

Golden Rules – Facebook Page

This Greater Shepparton Secondary College (GSSC) Facebook page exists to celebrate the achievements of our students, staff and school community. It also serves to keep our community informed of school activities, programs and events. We ask our Facebook followers to respect these aims and publish comments with care and consideration for others.

To assist you, here are our Golden Rules:

Be a Role Model

Facebook is a great way to keep you connected with what is going on in your school community. Don't forget, however, that this is not a quiet conversation at the school gate. Social media is a public place, often reaching a far wider audience than we might imagine, and comments can have real consequences for the reputations of others or yourself.

Parents and carers should not forget they are the first role model for their child when it comes to online behaviour. Some good tips before responding to anything online are:

- Will this comment reflect badly on me?
- Will it reflect badly on others?
- Is the comment relevant, helpful and positive?
- Will my comment incite poor behaviour from others?

Protect Yourself and Others

Before you respond to anything on our Facebook page, there is more to consider than courtesy and respect. It is your responsibility to ensure your comment is allowed and does not infringe on the privacy and rights of other individuals or organisations.

GSSC and all government schools have strict policies on when it is appropriate to share images of students and school events online.

If you respond with anything that identifies other parents, carers or staff, respect their privacy and check that you have their permission. It is good practice for parents and carers to **never** publish personal information or images of children.

How We Manage the Page

Our Facebook page is administered by local staff members dedicated to respectful and safe online engagement with our school community. We want to make the page as enjoyable, friendly and informative as possible for all users.

To ensure these goals are met, administrators can block or remove comments that:



- Are deemed racist, sexist, abusive, profane, violent, obscene or spam
- Advocate illegal activity
- Are wildly off-topic
- Promote myths, rumours or untruths
- Libel, incite, threaten or attack the character of GSSC students, employees, guests or other individuals
- Promote commercial products, services or political causes.

We encourage users to report any inappropriate comments to us directly or through Facebook's reporting process.



Pick the Right Place

Remember, our Facebook page is to celebrate achievements and keep our school community informed of activities, programs and events. We communicate with our school community through other means that are often more appropriate for the kind of information being sought or the issue a parent or carer wishes to raise.

So when it comes to communicating with the college, or seeking information, we encourage parents to “pick the right place”:

- Our School Management System (Compass) is used for emergency alerts (evacuations, delayed buses etc), excursion, activity and event details, payments, booking interviews, advising of absences and other practical matters
- Our Learning Mentors are the first point of contact for parents and carers with specific queries or concerns about their child's education and wellbeing
- Each campus of GSSC has proper procedures in place for any parent or carer to lodge a complaint.

Our website has our policies, news archives, enrolment assistance, details about the school, its structure and curriculum and other essential operational and governance information: www.gssc.vic.edu.au

Finally, Help Us Make History

GSSC is our region's newest school and represents a transformational change in the delivery of secondary school education in Greater Shepparton. This Facebook page is destined to mark school milestones and celebrate the achievements of our GSSC students in 2020 and coming years.

We encourage our school community to embrace this site, respect its purpose and actively promote and contribute to this digital document of our young people's history.

The GSSC Facebook page operates under the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act and Facebook's Terms and Conditions. It is subject to the Victorian Government and Department of Education's workplace occupational health and safety guidelines including provisions relating to bullying and discriminatory behaviour.

Golden Rules endorsed by GSSC Executive Principal January 2020



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