Values

Values education is essential in fostering positive relationships and improving student wellbeing across the school community.

“Our values define who we are and are reflected in our thoughts, words and actions.” Peer Support Australia, 2007

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.

Schools use values education to build students’ social skills, resilience and sense of responsibility. Key outcomes include empowering students to take risks within safe boundaries and encouraging active participation in the school community.

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.”

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 a 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 skills in:

- 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 our choices reflect our values to others
- discuss ways of serving the community.

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