

Counselor's Role: A Brief Introduction

The School Counselors work with the children to create a school with safe and a non-judgmental space for the learners so that they achieve self-confidence and evolve themselves to be better individuals. The counselors focus on the self-paced development of the learners as every individual finds her or his uniqueness during their journey towards the ultimate goal.

To make sure that the learners are settling well in the school and having a good time during this journey of life, the counselors address the learners in their class groups and individually as well, to cater the group and individual needs of all the learners. We also keep enlightening our teaching staff to be the best mentor or companion so that every child is catered and connected well with the teachers. At the same time counselor's guide, the learners and parents to directly approach the counseling team in case of having any concerns or disturbing thoughts or troubling environment which continue to bother them. We are always open to the emails at counsellor@theheritageschool.in where we try to cater your concerns at the earliest.

The guidance and counseling department complements special education by concentrating on the learners' unique needs. The inclusionary standards are strictly upheld, and the class teachers are well-trained to meet the requirements of the students in the school. Teachers and counselors often get together to talk about the children's academic objectives and growth. The counseling team, along with the teaching staff, develops the child's progress and practical short- and long-term goals. The guidance and counseling team also endeavors to enlighten the journey of learners with the guidance of professionals who speak with them about their goals and share some preeminent methods for paving their ways in the right direction for their academics, careers, and personal development.

The guidance and counseling team undergoes the process of training with the renowned educational psychologist **Dr V S Ravindran**, who has been involved in the training of people in leadership positions in educational institutions, corporate and Government organizations for more than two decades. His major areas of expertise are leadership development, counselor training and teacher education. He is instrumental in starting counseling and guidance programs in many reputed government institutions in India and abroad. Presently he is the Director General of ICTRC. Dr V S Ravindran has been associated with The Heritage Schools for more than a decade now. To make sure that our parents are having professional guidance and are feeling settled we give some slots to them with Dr V S Ravindran. He works with the learners and parents by meeting and guiding them in every academic year. The G&C team work towards benefitting each and every child by conducting workshops like, Parenting workshops (for guiding the parents on how to enrich childhood at home), Adolescents Awareness workshops (for enlightening them with changes and challenges around them), Career Guidance Program (for senior secondary learners to understand themselves and keeping their first step towards their choice of career), Session on enhancing Study and Examination Skills (to guide the learners on attaining the skills which are helpful for them for higher achievements). Dr V S Ravindran also has individual meetings with the learners and parents for special academic and behavioral assistance.



Geetika Kapoor who is a holder of the title of Nationally Certified School Psychologist, which is considered an international hallmark of commitment to standards and ethics in the practice of school psychology and a rehabilitation professionals maintained by the Rehabilitation Council of India. She is also a strong advocate of children's developmental needs and actively works in school and clinical settings towards creating systems that ensure that children feel safe and reach the best of their ability. She is also part of the national register of rehabilitation professionals maintained by the Rehabilitation Council of India.

Along with the Special Education Team and Guidance and Counseling members, a training calendar is made for students and teachers across grades to get trained by the esteemed guests. Broader areas covered during the workshop are

- Dynamics of achievement gap
- Creating skill-based learning experience
- Positive engagement with students
- Classroom practices that ensure motivation and high achievement
- Career Counseling
- Individualized time with teachers and students (as per the need)

Mr Rohit Kumar is a training and program development specialist with 15 years of training experience assisting personal and organizational development for organizations, institutions and companies in 22 cities across India. He is a certified MBTI administrator and specializes in developing and delivering training programs for parents, teachers, and other professionals. Rohit has also developed a series of value education life-skills programs for senior school students. He works with the students of senior secondary grades who are now developing and trying to understand their personalities.

Our **College Placement Team** is proactively working towards providing the best career options to the learners based on their aptitudes, interests and skills. The College Placement Team focuses on each individual by providing all the relevant information about college placements through group discussions and individual meetings. The learners get their career guidance from the head of the College Placement Team of The Heritage Schools, **Miguel Angel Vazquez Gomez** who works with the learners (he does not work with our learners directly, but through College Placement Team of the School) to create the best possibilities for their college placement and make sure that the child is fully equipped for the course chosen. The Heritage School counseling team also works from the foundational career building years of learners for their career maturity and making them more acquainted to the world of work by taking regular college placement classes and discussions around the developing skills, exploring potential and profile building. Apart from this, the career counselors also host college sessions and university fairs where learners participate according to their interests and future goals. The learners are always welcome to mail us at careerassistance@theheritageschool.in to seek guidance and counseling from career counselors.