

We all see things differently.

To some people a glass half filled with water is half full - to others it is half empty.

Different perceptions, however, make us realise we all part of a bigger picture, and each and every one of us has the ability to influence the systems we are in.

Today we are here recognising that each one of us, as students, teachers, and in some cases, parents have the ability to influence the direction of Byron Bay High School.

All members of the school community would probably agree that Byron Bay High School is a productive high school. Students have the opportunity to develop social skills and preparation for future life. These opportunities arise through formal curriculum and through suitable extra-curricular activities.

But while recognising the opportunities that are already available for students within the school, we must continue to move towards the future. It is important to recognise as a community that we are all life-long learners, and should take every opportunity to support and promote new initiatives and positive attitudes within the school community.

With respect to the Values Platform at Byron Bay High School, we have already had input through staff, students and parents. Initially over 70 statements were generated. Mr Giblin and Mr Johnson took on the task of co-ordinating with students to reduce these statements to six value statements. These six statements were then further refined.

Here is one such example of how students changed one of the six values:

“Our diverse community provides valued partnership for learning”

was changed to

“By accepting others, we learn from their differences”

So, having worked on the drafts and modifying them, we have now reached the time where we can present the values to the whole school.

A special thanks goes to Ms Cramp and Mr Scott who worked with a group of students to have the values statements colourfully presented throughout the school.

***“We Aspire to Achieve a Safe and Caring Environment”***

This value supports the belief that we should be aspiring to focus on students’ physical, emotional and moral well being in an effort to ensure students leave Byron Bay High School happy, healthy, young people who are better able to understand themselves and their community.

***“We Respect Others and Ourselves”***

This value supports the belief that we should recognise the worth of each individual and attempt to develop our personal abilities in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance. It also underpins the recognition that we maintain our school’s physical environment and the personal belongs of others.

### ***“We Communicate Effectively”***

This value supports the belief that we foster the spirit of co-operation among students, staff, parents and other members of the community. The school should communicate clear limits and guidelines and place them in order to function effectively with the community.

### ***“We Accept and Learn from Each Others Differences”***

This value acknowledges that we live in a diverse community who’s students and staff come from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. We need to embrace the opportunity to learn from the experiences of others in our school community. This is not only in the classroom, but on the sports field, in the playground and through various social and extra-curricular activities.

### ***“Learning is Valued”***

Our school is dedicated to creating capable, confident and emotionally mature young people. It is impossible for all students to come first in their class. However, we accept all students should be striving to reach their personal best. This is through being encouraged to be risk takers in the classroom, and through learning through their mistakes to become resilient, confident young adults. We want to foster student empowerment, promote improved relationships and be able to tackle violence, anti-social and behaviour management issues.

### ***“Quality Teaching is Supported and Valued”***

Byron Bay High School has a very experienced and dedicated staff. There are teachers here with many years experience. We accept all teachers strive to assist all students to reach as high a standard as they can achieve. We challenge students and give suitable remediation where applicable.

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