

What is Respectful Relationships?

Respectful Relationships is about tackling family and gender-based 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"*.

In 2017, Respectful Relationships education was introduced as part of the Victorian curriculum. The Victorian Government is supporting schools to model respectful relationships across the whole school community as part of its commitment to Respectful Relationships education.

The Government has provided Victorian schools with a range of extra supports and resources including, Respectful Relationships teaching and learning materials.

In the classroom, children will learn problem-solving skills, to develop empathy, support their own wellbeing and build healthy relationships with others. The initiative will also provide resources to best support children and staff who are affected by family violence.

When children 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 also increase a child's sense of social connectedness and belonging which can result in better health and academic outcomes.

These age-appropriate and evidence-based materials are designed to enable teachers to develop student's social and emotional capabilities to promote positive, healthy and respectful relationships. They provide teachers with handouts and activities for students that guide classroom discussion. These lesson materials have been placed on our school's website under the Respectful Relationships section.



Please take the time to watch this video - <https://youtu.be/fLUVWZvVZXw>

Our School Statement of Commitment to Teaching

Respectful Relationships

We commit to implementing a whole-school approach to Respectful Relationships and to help combat family violence in Victoria.

We understand 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.

We recognise that we have great potential to create change. Our school is:

- a space for young people to learn.
- a workplace where all staff, students and families deserve to feel respected, safe and valued.
- a 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.
- Our school 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.
- Our school will undertake a thorough assessment and planning process to identify gaps and limitations in existing culture, policies and practices in gender equality.
- Our school will identify and use Respectful Relationships funding and other appropriate resources to implement key actions to promote gender equality and prevent gender-based violence.
- Our school 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.

Respectful Relationships Team

Dani Cravana & Nikki Woinarski