Family School Liaison Workers in Edmonton Catholic Schools are Registered Social Workers. FSLW’s foster a connection between child/student, parent and school community.

FSLW’s evaluate and address the needs of children/students and families. FSLW’s will provide the following supports and services to children/students and families:

- Conduct individual evaluations of child/student and family needs
- Develop an appropriate intervention plan consistent with curriculum; child/students’ needs, strengths, diversity and life experiences; and social and emotional factors
- Provide intervention, support, case management and case planning for complex children/students and their families including high-risk youth and their families

FSLW’s use their knowledge and understanding of the reciprocal influences of home, school, and community to intervene for student success by:

- Providing supportive and informal counseling
- Identifying a need, plan and implement small and large group work with students
- Conducting home visits
- Facilitating sessions on a wide-range of topics for children/students and their families (e.g. Family-oriented programs)
- Provide crisis intervention and prevention to students and families
- Coordination of school, family and community services
- Offer social services, related resources and information to students, families and schools such as student’s diagnosis, community resources, counselling, recreation and other supports
- Supporting the family and child/student at specialist and tertiary-level medical appointments

FSLW’s assist school staff, parents and families through advocacy by:

- Promoting that services to students and their families are to be provide within context of multicultural understanding and competence
- Advocate for students and their families both at a school and in the community
- Represent the school and/or district at various community agency meetings
- Advocate for change at macro-level systems

FSLW’s provide consultation and collaboration as a member of the school team. This is done by:

- Liaise with schools and families to facilitate increased positive communication/contact
- Consults on such issues as attendance, confidentiality, ethnicity and diversity, mental health, behavior management, discipline, crisis intervention and child abuse and neglect.
- Ensuring that the students and school staff are knowledgeable on a variety of topics (e.g. mental health, trauma, grief and loss, LGBTQ, etc.)

FSLW’s can help in the school through program planning, implementation and evaluation of various programs. FSLW can:

- Plan a school-wide, evidence based intervention plan to meet the school community and student client needs and applies knowledge of environment factors in planning these successful programs
- Provide professional development to school staff on topics of psycho-social and emotional matters in conjunction with other members of the support team and provide strategies to be implemented in the classroom that have been determined to assist in overcoming such barriers
- Assists in the evaluation of effective departmental, school-based, system, community, and province-wide programs
- Being involved with the development of a school crisis plan
- Grant writing to bring additional services to the school district (e.g. funding for recreational activities with a focus on mindfulness)