Student story 7

Okay, me being part of the values team has been a really great experience. And I find that doing that has helped the children get to know the values better, because it’s other students teaching them. So it’s not like they have the right answer to say, because in front of the teacher you always think, ‘Oh this isn’t the right answer, I can’t say what I think’. So yeah. I think that there’s been a big improvement since the students have taken the values on as their own responsibility, considering that the teachers did it before us and people didn’t feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings with them. So yeah.

Well the values team are responsible for teaching other students about values and putting out the values newsletter and doing the certificates at assembly. We are the team that if anyone has problems, they can come to us if they want to share it with us or anything, so yeah...Our student wellbeing co-ordinator, which is Mrs Kelly* we write letters to her and the values captains. And they will decide, through our letters, who they think are the best people for the job.

I think people are starting to realise that showing values is better than not showing values. So they’re starting to get more friends, they’re starting to become better people. ...I had a couple of students come up to me, a few weeks back, to ask me about a problem they were having. And I gave them some advice, but this problem was, this was bullying, this problem, so I couldn’t really do much. So us girls, there’s a girls’ program and a boys’ program too, and we have a circle time with just girls. And I raised this issue about bullying for some ideas, so yeah, I’ve had some ideas, but the girls haven’t come up to me for any problems, so yeah.

Like Josh* said, he said about the circle time, I personally feel that when our teacher said at the start of the year ‘we’re going to start circle time’, our whole class felt a bit uncomfortable, sharing their thoughts and feelings. But now it feels like, when we have circle time, it feels like a friendly vibe. Everyone wants to share. Everyone wants to have ideas and help others and stuff. So yeah.... I know that I can trust everyone in my class, that if I say something, like my feelings, that it won’t come out of the circle and people won’t laugh. They’ll respect, yeah.

*names have been changed

Values Education in Australian Schools
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