Better Buddies @ St Augustine’s

At St Augustine’s we want all children to feel safe and cared for, valued and respected. Our key prevention program is the Better Buddies framework which is a whole school initiative designed to create friendly and caring school communities where bullying is reduced. This framework also focuses strongly on activities and strategies that reinforce positive and social values such as caring for others, friendliness, valuing differences, respect, including others and responsibility through formal and informal activities.

The core features of the Better Buddies Framework

- Assists with transition into primary school
- Contributes to a friendly and caring school culture
- Involves parents
- Provides positive role models
- Develops empathy
- Develops positive cross age relationships
- Promotes inclusion
- Builds self confidence
- Provides opportunities to practise organisation
- Develops responsibility
- Teaches pro social values
- Provides opportunities for peer tutoring
- Develops social skills
- Discourages bullying

In Better Buddies, older children buddy up with younger children to learn the values: caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing differences, including others and responsibility through formal and informal activities. Explicitly teaching such values to students develop thinking, feeling and acting that can influence positive decision making especially in the way that they treat others. Better Buddies therefore, enables younger students to feel safe and cared for while older students feel valued and respected.

At St Augustine’s the Grade 5/6’s buddy up with the Prep/1’s and participate in a range of teacher directed but student lead activities designed to build on the core values and skills of the program.

Better Buddies is an Alanah and Madeline Foundation initiative