



Lifestyle

>

Parenting

>

School Life

# Yarra Valley Grammar School students suspended over 'disgraceful' list ranking female classmates

Four male students have been suspended from a top private school after a 'disgraceful' list ranking their female classmates emerged.

Madeleine Achenza

3 min read May 6, 2024 - 8:24AM NCA NewsWire



Four boys from a Melbourne private school have been suspended after a list was posted to social media rating their female classmates, in a display the school has called "disgraceful".

The shocking list was posted by Year 11 students from Yarra Valley Grammar School in Ringwood onto the platform Discord and was discovered by the school last Wednesday.

It featured photos of female students and ranked them from best to worst as "wifeys", "cuties", "mid", "object", "get out" and "unrapeable".



Four students from Yarra Valley Grammar School have been suspended over the list. Picture: Google Maps

The students were suspended on Friday pending further investigation, Nine reports.

Yarra Valley Grammar principal Mark Merry spoke to Nine on Sunday and described the post as "disgraceful".

"Respect for each other is in the DNA of this school, and so this was a shock not only to us ... but it was a shock to the year level and the boys in the year level that see this as way, way out of line," he said.

He said he was offended by the final category, and has since reported the matter to police to ensure the list wasn't linked to any criminal offence.

"As a father, I find it absolutely outrageous, disgraceful, offensive. As a principal, I need to make some decisions [about] what we do about all of this," he said.

"My first impulse and concern is about the wellbeing of the girls concerned. I want to make sure they feel assured and supported by the school."

"We are going to be consulting the police because the language used could be an inferred threat.

"I don't think it was, but we need to get further advice on that ... I'm hoping it was an appalling lapse in judgement."



Yarra Valley Grammar School Principal Dr Mark Merry has responded to the reports. Picture: Nine

It costs around \$30,000 a year to send a student to the elite Ringwood private school, and Dr Merry said the school prides itself on teaching "respectful relationships".

"We are well aware of the broader issues in relation to respecting women ... we need to really do our best to ensure that young men understand their responsibilities and their boundaries of how they should behave," he said.

Speaking to Channel 9's Today on Monday, Dr Merry said the incident was "disgraceful".

"My first response was just horror, that such a cruel thing could be done and such a degrading attitude could be directed at any of our students," Dr Merry said on Channel 9's Today.

"This is so counter to everything this school is about, I think the culture here is one which is respectful and we care for each other. We look after each other.

"There's a lot of anger. There's a lot of hurt. There's a lot of upset here at the school, and that's something that I need to lead us through. "I need to try and look after, primarily, the young women who are targeted. That's my first concern. I also need to hold those that are responsible to account."

Dr Merry said the parents of the offending students were "horrified".

"They were bewildered that such a thing could happen," he said. "They were shocked that those sorts of attitudes could be expressed. So all of us here are shocked.

"I think the shock has been that this could happen here. If it can happen here. Yeah, it can happen anywhere."



It costs about \$30,000 a year to send a student to Yarra Valley Grammar School

Dr Merry said the school was still assessing who was "primarily responsible" for the post but had suspended students pending the investigation's outcome.

"It really strikes me to the core that any of our young people here who we really do hold dearly, can be treated in such a way," he said.

"We as a community need to own the fact that these vicious attitudes are out there ... it's up to all of us to tackle this head on."

Federal Education Minister Jason Clare said the display of sexism demonstrated the need for better respectful relationship courses in schools.

"It is disgusting and appalling, I'm glad that the students have been suspended," Mr Clare said on Monday.

"It demonstrates that there is still a lot more work to do, it's a job not just for schools, but for parents and political leaders like me as well.

"Part of that is providing funding to schools right across the country for respectful relationship courses and consent courses. I'm signing agreements with all states and territories at the moment to do that, and that's about \$77 million that will roll out across the country."

Support is available from the National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service at 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732).



Read related topics: Melbourne

## More From School Life



State's big move for kids on social media



Teacher asked teens to 'send nudes'



Mums furious after 'woke' school change



### Sign Up

Registration

Connect

In The Know Quiz

Newsletters

Competitions

### About Us

Welcome to news.com.au

The Team

Our Values

Code of Conduct

Shopping

Coupons

### Help And Support

Contact us

FAQ

General Feedback

Advertise with us

Standards of Practice

Site Map

Licensing & Reprints

### Our News Network

Kids News

The Daily Telegraph

Herald Sun

The Courier Mail

### Our Partners

Kidspot

Body+Soul

realestate.com.au

FoxSports

CODE Sports

### Our Apps

