



Wesley College

CHAPEL USE POLICY

Background

Wesley College is a Residential College of the Uniting Church, within the University of Sydney. The Chapel was erected for the use of the College community, which at the time was Methodist. At its beginnings, it was used for Christian worship and other pastoral services like weddings and funerals.

Policy Objectives

The Chapel at Wesley College is regarded as a valuable resource for the community. The emphasis in recent times, has broadened from a place of worship, to include a space for the practice of music and the enjoyment of gatherings for cultural pursuits.

Wesley College employs a Chaplain from the Uniting Church who oversees the Chapel space. It is important that this space is used appropriately to benefit the College community and maintain alignment with the Values of the College and of the Church, so as to ensure the unique characteristics of Wesley College are sustained over time.

The following College Values will guide our Chapel Use decisions:

We value diversity of gender, background and thought.

We honour the heritage and traditions associated with the College's foundation.

We actively seek to include our fellow Collegians in College Life.

We display respect to others.

We respect and support each other as Collegians.

The objective of the College is to best utilise the Chapel as a place of Christian worship as well as a space for the suitable enjoyment of cultural pursuits by the College community, allowing student to showcase their diverse cultural pursuits and interests

Principles

The following principles will apply:

- The Wesley College Chapel is maintained for the use of the Wesley College community, which includes Old Collegians. The traditional uses for the chapel are still the most appropriate: College community services, Christian and especially Uniting Church worship services and music practice/rehearsal space for resident students.

- The Chaplain administers the use of the space, but it is not the expectation that he/she be available on demand for services outside the normal College calendar.
- The use of the Chapel by the resident students occurs on an as needs basis which is monitored as necessary by the Chaplain..
- Requests from Old Collegians for use of the Chapel are referred to the Chaplain. Any arrangements which result are managed by the Master's PA and a donation of \$300 is to be provided to the Foundation.
- .In the case of the Chaplain being unavailable it would be the responsibility of the Old Collegian to find a Uniting Church Minister to conduct the service and provide the name and contact details to the College. Any remuneration involved would also be the responsibility of the Old Collegian.
- In light of the Uniting Church's ecumenical vision, groups which are affiliated with churches which are part of the National Council of Churches in Australia may be allowed to use the chapel, in consultation with the Chaplain.
- From time to time a request for the use of the space arises from outside Wesley College. This will be approved by the Master in consultation with the Chaplain, in line with its suitability to our resident students' needs.
- The chapel may be used for two person marriage in accordance with the Uniting Church Doctrines and policies.

Policy Review

This Policy is to be reviewed every two years by Wesley College Council (next review end of 2025).