

DIALOGUES@SCHOOL

A QUICK- START GUIDE FOR SCHOOL LEADERS





Dialogues @ School

A quick start guide for school principals

“The aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress” - Joseph Joubert

About Dialogues @ School

Dialogues @ School is a significant civic and pedagogic initiative to stimulate **student voice** and student leadership in **collaborative discussions on complex topics** impacting students and their wider school communities. The program aims to encourage civic-mindedness and civil discourse amongst students and **provide students with ways to ‘disagree better’, increasing collaboration and reducing alienation.**

Dialogues @ School is an educational program that is aligned with five of the **general capabilities in the new Australian Curriculum** along with subject-specific capabilities in English and Humanities. The Dialogues @ School program can be run in a **small-group Club Format** within student leadership committees and subject offerings, or as a **standalone Annual Event** engaging the wider school as part of our Australia-wide annual series, or a combination of both. Importantly, all student voice from Dialogues along with acknowledgement of participating schools is collated and **shared with state parliaments through our Voice of Youth report.**

How Does My School Get Started?

Getting started with Dialogues @ School is a straightforward process

1. Nominate an internal Dialogue Lead and invite participation from other key teachers
2. Read our [resources](#) and pass them on to your student leadership group to utilise
3. Choose your ongoing Dialogue model: either book in an Annual Event, or setup your own Dialogue Club (or both!)
4. Join our Dialogue community by sharing highlights and takeaways from your Dialogue events for use in our Voice of Youth report to parliament

Running A Dialogue: Who, When, How

The program's flexible design is based around just a few core elements:

For a Dialogue Club	For an Annual Event
3-5 student panellists	
An internal moderator - even a student	A skilled moderator from your community
30-60 minutes of lunch or out-of-hours time	60-90 minutes of class or after hours time
A topic of your choosing	Our annual event topic



Any number of interested peers to watch	Whole grade, subject, or even school
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Tips For Success

A fantastic dialogue comes down to willing, informed participants and an attentive, prepared moderator. Some extra steps to help achieve this are:

- For an Annual Event, look for a moderator with experience managing meetings or stakeholders who has a connection to your school - this could be anyone from a parent with business experience, to a faculty member at a university some of your graduates attend.
- Provide your moderator with our [guide](#) which covers basic skills as well as ways to help make the Dialogue more engaging for audiences
- Encourage panellists to research the topic further - for Annual Events, our [topic brief](#) is suitable to share with speakers and audiences alike

Benefits Of Joining Our Community

By promoting better discussions within your school community, you'll also be joining a growing network of educators and schools which are prioritising the social and mental development of their students. On top of the embedded benefits offered by the program itself, your school will also

- Be promoted through our advocacy for the program and student voice
- Have access to all our educational resources
- Invitation to connect with like-minded teachers and school leaders in the future

Inquiries

To get involved today or find out more about the program, get in touch with:

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