



# Penshurst Public School

*(temporarily based on the grounds of Peakhurst West Public School)*

(entrance on) Belmore Rd, Peakhurst, NSW 2210

Telephone: 9580 3400 & 9580 7638 Facsimile: 9580 9216

email: penshurst-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

## **A Place for Respectful Learning**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The NSW Department of Education has introduced a School Community Charter for all members of NSW Public School communities. It has been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

The School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

The School Community Charter was produced to support a respectful environment in our schools. It outlines a framework for positive interactions and provides parents with guidance in engaging as partners in their children's learning. It also highlights unacceptable behaviour that has no place in our school communities.

NSW Public Schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when students, parents and schools work together. The School Community Charter aligns with the department's [Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022](#).

### We all play a part

Parents and carers play an important role in the school community. The School Community Charter informs parents and carers on how to engage with NSW Public Schools. Read the School Community Charter to ensure you understand how important it is to create a positive learning environment for our students.

Parents and carers can expect:

- to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning
- communication from teaching staff will be timely, polite, informative and solutions focussed
- professional relationships with school staff will be based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect
- to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

### Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will try to make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with events in the school community.

### Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

Unacceptable behaviour in our schools

Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.

I have attached the School Community Charter for your reference. Please read this in line with information that was detailed in the last newsletter about the Inclosed Lands Act. Please note: As a matter of child protection, we ask that all school issues, especially those between students at the school, be referred back to the school for us to resolve. Parents and caregivers are **NOT** to approach another student or parent/caregiver to address matters of student conflict.

Your cooperation on this matter will ensure that the school remains a respectful, successful and supportive learning environment for our students.

**Mr J. Lie**  
**Principal**  
**18/02/2019**