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Girls Solving Real Social Issues

Catherine O'Kane
Principal

All Hallows' School, Brisbane
NCGS Conference, Washington, June 2017



All Hallows' School



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- Independent Catholic, all girls' school founded in 1861 by the Sisters of Mercy
- Oldest secondary school in Queensland
- 1550 students, Years 5 – 12
- 210 permanent staff, 150+ seasonal/casual staff
- Located in the Brisbane CBD on 3 hectare, heritage listed campus



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Why Girl Talk?



Schools address 'disturbing, predatory, misogynistic' content

Brisbane's Southern Cross Catholic College held a meeting with all staff and students this morning.

Principal Brett Horton discussed the website and the language "which is disturbing and depicts predatory, misogynistic and violent content".

"I explained some of the real-life consequences of sharing these images which range from humiliation and distress through to legal implications including criminal charges," he said in a statement.

Brisbane's All Hallows School principal Catherine O'Kane has written to parents acknowledging the school was named as one of those targeted.

"Today and during the remainder of this week, we will meet with our students in Years 7 to 12 to discuss the ongoing challenge that pornography presents for our young women," she said.

Why Girl Talk?



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- Year 11 and 12 students raised the issue that “we don’t know what is really happening” in girl-world.
- Initially about social media – how could we “message” more effectively to our girls?
- We thought that we knew the right messages but did we?
- Even if we had the right message, were the girls listening to “us”?



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Leaning In – Building our network

- Letters to Minister for Education and Commissioner for Children's Safety
- Invitation for our girls to present at the "Out of the Dark" Forum;
- Invitation for our girls to assist at the Children's Safety Information Festival at the Queensland State Library



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Leaning In – Building our network



Our girls
presented at the
“Out of the Dark”
Forum

*Lauren with Cheryl Vardon,
Commissioner for
Children's Safety
Brisbane, Feb 2017*



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Leaning In – Building our network



Cheryl Vardon,
Commissioner for
Children's Safety
visited Girl Talk on
International
Women's Day
Brisbane, March 2017



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Getting down to work



Regular Girl Talk
team meetings
were established
April – June 2017

Getting down to work - Communication



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Meeting 6: 11 May 2017
Wednesday, 10 May 2017 2:02 PM

Agenda Item	Notes
Launch Feedback	
Survey Results	See tab
Topic and format for first gathering	<p>1st: Friendships - Navigating Friendships</p> <p>2nd: Body Image</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Post it notes on wall -> so people don't have to speak- See, think, wonder about All Hallows' girls- Use the screens to put up a PowerPoint slide- Statement time: go to one end of the room if you agree/disagree- Keep all conversations positive!- Don't let it become a (female dog) session- Do a scenario and a response card- How would you use character strengths to solve problem? <p>NAME: Sailing the Seas on the Friend-Ship</p> <p>PLAN FOR THE ISLH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Start with a large group -> this conversation is directed by you- There will be no nametags or name-using- Begin with a scale: go to number 1 if you strongly agree and number 3 if you don't agree <p>Questions to use:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In your year level, are most groups static?2. In your year level, do you observe bullying?3. In your year level, is there movement between groups?4. In your year level, would people be upset if someone moved out of their group?5. In your year level, do you find people drifting?6. In your year level, do you think people can solve their own friendship problems?7. Something positive? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Move to small groups -> find out what kind of behaviours do you observe?- Share good and bad experiences!

2017 Survey Results

Meeting 7: 18 May

Getting down to work



- **Terms of Reference:**

- A student led and organised group providing forums for discussion of topics that are relevant to young women and as determined by All Hallows' girls.

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Getting down to work – Running meetings

Agenda Item	Notes
Out of the Dark CEA	Thank you to all who attended - your help was most appreciated by the organisers Student response - it was fun; it was a worthwhile experience; made some good contacts with organisations
Alannah and Madeline Foundation (Hannah)	Great resources for 5&6 as well as 7&8. The eSmart Digital Licence program www.digitalllicence.com.au CEA to contact Foundation to find out more (contact made via email 14/3)
Class OneNote CEA	CEA to set up OneNote for collection of resources as well as meeting notes
Year 9 Assembly - Term 2	Milana and Harper to coordinate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available apps and how they can be used positively • Screencast walkthrough the app and the privacy settings • Shared wisdom about the use of these apps
Official Launch of 'Girl Talk' group	CKA to discuss with Mr Adamson a possible launch date for a full school assembly Assembly launch coordinators are: Hannah, Eleanor, Esther and Madeleine https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51-hepLP8J4
Possible topics for 'Girl Talk' to focus on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health issues • Social media and digital presence • Violence • Navigating friendship issues
Next Meeting	



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Getting down to work – Forum #1

- Survey of all students to determine topic:
 - Navigating difficult friendships
 - Healthy relationships
 - Peer pressure
 - Positive uses of social media and internet
 - Managing stress and maintaining balance



Getting down to work – Forum #1

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Getting down to work – Year 9 Assembly Presentation





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What next for Girl Talk?

- One Student Forum presentation each term.
- One Assembly presentation each term.
- Considering guest speaker presentations.
- Feedback is obtained from each presentation.

Early Observations



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- Provides an excellent leadership opportunity for our girls;
- We did not have the correct messages (eg content of social media, focus on “what is wrong” with social media);
- Our girls will listen to the older girls;
- There is strong interest in the work of this group.

Contact information



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