

# Values

## Definition:

“Values are the important ideals and beliefs influencing our decisions and behaviours. They provide a framework to guide us in our interactions with others and in our sense of Self. Our values define who we are and give purpose and meaning to our lives.”

Peer Support Australia, 2007.

Values education is essential in fostering relationships, personal achievements and improved student wellbeing across the school community.

Schools use values education to build student’s social skills and responsibility, enhance resilience and to enable them to take risks within safe boundaries. A key outcome is to empower students to actively participate in school communities. Professor Lovat, 2006, University of Newcastle, states “values education has the potential to go to the very heart of what it is that teachers, schools and education systems are about.”

The responsibility of teaching values rests with schools, in as much as it does with parents. School communities are significant environments for the socialisation of students into meaningful participants in society. Through values education we can equip students with the skills to assist them to make more informed choices about their life and their community.

A Peer Support Program which focuses on values assists students to develop the skills, understandings and knowledge necessary to face challenges in the future and contribute to a socially just society.

## **Behaving with Integrity**

This 8 session module supports students to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to actively and critically construct shared values.

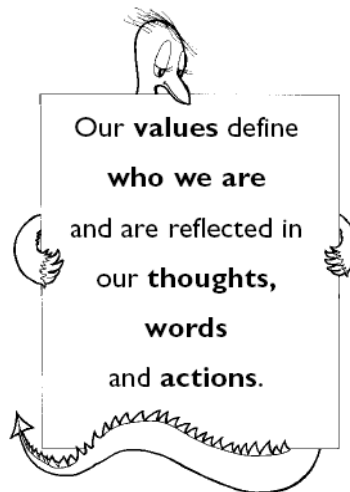
*Behaving with Integrity* provides students with opportunities to explore values in the context of their individual school communities. This module assists students in defining individual and community values, building relationships and improving decision making skills. Students will also learn to clarify their values and identify the qualities they admire in others. They will be encouraged to recognise that their values guide their interactions with others.

Implementing *Behaving with Integrity* assists in creating an harmonious school community that espouses a set of values by which to live. Students, teachers and parents will develop a shared vision of the environment in which they want students to learn and participate.

*Behaving with Integrity* has an underlying philosophy that values can be developed in young people through strategies to assist them to identify their personal values and apply these to their lives.

*Behaving with Integrity* focuses on developing the following skills:

- values clarification
- relationship building
- assertiveness
- decision making



## *Aims of Behaving with Integrity:*

- identify personal and community values
- demonstrate how to show respect for self and others
- identify how responsibilities change over time
- appreciate the need for diversity and inclusivity
- recognise that our choices reflect our values to others

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