

ARH

6 March 2009

Dear REDACTED

RE: ARH and water polo – parental concerns.

My son and at least 25 other boys have been attending water polo training prior to the commencement of classes during the school week from 7.00am.

Other parents and I have been concerned to discover that on almost every occasion when the boys have been at training ARH is the only teacher there. That only one teacher is present during this time is of particular concern in the light of what has been unfolding at Knox recently.

You may be aware of rumours currently circulating that ARH was teaching there but left under a cloud over improper behaviour in the Knox swimming centre.

While I do not like to listen to rumours I feel that this is too serious an issue so far as the safety of my own son and other boys is concerned. Whatever the substance of those rumours might be I think it is reasonable to expect that the school acts to ensure that our children are protected. One lone teacher is not enough to do that with such a large group.

In the context the rumours, however, it is high time that the skimpy red Speedos that the boys are required to wear while swimming were replaced immediately with more modest, dark blue swimmers to give them some greater degree of protection from the gaze of predators who may be in our midst.

It is not my usual habit to write anonymous letters but I will go to any length necessary to protect my son and his anonymity, up to and including taking this beyond the school. I will not stand by and watch my son or any of his classmates have their innocence destroyed as has happened to so many young people whose stories have been reported in the media.

Can we rely on you as the Headmaster and Chairman of Council respectively, to work together, to assure us, the parents, that nothing untoward is happening in the pool area and especially the change rooms so far as the adequacy of supervision and child protection and all its implications are concerned? I pray that you will give this matter your personal and urgent attention.

A very concerned parent

RECEIVED  
11.3.09