

Rochedale State School

Values education forum

Profile

Rochedale State School is situated on the south-eastern outskirts of Brisbane in a semi-rural area only 15 minutes from the Brisbane CBD. It is in the Greater Brisbane Region and services the community of Rochedale as well as many other surrounding suburbs.

The school was established in 1931. Currently, it has 717 students in Years 1 to 7. During 2005, 27 highly professional staff taught a comprehensive curriculum across the eight key learning areas (English, Maths, Science, Studies of Society and Environment, Languages other than English, the Arts, Health and Physical Education and Technology).

Our school web page in the school colours of blue and gold has been set up for 10 years. The school's website aims to provide information about our school and showcase the excellent work of our students. Our website details are www.rochedalss.qld.edu.au

The school caters for a community with diverse – but generally high – expectations. It enjoys an excellent reputation for academic, artistic and sporting success and has a high public profile.

Mission statement

Rochedale State School in partnership with the wider community is committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for all students within a positive, supportive, caring, learning and teaching environment.

Our mission statement clearly defines our direction at Rochedale State School. It is used when policies are developed and implemented to constantly challenge and remind us of our role. This philosophy is embedded within the culture of our school. It is reflected in a code of behaviour based on a set of principles that are understood, accepted and practised by all members of the school community.

Values Coordinator profile

Ms Vicky King is the Values Coordinator at Rochedale State School. She is a senior teacher and has experience in many year levels. In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, she has been the Key Teacher (Behaviour Management) at Rochedale State School for the past six years. Asked to review the school's behaviour policy she started to read material on values in order to define and clarify how values are linked to behaviour in the classroom, school and community.

There began Rochedale State School's journey along the pathway of values education. To read more about Rochedale State School's journey see the school's website (www.rochedalss.qld.edu.au/values/). If you would like more information on how to commence your values journey contact Ms Vicky King at Rochedale State School 07 3340 8333 or by email vking2@eq.edu.au

How we ran our forum

We found the best way to organise our forum was in three stages: pre-forum, forum, and post-forum.

Pre-forum

- At a school level, a values committee was formed. It was responsible for hosting the values education forum and applying for the funding for the forum.
- We surveyed our staff as to what they considered would be the core values for our school community. This information was collated and presented to staff at a later meeting.
- We surveyed our school community of 391 families. (See attached survey.) A response was received from 150 families.
- From the information collected, it was evident that the values identified by the community mirrored those of our teaching personnel.
- Prior to the values education forum, the values committee decided to selectively invite parents to the forum. Four parents were chosen from

each year level and personally invited to the forum. The parents chosen were those who had given previous support to the school, and those who were passionate about our school. We wanted our target group to meet together with a shared purpose to explore values and values education.

- A decision was made by our values committee to present a forum that provided plenty of opportunity for parent interaction and would lead to agreement on a values education strategy for Rochedale State School.

Forum

- The values committee set an agenda for the values education forum. (See values forum agenda.)
- While the forum provided background information to the parents about the *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools* (2005), it also provided parents with an opportunity to learn about the nine national values. This was done with an activity that matched the correct definition to each value. The values committee was extremely mindful of presenting this information in an engaging manner for the parents. We did not want our forum to become a 'talk-fest'. We wanted the parents to contribute freely and provide practical suggestions on how our school could promote values.
- At the forum the findings of the survey were discussed and the core values identified (respect, responsibility, cooperation, consideration, fairness and honesty.)
- The final section of the forum was opened up to parents for discussion on how values education could be implemented and promoted at Rochedale State School.
- At the conclusion of the discussion, parents were encouraged to complete an evaluation form on the forum. With this we were able to measure the effectiveness of this forum and enabled the values committee to actively respond to recommendations put forward at the forum. This input led to the launch of the values at a special assembly and the unveiling of the values banners. (See the values education forum evaluation form below.)

Post-forum

1. The school advised the whole school community through our newsletter what core values were identified.
2. We evaluated the effectiveness of our values education forum from the evaluation forms completed.
3. A report on the school values forum was sent to senior project officer (Rosalie Shawcross.)
4. We followed up on parent input. Our parents believed we needed to present as many visual opportunities to display our core values. The launch at assembly and the banner unveiling was a direct result of this suggestion.

5. Parents from the forum were invited back for the values launch. The launch took place at the end of the year, so the values could be fully operational for next year.
6. We developed a database for parents involved in the forum and we make sure parents are informed on future values meetings.
7. Parent suggestions were revisited so the values committee could decide which recommendations should be addressed next.
8. Staff members were advised that a whole school approach is essential for the implementation of values education. This whole school approach needs to engage the whole staff, all the students, parents, families and the school community.
9. All staff members are to receive posters of the school's values and these posters will be displayed in all classrooms in 2006. In addition to this, all staff will receive a guide to teaching values, which lists all the values and practical ideas for the teaching and discussion of these values.

Further information and examples

This PowerPoint® presentation has some interesting results of Rochedale's parent survey.

http://www.rochedalss.eq.edu.au/values1/Values%20Education%20II_files/frame.htm

Follow this URL <http://www.rochedalss.eq.edu.au/values/> for photos and information about the Values Launch that the school held at the end of last year. There is also an article about the Forum with photos of the actual Forum.

Pre-forum parent survey

1. Our values are what we use to guide us in choosing what to do and say. What values are most important to you? (eg honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility, integrity, care, compassion, trustworthiness etc.)

2. Do you feel there is a need to teach values education in schools?

- Yes
 No

3. Whose responsibility is it to teach values to students? Rank from most important to least important:

- Media
 Whole society
 Parents/guardians
 School community
 Family
 Teachers

4. Should schools inform parents and guardians about the values that are fostered in schools?

- Yes
 No

5. As a parent/caregiver, would you like input into the values which are 'taught' in schools?

- Yes
 No

6. When your child leaves this school, what values do you want them to possess?

Values education forum agenda

1. Introduction, welcome, goals of the forum
2. The National Framework
3. What is values education?
4. Matching values to definitions
5. Rochedale staff process
6. Survey results
7. Discussion/forum on core values identified
8. Ways the school could promote values
9. Evaluation of forum. (Evaluation sheet)
10. Close of forum by Principal, Mr Liam Smith

Values education forum evaluation

We would be very pleased if you could provide your responses to the following questions about the values education forum.

Please answer the following questions by circling the appropriate number:

1. The values forum has given me a better understanding of current directions in this area.

1 2 3 4 5
Strongly agree Agree Don't know/unsure Disagree Strongly disagree

2. I enjoyed/felt comfortable with the style of the forum.

1 2 3 4 5
Strongly agree Agree Don't know/unsure Disagree Strongly disagree

The school's values education work and policies are comprehensive and seem in line with the National Framework document.

1 2 3 4 5
Strongly agree Agree Don't know/unsure Disagree Strongly disagree

The aspect of the forum I found most interesting was:

Things that could have made the forum better include:

I would like to be involved in further work on values education in our school.

1 2 3 4 5
Strongly agree Agree Don't know/unsure Disagree Strongly disagree

What I would like to see happen next:

Optional

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Please return your form.

Thanks, Values Team