

The explicit teaching of values

Students find the explicit teaching of values helpful because it gives them clear guidelines for behaviour. The discussion and reflection that occurs with values education assists students to see more clearly the consequences of their behaviour, understand different points of view, develop empathy and learn to dissent with respect.



The core values provide a reflective tool which helps students to explore what values mean in a variety of contexts. The development of appropriate language to discuss values assists students to reflect more deeply about complex issues and situations.

The *Values in NSW public schools* statement identifies nine core values which are common to a range of secular and religious world views and are found in most cultures.

The core values are *excellence, care, integrity, respect, responsibility, cooperation, democracy, fairness and participation*.

A strengths-based approach that promotes student voice and student agency has shown to be most effective way of teaching values.

Schools need to continue to teach values implicitly as well as explicitly.

Values and Pedagogy

- Teachers focus on activities that assist students to explore, discuss and analyse values that are relevant to the content of the subject that they are studying
- Teachers model and reinforce practice consistent with the core values. They make values explicit in classrooms and help students relate values to their own lives
- The effective teaching of values supports students to develop critical thinking and substantive communication skills as they encounter problematic knowledge and learn to justify their opinions
- Students are given opportunities to interrogate real life situations where there are diverse opinions and where values conflict.

Further information

The *Values in NSW public schools* statement supports schools to be more explicit about teaching values. The New South Wales Department of Education and Training's Values Education website is at: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studentwellbeing/values/index.php>.