

Marilyn Chambers, Tallangatta Secondary College – How did we achieve our Code of Cooperation?

Prior to 2000, our college expected teachers to develop a classroom management plan and convey this clearly to students at the start of the school year. What resulted was students being subjected to class after class of the same thing during the first days – boring and repetitive. We decided to hold two workshops, all year 7 – 9 students then all years 10 – 12 students, which would establish a common understanding of the positive expectations of the college in every class and all aspects of the college, our Code of Cooperation – then teachers were invited to add their responses to breaches of this code as applicable to their situation and the needs of their specialist areas to develop their specific classroom management plan after this.

Here is how we did it - the workshops happened on Day 2 of the school year.

TOOLS:

- We used an operational definition to decide what sort of school we wanted to have.
- Then an affinity diagram for the behaviours – we collected the headings of the affinity diagrams which formed the basis of our code of cooperation.
- Multi-voting for students to select the behaviours MOST important to them.
- WE did a consensogram for how committed students were to helping to make our school the kind of place we want

After the day of workshops:

- Drawing the threads together – a team of volunteer teachers and students (Student Representative Council (SRC) executive and others) discussed at length the difference between values, attitudes and behaviours and categorised the affinity headings in this way.
- This began on Friday Afternoon and, at the students' request, continued on Saturday.
- We then linked them together in a flow tree diagram Value – attitudes – behaviours
- Then a student suggested a one page diagram (circle) with colours to represent each value and its associated attitudes and behaviours.
- This was done for the home group meetings on Monday morning – and forms the positive expectations which underpin everyone's classroom management plans.
- All students and staff and school council have signed to the values.
- The codes are laminated and in every room in the school.
- They are part of our enrolment package and discussed with every student who enrolls.
- The code is the basis of all disciplinary discussions with students – Which of our values is not being demonstrated in what has just been happening? Is this the school for you if you don't share our values? Are you being affected by someone else not living our values?
- The code diagram is in our school Charter.
- We did a consensogram at the beginning of term 2 to check that students have a commitment to it – this was posted on the windows of the school cafeteria for all to see.

Marilyn Chambers, Tallangatta Secondary College – How did we achieve our Code of Cooperation?

- The SRC “own” the code because they were so involved in producing it.
- We have discussed ourselves as a staff on a PD day in August, 2000 – Do we live the values? Do we feel that others treat us with Respect? Trust? Positive Attitude? – these are our three values to which all the rest are linked.
- For severe or repeated breaches of discipline – we ask students to write an explanation of what each word on the code means to them and give examples of how they will demonstrate this in future. This is done in discussion with their parents and (sometimes) during in-house suspension (rare). It provides the basis of an agreement of cooperation for the student in future and we can refer to their own words as we need to. This is not done lightly and not often – but is useful.

What follows are the specific instructions to groups – we did not outline the tools on this document – but you will recognise where they fit. Trust activities were also part of the plan. A Trust fall and Giant sit in one group, and trust fall and Human knot in the other. We used these at the end of the sessions.

Marilyn Chambers, Tallangatta Secondary College – How did we achieve our Code of Cooperation?

GOALS FOR THE SESSION

1. To involve all students and teachers in developing a common code of cooperation
2. To achieve a set of agreed behaviours for all members of the college.
3. To identify a common set of values which underpin our code of cooperation and define the way we treat each other at this college.
4. To achieve a common set of classroom expectations.
5. To have fun.

VENUE:

Ormidale stadium

GROUPS:

1. All years 7 - 9 students, their Home group teachers
2. All years 10 - 12 students, VCE Home group teachers

NOTE: Teachers who are not Home group teachers will be divided between each group.

At Roll Call each person will be given a number	9.00	
Go to Ormidale and find your number on a gym mat. Bring a pen.	9.07	11.15
Listen for theme song - Mambo #5 - sit down.	9.15	11.20 5 min
Introduction from Mrs Chambers: "What makes this school a good place to be?"	9.20	11.25 25 min
Trust fall		
"In order to have a good school, how do we need to act?"	9.45	11.45 30 min
Combine each group's ideas to create our values and behaviours which will achieve our goals for the session	10.15	12.15 20 min
"How committed are you to helping to make our school a good place to be?"	10.35	12.55 5 min
Recess	10.40	1.00

Marilyn Chambers, Tallangatta Secondary College – How did we achieve our Code of Cooperation?



Marilyn Chambers, Tallangatta Secondary College – How did we achieve our Code of Cooperation?



Friday Code of cooperation planning:

- All students, please bring a pen to Ormidale sessions
- IN Home Group, please read out the list of groups for Ormidale and have students write their group number on their hand.
- Years 7 – 9 students bring a pen and your diary to the session after recess.

	Years 7 – 9 (~185 people)	Years 10 – 12 (~160 people)
9.00	Home group	Home Group
9.07	To Ormidale – Code of Coop. With MC and Middle School Home Group teachers	Level activities
10.45	Recess	
11.15	Home group activities – team building, Hg charter, SRC process and diaries and key dates. Home Group teachers to run the session.	To Ormidale – Code of Coop. With MC and VCE Home group teachers and KLA coordinators.
1.00 – 2.15	Lunch	
2.15	House meetings	MC, (plus any interested staff) Rory, Kendra, Michelle and James to draw together the staff and student input to code of cooperation and classroom expectations
2.45	Bus meetings	
3.22	Go Home	
MONDAY 9.00 – 9.30	Extended Home Group to feed back to students the agreed code of cooperation from Friday. Also for students to sign and then put up in corridor during the day	