

## Case studies of good practice

### Cammeray Public School

<p><b>Case study title</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title of your case study.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Cammeray Kids Care</i></p>
<p><b>Background information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe your school context. For example 'We are a small primary school of 90 students in a coastal farming community'.</li> </ul>	<p>Cammeray Public School is a large primary school (585 students) located on the lower north shore, close to the Sydney CBD. The population comprises 28% of students with English as a Second Language. Japanese is a predominant cultural background.</p> <p>Cammeray enjoys strong community partnerships and works closely to support the learning needs of a wide variety of students from a range of backgrounds.</p>
<p><b>Aims and rationale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of the issue to be addressed.</li> </ul> <p>For example, what was happening? ie increasing tension as some groups felt their beliefs weren't being respected.</p>	<p>Student Representative Council (SRC) leaders raised the issue of bullying.</p> <p>The principal and executive team researched the issue, called on experts from the community and organised workshops for staff and community.</p> <p>Staff wrote a policy and researched strategies to countering bullying. This was presented to the SRC and the parent body. Modifications were made and the policy was then ratified at a whole school assembly with the document signed by members of the teaching staff, students and community.</p>
<p><b>Getting started...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did you decide to address the issue? For example, through improving relationships between cultural groups, developing a more inclusive curriculum.</li> <li>What research basis/other programs did you use as a basis for your initiative?</li> </ul>	<p>The following initiatives were undertaken to address the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff training in understanding bullying and beliefs of the school community on bullying behaviours.</li> <li>Student training through dramatic performances, videos, peer support lessons, buddy lessons and role play scenarios.</li> <li>Peer mediation training for Years 5 and 6; Kindergarten buddy program; peer support lessons.</li> <li>Teaching pro-social skills using <i>A Partnership Encouraging Effective Learning</i> kit (APEEL) and <i>Bounce Back</i> kit. Parent workshops were conducted as part of the APEEL program.</li> </ul> <p>We planned primarily for a pro-social skills approach because racism was not the prime issue. The students tended to bully others verbally. We needed to teach better ways to deal with conflict and build student resilience.</p>

<p><b>How we went about it...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who has been involved? For example, in planning strategies and applying them.</li> <li>• What actions have been taken to address the issue?</li> <li>• How long has it taken? For example, timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent and staff committees planned action research on the issue. Students, parents and community members were surveyed; playground areas were monitored for common incidents and the student tracking system monitored.</li> </ul> <p>The strategies trialled initially resulted in an increase in reported incidents. These incidents then tapered off as students learned that it was not okay to bully others.</p> <p>The time frame was 6 months.</p>
<p><b>What we are learning...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has changed? For example, outcomes for students, staff and community members.</li> <li>• Comment on any related issues.</li> <li>• Refer to evidence where possible.</li> </ul>	<p>There has been an increase in a variety of student welfare support programs.</p> <p>Pro-social skills need to be learned first and programs such as peer mediation enable effective conflict resolution.</p>
<p><b>Where to from here...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does your school community plan to maintain/improve the present situation?</li> <li>• Are you going to use the solution in any other area?</li> <li>• Would you do anything differently next time?</li> <li>• Any suggestions for other communities?</li> </ul>	<p>This year student welfare is a target in our annual school report. We will re-visit our policy, involve the staff in new training, link pro-social skills more closely to the class programs, and design a leadership assignment/action research for all of Year 6.</p> <p>Last year we trialled a small Year 6 project. Year 6 students found that some kindergarten students had difficulty socialising in the playground and did not understand the concept of games. The Year 6 students' solution was to work with these students during lunchtime to teach them games and how to positively solve problems.</p> <p>Year 6 students then wrote up the findings of their action research and presented it to staff and senior students. Quality Teaching concepts were used here and the benefits of this trial were very evident. We intend to expand this project to all of Year 6 and have them work in teams to solve a problem they have noticed in the school.</p>