



DEFENCE SCHOOL MENTOR

Leonie Finnerty

Mrs Leonie Finnerty is the Defence School Mentor (DSM). Leonie is an employee of the school and accountable to the Principal. DSM's are funded through DMFS (Defence Member and Family Support) and supported by the Educational Liaison Officer (EDLO). The DSM program aims to assist Defence Students and their families in four key areas.

- *Welcoming
- *Integrating
- *Parental Absence Support
- *Farewelling

The role of DSM is not one of a teacher or counsellor, but a conduit between professional services to facilitate information sharing and referral to appropriate services. The DSM role is to offer social and emotional support to students of current serving members of the armed forces. This is achieved through special programs and events as well as assistance in the classroom so that a sense of belonging can be developed.

Friendships

Friendships require work and can be difficult to make.

The DSM role is to support the students and help them to recognise what a friend is and does.

Remember you need to be a friend to have a friend, and it may take several attempts before a good friendship is made.



**RACEVIEW STATE
SCHOOL**

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