

Values Education in Independent Schools

Jenene Rosser

jrosser@aisq.qld.edu.au

Values education – an Australian Government initiative

- Dr Brendan Nelson linked Values education to the current quadrennial funding agreements with schools
- Schools are required to display the Values education poster in a “prominent position”



VALUES FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLING



Care and Compassion

Care for self and others

Doing Your Best

Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable, try hard, pursue excellence

Fair Go

Pursue and protect the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society

Freedom

Enjoy all the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship free from unnecessary interference or control, and stand up for the rights of others

Honesty and Trustworthiness

Be honest, sincere and seek the truth

Integrity

Act in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct, ensure consistency between words and deeds

Respect

Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person's point of view

Responsibility

Be accountable for one's own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways, contribute to society and to civic life, take care of the environment

Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion

Be aware of others and their cultures, accept diversity within a democratic society, being included and including others

CHARACTER IS DESTINY

— *George Eliot*

Values education – an Australian Government initiative

[http://education.qld.gov.au/
curriculum/values/qld_links.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/values/qld_links.html)

<http://www.valueseducation.edu.au/values/>

Values education in independent schools

- Values education is relevant in all independent schools
- Independent schools exist because of the agreed values of that school community

Values education in independent schools

- Every school across Australia is encouraged to hold a Values Forum

Some key messages

- Schools are busy places – there are many competing interests for a ‘place’ in the curriculum
- Values education has to be part of the core curriculum related directly to the ethos and well being of the whole school community

What is best practice?

- A school community that has played a role in shaping the values of the school
- A curriculum that is sequential, developmentally appropriate, planned, adaptive, directly linked to the syllabus, assessed and reported on...

What next?

- More sharing of professional practice
- Demonstrate where values education “fits” in the essential learnings
- ‘Service learning’
- Richard Eckersley