Introducing... Marginalised students - Believe in us Website

Brisbane Catholic Education’s (BCE) commitment to out-of-home and marginalised young people is a core component of our Catholic Christian story and of Catholic education itself.

Our marginalised students’ website aims at providing helpful practical information and resources to assist you in supporting marginalised students and enhancing your school as a caring community.

For further information or to contact us about the website call:

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Endorsements

This website/resource is the result of a collaborative effort by people in our community of schools who are passionate and skilled in their support of students who are at the margins. Thanks to them and Fr Wally Dethlefs, in particular, who tenaciously and ably led the resource development for all of us who share their passion and commitment to access and enhance the learning and life chances of our students.

Dianne Goosem, Director, Learning and Teaching Services

One of the real problems with being able to provide a tangible option for the poor and marginalised students in my school is in knowing what are the options that would really help them. The website provides this essential knowledge. It helps to turn my goodwill and good intentions into reality.

Dr Chris Branson, former Principal, St Francis College, Crestmead

All Catholic school communities are challenged by social justice issues - the website provides a wealth of practical and helpful information to encourage positive action and provide hope for a better future for the children and families in our care.

Anne McKenny, former Principal, St Paul’s School, Woodridge

This bright and welcoming website fills me with hope that we can all make a difference and build better communities. The links, the practical ideas, the colourful graphics and sense of inclusion make it a valuable and inspirational resource.

Lesley Lavercombe, EO Counsellor Supervision, Student Learning and Wellbeing

After experiencing a traumatic personal experience I found myself questioning my own capabilities and willingness to rise above my current situation. The marginalised students’ website provided valuable, practical and life altering resources that made this transition so much easier - and logical.

Parent

The marginalised students’ website helped my Mum and I deal with a very trying family situation. It provided us with the necessary tools to succeed in our recovery. I learnt not only a lot about myself but also how to remain strong and focused so that we could be happy again. I can now let go of my anger and resentment and this has made me a better person.

Year 11 Student
History of the Initiative

In 2003 and 2004, BCEO conducted research into the nature, extent and needs of out-of-home, marginalised and disengaged students attending Catholic primary schools and colleges in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Findings from the research are contained in the reports:

- Making Room for Us, and
- ‘Little People’ Have Problems.

The Congregation of Catholic Education echoed the words of Vatican II when it stated, “First and foremost the Church offers its educational service to the poor or those who are deprived of family help and affection...”


BCEO has implemented the recommendations from these reports including producing this website for school communities to assist marginalised students and their parents/carers. This website has recently undergone a significant upgrade.

Aims

This public website aims to provide to a range of audience groups, including parents, staff and students, helpful information and resources.

The website also provides resources and practical ideas on:

- how to promote a community of care
- how to assist students, parents and staff establish mutual respectful relationships especially in meeting the needs of marginalised students and their parents/carers
- how to establish partnerships with local community agencies
- how BCEO can assist school communities develop this work.

Content of Site

The content components range from:

1. Students
2. Caring Community
3. Teachers
4. Parents/Carers
5. Social Justice
6. Local Community.

Each component contains:

- an introduction
- a check list of How to’s
- stories of a response/intervention strategy that has worked and why it has worked
- relevant section of the BCEO Strategic Renewal Framework
- and a Summary Chart.

In addition, the site also has information on and links to:

- Support materials
- Lighthouse projects
- Policies
- Research