



PEACEFUL SCHOOLS PROGRAM PILOT SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Drouin West Primary School

A VIBRANT RURAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Implementation of CASSE's Peaceful Schools Program (PSP) has reinforced this school's emphasis on a safe and caring school community.

This vibrant rural school was established in 1874 as the first school in West Gippsland. It is ably led by Principal Kerry Ware and her caring, skilled staff. Their emphasis on a safe, caring environment, wellbeing, pro-social and personal growth and maximising learning for students and staff resonates well with our Peaceful Schools Program.

This school's CASSE Student Leader Team is thoughtfully facilitated by a skilled young teacher, Kasey Bayne, who meets weekly with the students to discuss 'situations' raised by the students - such as issues of student conflict or bullying and how they could intervene safely and effectively to diffuse these.

The team has also visited each class, reading them stories about unfriendly behaviour/bullying and asking them to role play peaceful outcomes for the story. They also teach them power dynamics, with emphasis on the role of 'Upstander' (standing up TO the VICTIMISER and standing up FOR the target). These sessions are very popular with students and staff alike and help to reinforce the availability of their student team as support people and role models.

FEEDBACK FROM THE STUDENT LEADERS

Hollie, an eight year old student leader, described the impact of their CASSE PSP implementation as follows, "It's very safe here. I hardly see people being a bully - it's way friendlier with hardly any fights anymore".

Eleven year old Indiana highlights the rise in empathy which CASSE actively promotes in its schools, "People that didn't like you a while ago now come up to you when you are sad and ask if you are OK."

Twelve year old Deanna added, "I like how we are changing the school and stopping bullying - I have been bullied and I don't want people to feel like that."

This resource and further information about Creating A Safe Supportive Environment is available to download at www.casse.org.au.