



VALUES-THEMED ARTICLE: Autumn 2017

Vision And Values Make For Victorious Schools



Throughout the world, movements are emerging to ensure excellent practices are being embedded into whole-school approaches to teaching and learning so that holistic, whole-child development is promoted, enabling every young person to build confidence in their abilities and flourish.

How does A SCHOOL'S VISION help?

Establishing a vision is a motivational, unifying exercise that opens contributors' minds to the endless possibilities of the future for every member of the school community, taking into account how young people need to be equipped to manage their day-to-day lives successfully and for the challenges and changes that lie ahead. The process is inspiring and brings together creative ideas that generate goals, which can be distilled into clear pathways towards everyone achieving more and the school's emerging young citizens feeling that they are being well supported as they embark on their lifelong journey of learning.

A vision is a powerful means of maintaining a focus on what is desired, especially when the going gets tough. It needs to be reviewed from time to time so that it remains current and any necessary changes in direction are recognised and acted upon in order for constant growth, improvements and brighter, better outcomes to be achieved.

Why are VALUES so important?

Values are standards, beliefs and principles that act as anchors and guideposts for our thinking, decision-making and actions. As individuals and organisations, be they families, schools, businesses, or any other group, our carefully considered and consciously chosen values help us to be consistent in our turbulent day-to-day lives as we make choices, plan for the kind of future we want to experience and work towards accomplishing specific goals.

For individuals, thoughtfully selected values can bring about a sense of balance, wellbeing and internal cohesion. Shared values build internal cohesion in a group. A school's core values define its culture and are often agreed upon collectively with suggestions coming from everyone making up the school community: teaching and non-teaching staff, learners and their parents and carers.

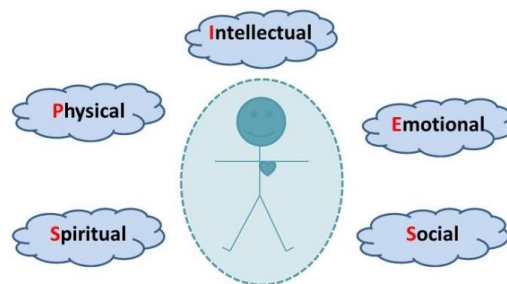
Positive, well-chosen values are empowering and when actively lived by, add a noticeable sparkle to the individuals themselves. If there is also buy-in from a group, they form a special glue that enables it to remain strong and on course. The profound sense of togetherness often leads to members enjoying uplifting celebrations of all kinds of victories, some large with others seemingly small but very significant.

CHARACTERISTICS of VICTORIOUS SCHOOLS

Learning is an adventure. It's most engaging when the subject matter resonates with the individual. A victorious school provides a safe, enabling environment and a rich, broad and balanced curriculum with excellent, inspired teaching.

The deliberately comprehensive education system continuously opens up pathways to the integrated nurturing of the whole child so that throughout all the learners' school careers and on into their adult lives, they can discover who they are, better understand themselves and acquire the necessary attitudes, skills and knowledge to flourish, maximise their full potential, be happy and succeed.

Holistic Education



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Victorious schools have high expectations with both children and staff feeling valued. The climate is very supportive and conducive to everyone striving to do and be their best. There is a sense of togetherness and collaboration that enables achievement. Such schools aim to provide a complete education and a global outlook that draws out learners' unique personalities, talents, passions and interests, all the while nurturing essential character strengths along with a growth mindset and encouraging natural curiosity and imagination.

Conscious of the need for flexibility and competencies appropriate for our fast-changing, complex and challenging world, the united vision in these schools helps to foster young people's wellbeing and develop their values literacy so that they have a solid foundation for making informed choices about all the dimensions of their daily lives: spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social.

All the adults in a school community with a shared vision know they are role models and mentors and that the emerging generation is looking to them for guidance. An interdisciplinary approach to learning and study helps to make the children's education experience relevant, engaging and vibrant, resulting in personal qualities that lead to sustainable, successful, satisfying lives.