

LEONTEIOS SCHOOL OF ATHENS

PROGRAMME STAND BY YOU

Abstract

Stand By You (S.B.Y.) is an innovative programme of Leonteios School of Athens, which has been running for approximately 17 years. It is firmly rooted in Marist Pedagogy and, especially, on the principle of presence.

S.B.Y. seeks to develop pedagogical means and methods in order to better support students with idiosyncratic social behaviour in and out of class, 'difficult' or estranged students who often cause friction and upset the smooth functioning of a class or the school in general, but who can also cause problems for themselves and their families. This is an innovative intervention with either immediate or more longer-term goals.

The S.B.Y. group consists of the head of the school, the student supervisors, the school's psychologists and the group coordinator. They intervene on four levels: observation, processing of information, planning and action. This way of work promotes the airing of various opinions, the group-seeking of solutions, the attempt to put forth and discuss alternative explanations, the action that helps solve educational problems.

The group uses basic approaches to problematic behavior, such as the positive and unwavering attitude of the educator towards the student, the showing of understanding and empathy without severe criticism in order for the two of them to find a mutually acceptable solution.

The group's work greatly benefits both students and educators. Concerning students, S.B.Y. aspires to help them reflect on their behaviour, accept responsibility for their actions and reshape their self-image. As for educators, S.B.Y. helps them broaden their experience, positively develop through action, handle difficult problems, ameliorate the education process and become better at their job.

S.B.Y. works on prevention, tactfully and quietly, with humility and complete discretion, changing communication and atmosphere in the school for the better. We consider it to be a modern way for better pedagogy in the school environment.