

Values education at Werribee Secondary College

Werribee Secondary College will be launching their school values in term three 2007 and the Core Values Professional Learning Team, consisting of five teachers from various key learning areas, are involved in a number of initiatives in preparation for this event. These include awareness raising throughout the learning community, development of laminated posters to be displayed in classrooms and working on the school logo that now features the school's five core values:

- respect and honesty
- integrity
- cooperation
- perseverance
- responsibility

All staff, thirty student leaders and several classes gave feedback identifying each core value, developing the definitions and articulating the implications for self and behaviours/attitudes towards others.

According to Kelvin Botrell, Werribee Cluster Leader, 'The team have done an amazing job in preparing for the whole launch and implementation to further develop the College's social culture; hoping it will lead to further improvement in academic results'.

The values are already being used on merit certificates, particularly for peer mentoring and leadership.

Sue Cowie, facilitator of the Team is enthused by the way in which the values are being incorporated into school practice.

'The most exciting part of our work will be our brass plaques which will be proudly displayed throughout the school as a permanent fixture after our launch. VCAL students are working on a values mural and many visual art students are creating posters with comic characters; the original idea coming from our student leadership group camp, where for example Perseverance became Mr. Percy Verance!'

Sue was also successful in applying for a federal grant for drama performances with a focus on drug awareness. Year 9 students will be conducting performances at cluster primary schools advocating and promoting the core values and social competencies required to improve middle year students' awareness of drugs and related harms. The original performance was devised in term one 2007, around each value, and performed for their peers during lunchtimes.

The use of drama is an important strategy in implementing a values-based approach. The College also has an accelerated Year 8 Drama Project that is student-centred, specifically designed to study basic stagecraft and includes a unit on comedy. These activities will be filmed and also result in performance outcomes.

The Core Values Professional Learning Team is also working on units incorporating values within each learning area. Sue Cowie is working on Drama and English and others units have been developed for LOTE, Science and Music. Sue is also working with The Learning Federation on a national project that is

creating digital units of work that will see values education incorporated in content and teaching and learning strategies.

Werribee Secondary College Core Values

The vision for Werribee Secondary College is to be 'A School of Distinction'. To this end, the College is determined to be a special place of learning by implementing the best quality practice in both tradition and innovation in education as evident in Australia and internationally.

Core values	Self	Others
RESPECT		
Means caring about own image and being considerate of others' opinions, beliefs, culture and property.	Care about your image: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wearing your uniform with pride Neat clothing Well groomed Positive demeanour 	Care about others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be courteous Listen and respond to their ideas and opinions Look after school and other people's property Give no put downs Demonstrating that diversity of people is a strength
RESPONSIBILITY		
Means being ready and willing to learn with a positive attitude.	Do the right thing by yourself: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make wise decisions Follow expectations Be accountable for own actions and consequences Be well organised: Have everything you need with you in class Be accountable for your actions Use time wisely 	Do the right thing by others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat others fairly Participate positively in all learning activities while considering the rights of others Not interfering with others learning Be able to do what is needed of you
HONESTY and INTEGRITY		
Means being reliable and trustworthy (characteristics of an upstanding community member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admit mistakes and learn from these Tell and seek the truth Be consistent Be emphatic and resilient Have honourable intentions Be true to your word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be supportive Be present for others Do things for the school and local community
COOPERATION		
Means working and learning together in a positive classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the ability to work independently: Work productively without excessive supervision Watch for possible unfortunate situations Learn to rely on yourself to solve problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the ability to work Interdependently Share learning resources Share keeping the school neat and attractive Learning to collaborate with others
PERSEVERANCE		
Means persisting and doing your best at all times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doing your best Improve your learning Have pride in work Work hard by giving 100% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing others to do their best Assist and encourage others

	<p>effort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Never give up• Have high, but realistic expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have high, but realistic expectations of others
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