

Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

Girls Solving Real Social Issues

Catherine O'Kane

Principal

All Hallows' School, Brisbane

NCGS Conference, Washington, June 2017





Service

Justice

All Hallows' School

- 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



Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

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 pernography presents for our young women," she said.



Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

Why Girl Talk?

- 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"?



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

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice



Justice

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



Leaning In – Building our network

Respect

Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice



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



Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

Getting down to work



Regular Girl Talk team meetings were established April – June 2017



Compassion

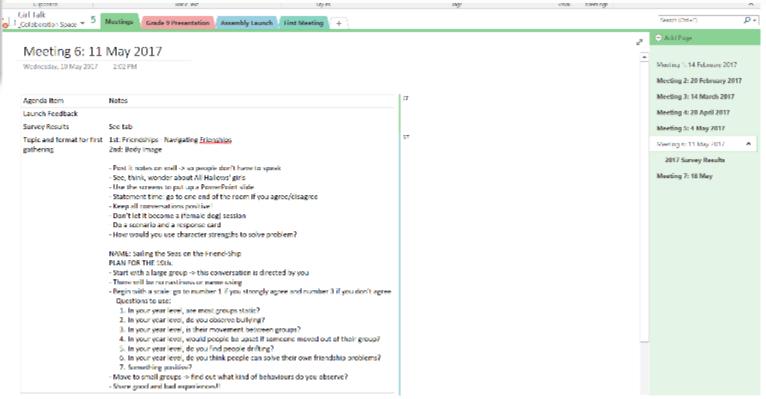
Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

Getting down to work - Communication





Justice

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.



Respect **Compassion**

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

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.digitallicence.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
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	 Mental health issues Social media and digital presence Violence Navigating friendship issues
Next Meeting	



Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

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

Respect

Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice





Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

Getting down to work – Year 9 Assembly Presentation





Joy Service

Justice

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 presenation.



Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

Early Observations

- 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.



Respect Compassion

Integrity

Joy

Service

Justice

Contact information

- In: @ahsbrisbaneprincipal, @ahsbrisbane
- W: www.ahs.qld.edu.au
- E: catherine.okane@ahs.qld.edu.au
- LinkedIn: Catherine O'Kane

