



Values

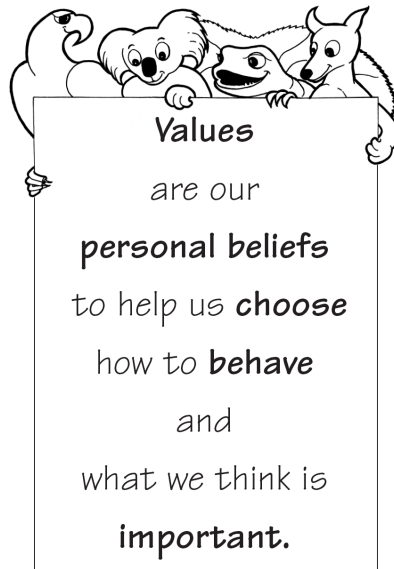
Definition:

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 Foundation, 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, resilience, responsibility 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.



Nine core values emerged from the 2003 Values Education Study:

1. Care and Compassion
2. Doing your best
3. Fair go
4. Freedom
5. Honesty and trustworthiness
6. Integrity
7. Respect
8. Responsibility
9. Understanding, tolerance and inclusion

Promoting Harmony

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

Promoting Harmony provides students with opportunities to explore values in the context of their individual school community. This module assists students in defining individual and community values, building relationships and improving decision making skills.

Promoting Harmony 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.

Promoting Harmony focuses on developing the following skills:

- values clarification
- relationship building
- assertiveness
- decision making

Aims of *Promoting Harmony*:

- identify personal and community values
- demonstrate how to care for self and others
- acknowledge and respect the rights of all
- develop ways to be responsible
- attempt new tasks to the best of our ability
- identify personal and group strengths