



How to use this website: A brief guide

Three groups of voices are included on this website: students from Arabic-speaking backgrounds; parents of students from Arabic-speaking backgrounds; and the teachers of students from Arabic-speaking backgrounds. These extracts come from extended interviews conducted between 2003 and 2005. The groups are, within themselves, culturally diverse – the backgrounds of students and parents interviewed are rich and sometimes complex. Students and parents come from a variety of national, ethnic and religious groups, many are Iraqi Muslim and many Christian of Assyrian ethnicity, while some families are of Chaldean descent and others are Australian-born Lebanese. Consequently, the excerpts reflect a range of perspectives. They represent an attempt to gain insight into the challenges and advantages arising from culturally diverse environments. While this website draws primarily from interviews with Victorian students and teachers at levels 9 and 10, the questions, issues and challenges that arise are relevant to all teachers working in culturally diverse settings. Teachers can also explore a range of resources, including lesson plans and ideas, information about relevant curriculum, policy and theoretical perspectives.

You will see notice that this website has the following menu items, including:

- Context;
- Themes and Topics;
- Curriculum Links and Related Values;
- Resources; and
- My Collection.

Context

In the left-hand menu you will find links to the *Home Page*, *Context* and *Themes*. The *Context* section of this website provides a brief overview of cultural diversity and multiculturalism from theoretical and policy perspectives. Teachers are encouraged to explore the connections between this contextual discussion and the vignettes of students, teachers and parents featured throughout the Themes.

Themes and Topics

The content of this website is divided into a number of *Themes* related to thinking about cultural diversity. Each *Theme* includes: a number of *Questions for Reflection*; learning *Steps to take*; a number of *Topics* to focus and guide reflection; and related *Curriculum Links and Related Values* and *Resources*. Directions for working through these *Topics* is provided in the right-hand menu entitled: "*Explore this theme*".



Curriculum Links and Related Values

Where possible, an attempt has been made to link each *Topic* to two curriculum frameworks: the Nine Values for Australian Schooling and Victorian Essential Learning and Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

For example, go to any *Topic* and click on the *Curriculum Links and Related Values Resources*. Potentially related Values are highlighted on the table entitled: "Values of Australian Schooling Relevant to this Topic". Click on any Value to learn more about the Value.

VALUES FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLING MOST RELEVANT TO THIS TOPIC	
Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person's point of view	6. INTEGRITY
	7. RESPECT
	8. RESPONSIBILITY
	9. UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANCE AND INCLUSION

A full list of Values is also available for download beneath each table.

Resources

Each *Topic* also has a number of resources recommended by teachers and education researchers, such as websites, literature, audio-visual materials and actual classroom practice. Where possible, these resources have been grouped under headings related to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards framework.

Please note that these headings are suggestions only and you are encouraged to critically reflect on possible connections between the many voices and views expressed throughout this website and current curriculum frameworks, as well as your own classroom practice.

My Collection

You can collect and save most web pages - including resources on this site - as a Rich Text Format (RTF) file. Select one of the pages featuring the "Add to My Collection" icon at the bottom of the page, then look at "*My Collection*" to see the web pages and resources that you have added to your collection. Choose "Save Collection" to save your collection as a single Rich Text Format (RTF) file that is compatible with most Word Processing software.

We hope that you find this website to be thought-provoking and useful.