**LGBTIQA+ Support Group Proposal**

Our school prides itself on being a school of unique learners of diverse backgrounds. We are a diverse cohort of students and teachers, a significant portion of whom are students that identify as LGBTIQA+. High school is a challenging and overwhelming place for all students. But for students that are struggling with their gender identity, bullying because of their sexuality, or are feeling uncertain or unsafe either at school or at home, having somewhere they can go to feel safe, and spend time with like-minded peers, can be the difference between surviving and thriving.

As LGBTIQ+ Health Australia stated, as of October 2021, 48.1% of transgender and gender diverse people aged 14 to 25 reported that they had attempted suicide in their lifetime and 25.6% of LGBTQA+ young people aged 16 to 17 had attempted suicide in their lifetime (LGBTIQ+ Health Australia, 2021). There is a wealth of research that states that having a school support group can drastically reduce suicide rates and mental health issues amongst LGBTIQA+ young people as well as improve school attendance and overall well-being for students at school (Goodenow et al., 2006; Lipkin, 2004; Mowat, 2007; Mayo, 2017). With the AITSL Standards in mind, this support group would support student learning and maintain student safety (AITSL Standard 4.1, 4.4) by creating a safe and supportive learning environment.

The impact a simple, once-a-week, teacher-facilitated, student-led support group can have on the well-being of students and the school as a whole is overwhelmingly positive. By having this group, it communicates to the broader school community that discrimination based on sexuality or gender identity will not be tolerated.

Below are the proposed details of the support group.

***Where?***

INSERT ROOM

***When?***

INSERT TIME/DAY

***Who?***

Facilitated by INSERT TEACHER NAME with assistance from INSERT OTHER FACULTY NAMES.

***How?***

Teacher supported and facilitated, student led, safe space.

***This typically looks like:***

* A drop in space where students can come and go as they please.
* The group is open to all students, regardless of identity.
* Established rules, expectations, and guidelines for the group are made clear and public to ensure all students feel safe and supported. (e.g., respecting pronouns, respecting privacy, respecting boundaries.
* Students and/or teachers can lead discussions and/or learn about LGBTIQA+ safety, wellbeing, information.
* Students can organize events to spread awareness and acceptance of the LGBTIQA+ community throughout the school such as Wear It Purple Day, International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia, and Intersex Discrimination, Pride Month, etc.