“Student Voice”, Values Education and Positive Behaviour for Learning

Students are empowered and participate in decision-making through being active members of their school’s PBL Leadership Teams. They support the school’s implementation efforts through input into developing and reviewing the school-wide expectations (encompassing the core values in NSW public schools) and matrix, determining rewards or acknowledgements available to students, delivering peer awards and developing and presenting social skills lessons to students.

By participating in the development of their school’s expectations and matrix, students explore the values that lie behind diverse community attitudes. All PBL training encourages PBL teams/schools to develop expectations that encompass the values, beliefs and attitudes of all members of a school community. Schools develop expectations that respectfully acknowledge and are inclusive of these diverse values.

The school’s core values/expectations guide the learning experiences of all students. Students have the opportunity to be directly involved in the teaching of these expectations through creating, promoting and delivering social skills lessons to all students, via assemblies (role plays, student panel discussions), photos, DVDs, as well as student-led programs such as peer support and peer mediation. In doing so, they participate directly in making the values explicit in a range of learning contexts. They share and promote a common experience, common language and common vision.

In addition, students develop partnerships with the local community by seeking local business support and participation particularly in the rewarding of students’ positive behaviours. They develop, with their school-based “student voice” coordinator, an action plan that incorporates their roles and responsibilities and provides opportunity for them to share exemplary practices with parents, caregivers and other local schools.

What they are saying about the impact of “Student Voice”......

“It was a fun and interesting day and we learned new things for our school to improve it” (Student) and “A fantastic ‘think tank’ day that has given my school a great sense of motivation to involve students... ”

(Teacher)

“Students have the power to get their peers to follow them in a way adults can only dream of...”

Find out more

Check out the PBL website: www.pbl.schools.nsw.edu.au

Send an email to the PBL team: pbl@det.nsw.edu.au