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## MEDIA STATEMENT: Christ Church Grammar School – Setting a positive discourse for society

Like other schools in Australia, Christ Church Grammar School has been on a journey to educate its young men about issues relating to respecting females.

School Principal Alan Jones believes there is a lot more that society can do in discussing, understanding and ultimately changing attitudes and behaviour towards young women.

"As the details of incidents in Canberra continue to unfold, we learn about a petition regarding young women's' experiences of sexual assault and we reflect on international social movements such as Me Too," says Mr Jones.

"Schools play a vital role in responding to these issues, and as a school we are absolutely committed to respecting all females and ensuring all males operate within the bounds of appropriateness."

"This generation of young people enjoy many advantages but, equally face changes and challenges that we must help them overcome. The journey is not one we take alone with the students. It is also incredibly important that parents and the School continue to work together and speak with one voice as we raise our young men."

Both at home and at school, Christ Church encourages open communication about values and behaviour that is acceptable and unacceptable.

"Consistent, regular and open discussion is very important, and we believe it is imperative that our boys learn how to interact with and respect females," says Mr Jones.

"Each year, students across all our year groups participate in a number of curriculum, pastoral and cocurricular experiences to assist them in understanding and developing positive relationships."

"This education also involves numerous opportunities to socialise and interact with female peers from our neighbouring schools in a non-competitive setting."

Christ Church Grammar School continues to actively seek ways to strengthen their educational programs and challenge and change the cultural discourse and behaviour we collectively face as a society.

## **Media contact**

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