



15 February 2021

Dear Parents, Whanau and Caregivers

We are excited to announce that the Chatbus service is starting this week at our school! This service has been operating successfully in Dunedin for 14 years and currently covers over 30 schools. Based on the needs we have seen in our school we have worked in collaboration with Otatara, Waihopai, Tisbury and Myross Bush School to bring it to Invercargill.

The new Board (consisting of these schools) is formally known as **Chatbus South Trust** and we would like to introduce to you **Miles Pask** as the Chatbus South's Counsellor. He is a fully trained Counsellor with a teaching background. Students, and some parents, may already know Miles as he has been involved in Southland tennis and has been relieving at our school in the past. Miles has put together a 45sec video introducing himself which can be viewed on the school webpage and facebook page. You may also like to follow the Chatbus South Facebook page.

The Chatbus will travel about the five Invercargill Schools and each school is allocated a set day for 2021. Our school's day is **Friday**.

When talking to our students we may use the word "chat," as the word counsellor may be a bit complex for our tamariki. We want our tamariki to see the services as a safe place to go and "chat" about anything.

During the remainder of this term when the Chatbus is on-site , Miles Pask will be available in the carpark at the end of the day to share the inside of the Chatbus. You may wish to discuss how the service operates and ask any question you may have.

Today, in your child's bag, you should find an information sheet, outlining Chatbus South's service, and a parent consent form so tamariki can use the service.

**Please return this consent form by Friday 19 February.**

Yours faithfully,

*Sarah Gibbs  
Tumuaki  
Salford School*





121 Herbert Street  
Gladstone  
Invercargill 9810

[www.chatbus.org.nz](http://www.chatbus.org.nz)

Dear Parent,

Your school Board and staff have agreed to have ChatBus in your school. This means that your children will have free access to a professional counsellor who will visit school one day a week, every week of the school term.

Children may be referred to ChatBus by school staff, parents, or they may choose to self refer. While counselling is confidential, if the counsellor has any concerns, you will be contacted.

You are welcome to make contact with your counsellor at any time, in fact we like to have good relationships with parents, as together we can help children reach their potentials.

We look forward to getting to know you during the year.

Jamin Lietze  
Chatbus South Board Chair



### **Confidentiality**

As with other counselling services, client confidentiality is protected, unless the counsellor believes that a person is in danger of serious harm. If this is the case, the school Principal is notified.

The children need to know that they can talk safely without their conversation being repeated. But if there is something you need to know, the counsellor will talk to your child about this before you are contacted, so they can understand the importance of having mum or dad involved.

Sometimes parents will be contacted to support the work that happens at school, or to offer you support in working with challenging behaviour.

Teachers are aware of who visits ChatBus, but they are not informed of what your child talks about, unless it concerns the classroom. If your child talks about what is happening at home, this information is protected.

### **Contact**

Email Miles at [miles.chatbus@gmail.com](mailto:miles.chatbus@gmail.com)

To learn more about ChatBus, go to [www.chatbus.org.nz](http://www.chatbus.org.nz)

Find us on FaceBook at [www.facebook.com/ChatbusSouth](http://www.facebook.com/ChatbusSouth)

### **Networking**

ChatBus works together with other organisations including:

- Public Health Nurses
- Oranga Tamariki
- Child & Family Mental Health Services
- Police Education Officers
- Youth Aid
- Women's Refuge
- Social Workers in School
- School Staff

## **Staff**

ChatBus Provides a professional counselling service to children within Intermediate & Primary schools.

ChatBus employs only qualified, experienced counsellors to ensure a high quality service.

Chatbus counsellors must be members of a professional body, and have regular clinical supervision.

Our counsellors are always happy to hear your concerns and accept self referrals from students, parents or other professionals.

Your counsellor is:

*Miles Pask*



## **Issues**

**Children today face a number of issues that cause them worries.**

Sometimes they face challenges at school with friendships, or bullying.

Sometimes they face challenges at home, such as parents fighting, blended families, separation or divorce, family violence, grief etc.

Sometimes they face challenges from within such as fears or anxieties, nightmares, or behaviour problems.

Often when children have worries, their learning is affected because they are distracted and have difficulty concentrating in class.

Worries are common among children, and a little bit of professional support can help them with strategies to cope and overcome their challenges.

We all know that "a problem shared is a problem halved."

## **What Does ChatBus Offer?**

- Free professional counselling in a familiar setting
- Opportunity to talk and be listened to without judgement
- The development of interpersonal skills while accessing support
- Opportunity to develop resilience
- Life skills for the present
- Hope for the future
- Children gain an understanding of their own uniqueness and worth

## **You Can Help**

ChatBus is a registered charitable trust. You can invest in the well being of the children in our city by becoming a ChatBus supporter.

Donate \$5 (or more) each week as ongoing support for ChatBus by setting up an automatic payment.

Chatbus South Bank Account:  
03 1746 0056515 000

Alternatively search for and donate to our 'Chatbus Invercargill' Givealittle page.



121 Herbert Street  
Gladstone  
Invercargill 9810

[www.chatbus.org.nz](http://www.chatbus.org.nz)

Dear Parent,

Your school Board and staff have agreed to have ChatBus in your school. This means that your children will have free access to a professional counsellor who will visit school one day a week, every week of the school term.

Children may be referred to ChatBus by school staff, parents, or they may choose to self refer. While counselling is confidential, if the counsellor has any concerns, you will be contacted.

You are welcome to make contact with your counsellor at any time, in fact we like to have good relationships with parents, as together we can help children reach their potentials.

We look forward to getting to know you during the year.

Jamin Lietze  
Chatbus South Board Chair



Childs Name \_\_\_\_\_

Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

My child may attend ChatBus

- as a client
- as a support for another child

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature