Student Welfare Policy
GRC Penshurst Girls Campus

School Mission Statement
To be a middle school committed to the education of resourceful independent women striving for excellence in a supportive, enriched learning environment.

Our Values
It’s about us:

- A passion for teaching and learning
- Integrity – honesty and trust
- Democratic – listening to all voices

It’s about how we treat others:

Our actions are respectful and strengthen others

- Respect for self and others
- Responsible for our actions
- Resilience – strengthening each other

Rights and Responsibilities
Every student at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus has the responsibility to:

- Contribute to her own learning and the successful learning of others
- Strive for excellence
- Care for her school and protect her school environment
- Avoid causing injury and damage to other people or their property
- Treat other people with respect and value our multicultural differences
- Bring credit to herself and her school in the community

Every student at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus has the right to:

- Be taught in a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment and be able to learn and to feel good about her achievements
- Work in a pleasant and clean school in an environment where she is safe and her belongings are secure
- Be valued as an individual and be treated with respect and courtesy
- Be proud of her school
Context
Student welfare encompasses everything the school community does to meet the personal, social and learning needs of students.

Student Welfare at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus is reflected in the way our school community:

- creates a safe, caring school environment in which students are nurtured as they learn in a middle school setting
- incorporates effective discipline strategies both inside and outside the classroom
- stresses the value of collaborative early intervention when problems are identified
- recognises the diversity within the school and provides programs and support which acknowledge difference and promote harmony

Student Welfare at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus provides opportunities for students to:

- enjoy success and recognition
- make a useful contribution to the life of the school
- derive enjoyment from their learning

While all teachers at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus are involved in the welfare of our students, the Welfare Team consists of:

- Two Year Advisors for each student year group
- School Counsellor
- Home School Liaison Officer
- Transition Advisor
- HT Welfare
- Deputy Principals
- Principal

Our school provides effective learning and teaching within secure, well-managed environments, in partnership with parents/caregivers and the wider school community.

Effective learning and teaching
To enhance effective learning and teaching so that students will feel valued as learners by:

- Encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour
- Identifying and catering for the individual learning needs of students
- Establishing well-managed teaching and learning environments
- Providing regular feedback to parents

Programs at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus include:

- Enforcing the core values and core rules at our school
- Study skills and organisation for learning strategies
- Learning support team to scaffold individual student learning
- ESL language support through team teaching
- Homework centre for learning and assessment task support
- Peer Tutoring program
- PALS transition program
- GAT programs and class structures
- DEAR program

**Positive climate and good discipline**

To enhance school climate and discipline by:

- Establishing clear school rules
- Implementing procedures to protect the rights, safety and health of all school community members
- Monitoring attendance and ensuring that students attend school regularly
- Establishing networks to support students emotionally, psychologically and academically
- Providing resources and opportunities for students to gain leadership experience
- Providing opportunities for students to demonstrate success in a wide range of activities
- Incorporating students’ views into planning related to school climate and organisation

Programs at **GRC Penshurst Girls Campus** include:

- Enforcing the core values and core rules at our school through the School Discipline Policy.
- Revision of classroom management strategies with the introduction of laptops.
- Anti-bullying plan, incorporating Cyber bullying.
- Attendance tracking systems including RISC, SMS, HSLO referrals, DP monitoring card, suspension and expulsion procedures.
- A wide variety of co-curricula activities offered at our school including music, dance, drama, debating, public speaking, visual arts, Science, sport, coaching, volunteer work, environment group, state wide competitions, exhibitions and performances.
- Leadership opportunities are extensively offered through the Student Representative Council, Peer Support program, Peer Mediation program, Peer Tutoring program and Social Justice group.
- Regularly involve student voice through surveys and discussion groups around school issues.

**Community participation**

To enhance community participation by:

- Acknowledging parents as partners in school education
- Encouraging parents and community members to participate actively in the education of our students and in the life of the school
- Inviting parents to share their skills and experiences in the school community
- Supporting students and their parents in making decisions about learning programs
- Recognising students’ families, cultures, languages and life experiences
Programs at **GRC Penshurst Girls Campus** include:

- Regular P&C meetings with a range of speakers and topics for discussion.
- Parent representatives on school committees including Finance, Annual School Report, School Plan, Enrolment panel.
- Parent and student information evenings occur regularly throughout the year with Year 8 Subject selection, Year 10 Subject market, SC requirements, Year 7 Welcome evening, and Parent Teacher evenings for all year groups.
- Facilitating parenting courses with the support of the School counsellor and District Guidance Officer.
- Incorporating interpreters at parent meetings and translating notes and the school newsletter which is then placed on our website.

**Responsibilities**

*The Principal will ensure that:*

- a commitment to student welfare underpins all policies and activities of the school
- student welfare is regularly reviewed using appropriate planning processes and involving the whole school community
- a school discipline policy is developed and regularly reviewed
- students, staff and parents are assisted to develop strategies for addressing student welfare and discipline needs in all the activities of the school

*Teaching and support staff, according to their role in the school, will:*

- ensure that they are familiar with the Student Welfare Policy and the School Discipline Policy
- contribute to the provision of a caring, well-managed, safe environment for all students, fellow staff and parents
- participate in the learning and teaching process in ways which take account of the objectives in this policy
- participate in the school community’s implementation of the Student Welfare Policy


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