

ACTION PLANS

YOUR VOICE MATTERS: OUR SCHOOLS, OUR VOICES

TOPIC DESCRIPTION:

Students have a unique perspective that, when supported can deliver positive educational change. We want our schools to be inclusive of all voices and for student voice to be normalised across all BCE schools. Students want to work with staff and want to communicate and connect with other students in the BCE community of schools. Students are looking for a commitment from BCE to engage Student Voice across all levels of BCE schools so that student voice becomes part of BCE's culture.

WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY:

Student Voice overarches everything. When we feel we have a voice we feel welcomed, respected, valued and empowered. When we are enabled and provided with genuine platforms to have a say we can improve the educational experience for ALL students. When voice becomes part of our school's culture, we are more likely to be engaged at school, connected to our community, and achieve better outcomes for ourselves.

SOLUTIONS:

What students can do:

- Share information about student voice in their school community (host events, hold discussion groups on student identified issues, present at assemblies).
- Actively seek opportunities for regular discussions with staff to discuss school improvement ideas.
- Advocate for student leaders to have more power to contribute to positive change.
- Participate in existing platforms and process to share opinions and ideas (e.g. representative councils)
- Encourage student leaders to seek input from ALL students and communicate regularly with the student body.

What schools can do:

- Promote student voice. All BCE schools have a platform and provide funding to engage student voice, open to everyone and focused on the need of ALL students (e.g. Open Forums, Student Voice Committees, Student Representative Councils (SRCs) or an equivalent where there are representatives from all year levels)
- Support students to facilitate a mini Festival of Ideas in all BCE schools.
- All BCE schools to establish Student Representative Councils (SRCs) or an equivalent where there are representatives from all year levels. Communicate outcomes of SRC meetings with the student body.
- Ensure that all students can meet with student representatives to voice their opinions.
- Deliver a "Transition/Induction Day" for Year 7s to let them know about student voice.

What BCE can do:

- Commit to and advocate for student voice in all BCE schools.
- Establish a student network & online platform across BCE so students can contribute to the student voice initiative & broader system improvement.
- Undertake workshops, forums, and other events for students and staff across BCE to discuss issues that matter to students.
- Visit schools to promote the work of Student Voice Consultants and share information via online platforms.
- Advocate for student representation across BCE Schools and Clusters.
- Provide feedback to students on action taken and outcomes achieved.
- Develop resources to support students & staff to build knowledge and skills in engaging student voice.



