

# **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

Respectful Relationships is about tackling family violence through education.

Rosie Batty, CEO of the Luke Batty Foundation “the school community is an essential part of social reform by modelling a culture of respect through the whole school, not just by teaching respect in the classroom”.

Just like other major social and health issues such as smoking and road toll, evidence shows that family violence can be prevented by working across the whole population (in this case, all schools) to address the attitudes, beliefs and knowledge that support violence.

A good education is about more than simply getting good marks. It is about becoming a member of society and succeeding in life – knowing how to build respectful relationships is key to achieving this. When young people build positive relationships with their teachers and peers they feel safer and happier at school, are more resilient and have positive social attitudes. Positive relationships increase a young person’s sense of social connectedness and belonging to school and family, and result in better health and academic outcomes.

Grovedale College pledges to implement a whole school approach to Respectful Relationships and to help combat family violence in Victoria.

Grovedale College understands that:

- gender stereotypes and gender inequality are one of the lead contributors to family violence
- our school can generate lasting changes in young people’s attitudes and behaviours and contribute to addressing family violence

Grovedale College recognises that we have great potential to create change. Grovedale College is a:

- space for young people to learn
- workplace where all staff, students and families deserve to feel respected, safe and valued
- community hub with the opportunity to lead, influence and contribute to healthy community culture

As part of this commitment:

- we will all actively promote gender equality and speak out against gender based violence in our school and in our community in accordance with our code of conduct
- Grovedale College staff will participate in professional learning to build capacity to:
- plan and implement a whole school approach to promote Respectful Relationships
- deliver respectful relationships Curriculum
- identify and respond to suspicions, disclosures and incidents of family violence and provide support to impacted school community members
- Grovedale College will undertake a thorough assessment and planning process to identify gaps and limitations in existing culture, policies and practices in gender equality
- Grovedale College will create mechanisms for staff, student and families feedback on gender equality in the workplace/college

- Grovedale College will identify and use Respectful Relationships funding and other appropriate resources to implement key actions to promote gender equality and prevent gender – based violence
- Grovedale College commits to continual improvement and evaluation of Respectful Relationships

We look forward to celebrating our success with our school community and to enjoying a culture of greater gender equality and Respectful Relationships.

