Parental Permission for Student to Participate in a Prayer Group

As a result of the new Department of Education, *Religious Education Implementation Procedures*, there are new requirements that need to be met before prayer groups are permitted to operate in schools. Voluntary religious activities and prayer groups are not part of special religious education, but may operate under the auspices and supervision of the principal. Scripture Union (NSW) coordinates Interschool Christian Fellowship (ISCF) groups in secondary schools.

Principals in their supervision of voluntary religious activities and prayer groups must ensure that:

- parental permission is obtained
- appropriate child protection checks and practices in relation to any volunteers coming from outside the school
- the content of the activities undertaken are monitored
- students or members of religious persuasions do not engage in attempts to proselytise or convert non-adherents of their religion to their faith in the course of school authorised activities.

The Christian prayer group that currently meets at NBHS is conducted by a member of staff. The boys in the group have organised for religious education teacher, Mr Jones, to attend and facilitate discussions. The prayer group routinely undertakes the agenda as described on the following page.

Please indicate your permission for your son to participate in prayer groups by completing the permission section on the following page. The completed permission page needs to be handed the prayer group representative by your son before he attends any further prayer group meetings.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards

Mark Anderson
Principal- Normanhurst Boys High School
Meeting #1 (leader's meeting)
Time: Tuesday lunchtime
Location: Room 9 (Mrs Gan's Maths room)
Who is invited: Connect leaders
Typical Agenda:
- run through the Bible verse that will be spoken from on Friday's Connect meeting
- have lunch, reading through the relevant Bible verse and understanding it
- Mr Jones normally helps clarify any questions we may have regarding the verse and give us tips on writing Bible studies or talks
- we make plans for what to do on Friday's Connect meeting and discuss ideas for holding social events (eg. party during the holidays)

Meeting #2 (CONNECT)
Time: Friday lunchtime
Location: Room 45 (Mrs Hayes' room)
Who is invited: Everyone
Typical Agenda:
- Connect leaders (Year 11 and Year 12) say welcome and pray to start things off
- Announcements are made (eg. combined Christian events with other schools)
- One volunteer from Connect reads aloud the Bible verse that will be spoken from
- A speaker from Year 11 or Year 12 delivers a prepared talk on the Bible verse that was read out
- Leaders coordinate discussion groups where students are prompted to ask further questions regarding the content of the speaker’s talk
- On the way out from Connect, people are asked to donate to the groups sponsored child (Bagus)

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Student’s Name: ___________________________ Year Group: ____________

I give permission for my son to participate in a student organised Christian Prayer Group which operates each week. I understand that this prayer group operates during lunch breaks and that no class time will be missed as a result. I also understand that this group is regularly supervised or organised by a member of the school’s staff.

Parent/Guardian Name: ___________________________

Parent/ Guardian Signature: ___________________________ Date: _____/_____/_______