

## Timbarra P-9 College – Statement of Commitment

### Background

The Royal Commission into Family Violence identified the critical role that schools and early childhood education have in creating a culture of respect to change the story of family violence for future generations.

Respectful relationships education is a core component of the Victorian Curriculum from Foundation to Year 12.

Everyone in our Community deserves to be respected, valued and treated equally. We know that changes in attitudes and behaviours can be achieved when positive attitudes, behaviours and equality are embedded in our education settings.

Respectful Relationships is about embedding a culture of respect and equality across our community. This approach leads to positive impacts on students' academic outcomes, their mental health, classroom behaviour, and relationships between teachers and students.

Together, we can lead the way in saying yes to respect and equality and creating genuine and lasting change so that every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Timbarra P-9 College is committed to implementing the Respectful Relationships initiative to promote gender equality and positive respectful relationships. Our school is a community in which all members deserve to feel safe, respected and treated equally. We will provide a whole school approach to primary prevention of gender-based violence.

### We are committed to:

- a whole school approach to school-based, primary prevention of gender-based violence.
- ongoing development of our school culture and environment embedding a culture of respect and equality.
- professional learning to support school leaders, teachers and other school-based staff.
- providing support and resources for staff and students.
- building relationships with the community, including prevention and response services, community groups and families.
- delivering social and emotional learning and respectful relationships education consistent with the Victorian Curriculum.

### In order to fulfill this commitment, our school will:

- actively promote gender equality and speak out against gender-based violence.
- undertake ongoing assessment to identify gaps and/or limitations in the areas of respect and gender equality in existing structures and practices to inform priorities in the Respectful Relationship Annual Implementation Plan.
- engage with staff, students and families for feedback on respect and gender equality in our school.
- enable student voice and agency in promoting equality.
- explicitly teach Social and Emotional learning following the Resilience Rights and Respectful Relationships Victorian Curriculum.
- monitor and evaluate our progress in implementation of the whole school approach to the Respectful Relationships initiative.
- participate in professional learning to build capacity to:
  - Plan and implement a whole-school approach to Respectful Relationships
  - Explicitly teach respectful relationships education
  - Identify and respond appropriately to suspicions, disclosures and incidents of family violence and provide support to impacted school community members
- build and strengthen partnerships with prevention and response services, ensuring robust referral pathways that support continuous care for the entire school community.

We look forward to working with our school community on the implementation of the Respectful Relationships initiative.



Cassandra Marinopoulos  
School Principal



Ken Shields  
School Council President