

10 Questions



about **school identity**
and culture:

**authentic Christian
community**

*A resource to enhance the religious
life of the school*

Ways you could use this resource*

Pigeon Hole strategy: Choose a question, print it off and place a copy in staff pigeon holes. A few days later use the question as a stimulus for discussion at a staff meeting.

Fishbowl strategy: Place a question each week over the term in staff pigeon holes. Allocate five minutes at each staff meeting/briefing to open the table for a discussion on the question of the week. For large staff groups give one question to five people. The following week at a staff meeting those five people participate in a Fish bowl** discussion. Each week five new staff members get another question and it will be their turn to participate. Over the term all ten questions should have been addressed enabling all staff to have a turn in the Fish bowl.

Our Reactions strategy: Choose a selection of questions. Organise staff members into teams. Each team brainstorms and records their reactions to an allocated question. Teams report back to the whole group.

Health Status strategy: Arrange the ten questions on the wall and ask staff to rate the health status of each on a scale from 1-10. Tally the results. Where are we going well at the moment? Which areas do we need to inject some work? Develop an action plan.

3:2:1 strategy: Select a question and ask staff to individually complete a 3:2:1 strategy. List:

- 3 points where it is happening in the school.
- 2 points where it is not happening
- 1 point where this question could realistically be developed in the school.

Sticky note strategy: Select some questions to print off and place on a wall. Ask staff to use a 'stickie' (Post-it note) to respond to the questions. On their stickie note state with a word or two what each question might sound like, feel like or look like in the school. Does a similar pattern of examples appear?

3 Dots strategy: Display each question on a wall. Each participant (eg, staff, parents, students) have one green dot sticker (doing very well), one yellow dot sticker (exists and needs some work) and a red dot sticker (do not do well). If need be participants could have a discussion about each question to clarify meaning. Everyone is asked to come up to the wall and place their dots where they think they belong. Reflect on the data/results shown and come up with plan to address the issue(s) revealed. Remember to celebrate the good things that are revealed too.

Top Ten Strategy:

Place staff into a team. They are asked to look at each question. Within their team, they are to come to a consensus in ordering the ten cards from 1 to 10 (number one being the 'best we do' through to 10 'no good at all/least'). One person from each team, will then enter the fish bowl, where they will discuss with other elected team representatives, how they will order the ten questions on behalf of all staff. Once the fish bowl activity is complete and an order established, other staff are asked to comment on the order presented (open discussion). Throughout the discussion, it would be good to be able to identify the people and resources who inject life into the areas classified as 'we do best' and celebrate them. For those areas that fall into concern, perhaps develop an action plan as a staff, select groups to work on specific areas or incorporate someone into school renewal development.

*Principals are encouraged to use this resource at P&F meetings, College Board meetings or as part of school surveys and cyclic renewal.

**A fishbowl is traditionally a classroom discussion group divided into two parts: the "inner circle" or fishbowl, consisting of a team of people who discuss a topic, and the "outer group," consisting of a group of people who observe. This strategy is effective in facilitating discussion. The facilitator assigns an "inner circle" team to the fishbowl to discuss a specific topic, answer a question or solve a problem. The remaining students observe and comment on both the process and content of the discussion. At a designated point, the facilitator then selects a new group and new topic for the fishbowl.



1

How welcoming is
our staffroom
(really)?



2

How healthy is
staff prayer in
our school?



3

How well do our students practise social courtesies that promote a spirit of Christian hospitality?



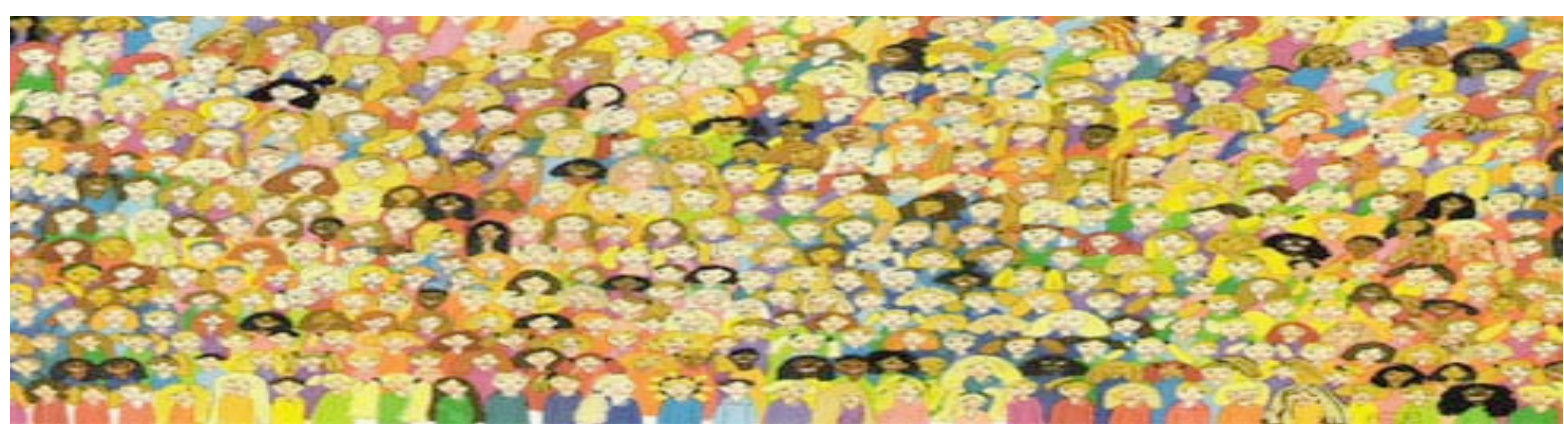
4

How are
relationships
between the local
parish and school
enriched?



5

What resources exist in our school to ensure new families/visitors are oriented and welcomed?



6

How is respect,
dignity and
diversity
encouraged and
supported?



7

Are we building a culture of care and concern for our staff (who looks after me)?



8

What connections
could be made with
the wider Christian
community
(e.g. other
denominations)?



9

As a Christian community how do we celebrate the everyday moments (special announcements, birthdays etc.)



10

How often in the year do we find time for our colleagues and be present to them?

