

Empowering students through Respectful Relationships

Student voice, leadership and agency exist on a continuum. The Roger Hart Ladder shows degrees of youth participation for how students at your school can get involved in RR.

DEGREES OF PARTICIPATION

1

Student-initiated, shared decisions with adults.

Students have the ideas to set up projects and come to adults for advice, discussion and support. The adults do not direct but offer their expertise for young people to consider.

- **Student RR Team** – ideas are supported by school leadership and linked to staff RR team who offer support and guidance as needed
- **Student Action Groups and awareness raising activities** – student-led activities supported by leadership to build awareness of diversity, inclusion and wellbeing

2

Student-initiated and directed.

Students have the initial idea and decide how things are carried out. Adults are available but do not take charge.

- **Students review curriculum content across all learning areas and extracurricular activities** – then deliver audit findings to staff regarding positive representation of all forms of diversity (gender, sexuality, disability, culture, ethnicity, race, religion etc)
- **Students write newsletter articles** – students contribute to the school newsletter to ensure student voice within RR messaging and visuals

3

Adult-initiated, joint decisions with students.

Adults have the initial idea but students are involved in every step of planning and implementation. Not only are their views considered, students are also involved in making the decisions.

- **Students are involved in assembly** – students are asked by school leadership to develop the agenda and MC the school assembly
- **RR student audit** – students complete the RR student audit and provide feedback to the RR team to ensure their ideas are considered within the school action plan
- **Student representative on the RR team** – school leadership invites the Student Representative Council (SRC) to nominate a representative for the staff RR team

4

Assigned but informed.

Adults decide on the project and students volunteer for it. The students understand the project, why it is needed and what it is trying to achieve. Adults respect students' views.

- **Students are skilled to be positive bystanders** – and understand their role in creating a safe and inclusive school
- **Teachers seek input from students in planning awareness raising activities/events (eg. R U OK? Day and 16 Days of Activism)** – ensuring student voice is considered at all levels
- **Student surveys** – ensuring feedback on current issues and concerns in regards to RR, wellbeing, gender equality and inclusion

5

Consulted and informed.

The project is designed and run by adults but students are consulted. They have a full understanding of the process and their opinions are taken seriously.

- **Students complete the 'hotspots' activity** – identifying where respect is shown the most and least to address areas of concern
- **Students are informed about RR** – and are often asked to provide feedback, or support RR related activities

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Ideas for getting involved in Respectful Relationships (RR) at your school



Student Agency is having the power to direct and take responsibility.

- Deliver RRRR lessons to students in other year levels
- Provide feedback to your school regarding RR, inclusion, safety and wellbeing issues (eg. ATSS, RR student audit, hotspots activity)
- Deliver RRRR lessons or RR presentations at community forums and family events
- Take part in your school assembly
- Create student action teams with a focus on RR, inclusion, diversity, respect etc
- Plan an event to raise awareness eg. 16 Days of Activism or Week Without Violence

Student Leadership is helping others and to model leadership, school values and respectful relationships.

- Create buddy systems or peer mentor opportunities
- Facilitate inclusive activities for students at recess and lunchtime
- Read books with students in younger year levels that challenge gender stereotypes
- Join your school's RR team as a student representative
- Deliver positive bystander training for students
- Get involved with SWPBS and provide input on how students can be rewarded who demonstrate the school values
- Join your SRC, JSC, student leadership team or school council
- Develop an RR commitment statement or pledge

Student Voice is having the power to influence change.

- Invite guest speakers to assembly or events to engage students in RR
- Design art projects, design murals, write songs, make videos, perform etc to raise awareness
- Review curriculum content, school library catalogue and extracurricular activities to ensure diversity
- Run a poster competition for students to raise awareness
- Develop student vox pops for your school website and official school social media
- Present at a staff meeting, RR team meeting or school council meeting
- Write an article for your school newsletter

Student Empowerment is when student agency, leadership and voice come together.

- Create a student RR team using the student audit to develop a student-led action plan
- Plan and facilitate student-led events, conferences and awareness-raising days
- Get involved in your school's RR team from the beginning — participate in your school's RR induction, audit, action planning and team processes
- Consider how VicSRC's Teach the Teacher program or Congress can support your school
- Develop training for students to build capacity as leaders and change makers
- Develop resources to share with other students and schools about how they can empower students