

## Needs of students in the middle years

Young adolescents have needs that differ from those of younger and older students.



**How could our school better meet the needs and challenges of educating our middle years students?**

Young adolescents need to:

- 1 adjust to some profound changes—physical, social, emotional and intellectual
- 2 grow toward independence (while still needing security in many personal relationships)
- 3 gain experience in decision making and in accepting responsibility for these decisions
- 4 develop a positive self-confidence through achieving success in significant events
- 5 progressively develop a sense of ‘Who am I?’ and of personal and social values which become part of a person’s life
- 6 establish their own sexual identity
- 7 experience social acceptance and gain affection and support among peers of the same and the opposite sex
- 8 think in ways which become progressively more abstract and reflective
- 9 become more aware of the social and political world around them and gain skill in coping and interacting with that world
- 10 establish or maintain relationships with particular adults, who can provide advice and act as role models.

**Eyers, V 1992**

*The Report of the Junior Secondary Review:  
The Education of Young Adolescents in South Australian Government Schools*  
**Education Department of South Australia**