

# Peer Relationship Statement

The College encourages open, supportive, and respectful friendships between students. It is our belief that co-ed schooling allows students the opportunity to build solid friendships between friends of both genders. These friendships should reflect an extended family code of conduct. They should be described in the following manner.

- Supportive
- Caring
- Building each other up
- Looking out for each other
- Doing things for the common good
- Respecting differences
- Not exclusive
- Creating a great atmosphere of enjoyment
- Challenging each other to do good and what is right
- Cheering each other on to excel in developing our God given gifts and talents
- Courteous
- Sharing the journey by helping make the hassles less of a burden

By developing friendships students gain social skills and support.

## **The Boy Friend - The Girl Friend**

Where a natural interest develops between a boy and girl, we trust that the young people involved will conduct themselves at school and while representing the school (including to and from school particularly while in uniform) so as not to be obvious or exclusive. We trust that young people base their special relationships on a solid foundation of friendship rather than infatuation.

With our focus on individual character growth and academic pursuit, the College does not encourage intense romantic couples. At events in the name of the College or organised by the College, and at anytime while in uniform, romantic displays of affection or pairing off between romantic couples is not allowed.

**We value:**

Young people developing confidence of character without someone on the arm all the time, known as the boy friend or the girl friend.

Young people being able to enjoy friendship without the pressure of physical affection.

Young people enjoying the freedom this special time of life brings.

Young people who do develop a special relationship remaining active friends and family members and engaged in their learning.

The God honouring choice of celebrating physical sexual intercourse exclusively in marriage.

Young people being warned of potential issues of older people wanting to have mature relationships with them during their school years.

- Distraction during peak study demands of life
- Unequal relationships often leads to dependency rather than successful character development
- Different needs
- Exposure to mature concepts
- Risk of physical sexual pressure
- Potential legal issues
- Separation from influence of family, friends and college community life

Students should not arrange to be met or taken home directly from school by older - not at school - boy/girl friends.

**Therefore:**

1. We should not see anyone in uniform involved in boyfriend-girlfriend style kissing, hugging, hand holding while in uniform or at College organised events.

2. Our College acknowledges appropriate physical contact between friends at school at suitable times. A comforting hug at times of hurt, a happy holding of hands, and a pat on the back or a joyous embrace at times of celebration within the right context makes sense. Obviously, there are people who will not want this interaction. When they are spontaneous and mutual they are part of life. Students who are boyfriend and girlfriend need to refrain from physical expressions of affection at school.