasts

International Aids Day: December 1st 2017

International Human Rights Day: December 10th 2017

Church Unity Week: 18th—25th January 2018

International Day of Prayer for the Sick: February 11th 2018

Fair Trade Fortnight: February 27th—March 12th 2018.

International Women's Day: March 8th 2018

Seachtain na Gaeilge: March 1st—17th 2018

World Earth Day: April 22nd 2018

Faith Development and Wellness Programmes:

Meditation twice weekly—

Advocacy, Bereavement support, Scripture Reading. Retreats for students and staff.

Busy person's retreat

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