



Our Say

The Student Voice
By Kelsey B

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Involving students in practical activities that were related to real-life problems appeared to make their learning more relevant and challenging. When students were encouraged to investigate issues that were meaningful to them, in ways that required them to use and build on their current knowledge and skills, they became highly motivated.

Jim Cumming, Australian Curriculum
Studies Association, Canberra

Why Is the Student Voice so Important?

If there was no student voice, like in many schools, the students would eventually not want to come to school, this is because they feel that they are not respected or cared about. Sometimes this feeling of loneliness can cause depression.

Knowledge of your rights is an important tool for protecting yourself against abuses by police, school officials, and other adults. Contrary to what you may think, youth actually have a lot of rights under state and federal laws.

What difference does it make?

Once students feel respected and appreciated, they enjoy their time at school. They become more involved in school orientated activities and feel more confident within themselves.

Mistakenly, people often assume that school councils are elite student bodies designed to enable our most eloquent youngsters to express themselves more loudly and more often. In fact, school councils are coming to be recognised as a powerful tool for improvement, uniting staff and students in a shared task.

Jessica Gold, The Daily Telegraph 11-05-2005

How Can we Give Students a Voice?

There are many ways that students can express their needs by a student voice. These include

- **A student newspaper**
- **A student Representative Council (SRC)**
- **Surveys**
- **Frequent meetings between students and teachers to discuss these needs**

How Can we Give Students a Voice?

- **Formation of committees**
- **Petitions**
- **Even a student-run radio station would help**

Every student has the right
to a quality education.

Monash University Student
Association

My Opinion

Someone once said that children should be seen and not heard. I believe that that is very wrong. Students have just as many human rights as a worker, as a religious leader, as any other person. These rights should be respected. If they were, students would enjoy coming to school and participate in more activities. This would result in a friendlier, securer environment for everyone involved in the school and life becomes a little bit better.

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