

Values in NSW public schools

Information for
parents and
carers

From the Ministerial Statement at
[https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_serv/
student_welfare/valu_scool/pd_05131_Values.pdf](https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_serv/student_welfare/valu_scool/pd_05131_Values.pdf)

The NSW approach to values and values education in public schools

Values

NSW public schools have always taught the values that are the basis of law, customs and care for others in our society.

Schools in NSW share with families and the community the responsibility for teaching values. While values are learnt predominantly in the home and modified through relationships and life experiences, parents and the community have high expectations about commonly held values also being taught in schools.

The demonstration of these values in all areas of public education is both the aim and a measure of success for public schools.

Values education

Public schools teach values, including the values that underpin learning. Public schools also provide students with opportunities to explore the values that lie behind diverse community attitudes to political issues and social concerns.

Values are taught explicitly in classrooms and through the activities and relationships of the school and its community. In schools, core values influence how people communicate, work together and make decisions. They are reflected in the policies and procedures of schools and the Department.

The core values

The Government recognises the importance of the following core values to the community. These values represent the aspirations and beliefs of the Australian community as a whole, including its concern for equity, excellence and the promotion of a caring, civil and just society. They are common to a range of secular and religious world-views and are found in most cultures.

The core values are:

INTEGRITY	Being consistently honest and trustworthy.
EXCELLENCE	Striving for the highest personal achievement in all aspects of schooling and individual and community action, work and life-long learning.
RESPECT	Having regard for yourself and others, lawful and just authority and diversity within Australian society and accepting the right of others to hold different or opposing views.
RESPONSIBILITY	Being accountable for your individual and community's actions towards yourself, others and the environment.
COOPERATION	Working together to achieve common goals, providing support to others and engaging in peaceful resolution of conflict.
PARTICIPATION	Being a proactive and productive individual and group member, having pride in and contributing to the social and economic wealth of the community and the nation.
CARE	Concern for the wellbeing of yourself and others, demonstrating empathy and acting with compassion.
FAIRNESS	Being committed to the principles of social justice and opposing prejudice, dishonesty and injustice.
DEMOCRACY	Accepting and promoting the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen.