Impact of KidsMatter Primary on Our Lady of Lourdes?

Staff members collaborate to integrate social and emotional learning in the classroom and in the playground. At staff meetings teachers focus on monitoring how the school is progressing in the support of students and families. The decision to allocate non-negotiable time for KidsMatter each week has expanded the explicit teaching of social and emotional learning. Two years later KidsMatter has become the school expectation for assisting students to understand themselves and to empathise with others.

Who is on the action team?

In 2011 four full-time teachers are on the Action Team. Other members include a teacher’s aide who wanted to become involved and provide valuable assistance with developing resources for KidsMatter activities.

Who is on the action team?

The challenge of sustainability is to bring new members onto the Team each year. Changing the membership each year means that more teachers are developing responsibility for KidsMatter at Our Lady of Lourdes. It has become the school expectation for assisting students to understand themselves and to empathise with others.

Building the links between home and school

1. School newsletter – parenting ideas

Every fortnight the KidsMatter Coordinator includes information and hints about parenting drawn from two reputable websites that focus on developing positive family structures. The response from parents in informal conversations has been very positive.

2. ParentsMatter Room

During Term 1 this year, the Action Team created a dedicated space for parents and carers. Members asked parents and carers what resources they would like to include, and as a result resources such as books, a couch and toys were located.

The whole school explored what it means to be an inclusive community over the first term. Using the idea of ‘every face has a place’ each class created a display of individual student photos to affirm their sense of belonging to the school. Another initiative that celebrated ‘every face has a place’ was a special whole-school photograph.

On the last day of Term 1, all students wore something red and created a large circle in the playground which represented a human face. Two groups of students formed the shape of eyes and a third group stood to outline a smiling mouth.

The aerial photo depicts the happy face in the centre of the campus. Through the activity students experienced cooperation as they formed the image. It was an example for students to see that positive relationships and teamwork create good outcomes in the school community.

A wellbeing theme for each term

The KidsMatter Action Team plans a theme each term that articulates different aspects of wellbeing. The theme for Term 1 this year was ‘every face has a place’. In Term 2, the whole school focused on ‘Dad and me’.

Teachers assist students to prepare for the theme presentation on the final day of term.

Year 6 students take on leadership roles for the Theme Days. They have responsibility for running vertical groups of students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

The leadership experience encourages Year 6 students to understand the importance of inclusivity and creates a positive environment for a group activity and interaction.

How is the school making KidsMatter Primary sustainable?

The school is committed to developing KidsMatter as part of the ‘life culture’. One of the keys to sustain KidsMatter at Our Lady of Lourdes is to maintain the membership of the Action Team. The challenge of sustainability is to bring new members onto the Team each year. Changing the membership each year means that more teachers are developing responsibility for planning and expanding KidsMatter across the school community.