

What We Found Out About Your School

A summary for students in Years 4 to 6

Intersection is a company the Ballarat Grammar Board asked to look closely at the culture of the school. Culture means how people treat each other, how safe everyone feels, and whether the school's values happen in real life. More than 600 people took part, including students from all year levels, including yours. Here are the key things we found.

Things that are good

- The huge range of opportunities: sport, camps, music, art, drama and outdoor education.
- A strong sense of community and belonging.
- Teachers who listen, help solve problems and treat students fairly.
- Students who care about each other, about fairness and about the environment.

What needs to change

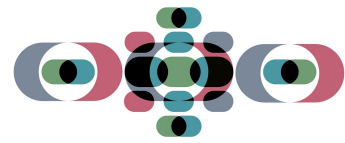
- Teasing and leaving people out happens too often, and when it is reported it is not always taken seriously.
- Some students told us about racist comments being brushed off as jokes. They are not jokes, and the school needs to treat them seriously every time.
- Some students stay quiet and don't tell adults about what's happened because they are worried about being called a "dobber".
- Consequences for bad behaviour don't seem to be the same for everyone, and sometimes that feels unfair.

What the school will do

- Make the rules clearer and apply them fairly to all students.
- Train teachers to respond properly to teasing, bullying and unkind behaviour, every time.
- Make it easier and safer to report problems, and make sure something actually happens when you do.
- Keep values like safety, kindness and fairness part of school life in every year level.
- Ask students for their ideas before making decisions that affect them.

What you can do to make your school a better place

- Include other students. If someone is left out of a game or a group, be the one who invites them in.
- Speak up when you see teasing or hear unkind words. Telling a teacher when someone is being hurt is not dobbing. It is looking out for each other.
- Welcome new students. It can be hard to join a new school and find friends. You can make it easier for people.
- Treat everyone fairly, whether or not they are your friend.
- Keep sharing your ideas. They can change how things work.



What you can do

Thank you for being honest with us. A school's culture is made by everyone in it, every day. The adults at the school have some big changes to make. But the small things you do, who you play with, how you talk to others, and when you speak up if you see something that's not fair or right, are part of what makes this school better too.