

Section 3: Project Information

Please note that the term 'project' will be used to describe the contribution each applicant has made to achieving an outcome or outcomes stated in their school plan.

PROJECT TITLE:

The Learning Journey

OUTCOMES IN SCHOOL PLAN:

Please list the relevant outcome(s) in your school plan (max 250 words)

Strategic Direction 2: Fostering quality teaching and leading

To develop a culture of collaborative professional learning that is valued and builds the capability of all staff to improve student learning outcomes. To provide opportunities for teachers to demonstrate curriculum innovation, quality teaching and leadership capability that inspires learning.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Summary must include a short description of the project followed by evidence of its success (max 400 words).

School did not have a positive image in the community; Students from our feeder schools chose to take a secondary placement not at their local high school.

Our growth and improvement strategy have been built around:

Innovative Management Structure

The current structure in secondary schools is around a model of schooling that worked forty years ago;

School's innovative structure focuses on the student and how the staff can support, engage and motivate students to be successful in their learning and prepare them for the part they will play in contributing to our community. **School's** management structure has developed and evolved over time, driving an explicit and detailed local school improvement agenda. The school improvement agenda has been effective in focusing the whole school's attention on core learning priorities. The innovative management structure has been established with a strong improvement agenda. Managers have clear portfolios they are accountable for (Curriculum, Operations, Business, Student Wellbeing, Leadership & Learning, Strategic Planning); they are committed to explicit strategies to improve learning outcomes.

Learning Model stage 4 & 5

Our learning model has two features: the 4MAT pedagogical model and our Stage-based structure. The 4MAT model is an instructional design tool that provides teachers with a systematic way to examine instructional programs to develop skills to think and learn; it provides teachers with a common language discuss teaching & learning. The Stage 4 curriculum includes a strong focus on the development of cross-curricular skills including Literacy (encompassing English, history and geography); Numeracy (encompassing mathematics and science); information and communication technology capability; and critical & creative thinking.

The Stage 5 Learning Model was constructed organically by the staff at **School**. The Stage 5 Model was designed to build upon the success of our Middle School structures. The staff collaboratively created a more stimulating learning environment to engage our combined Years 9 & 10 students through a cyclic and streamed approach to the delivery of the Stage 5, built around the Australian National Curriculum. The Stage 6 Learning Model has evolved as the needs of the students in the senior years have changed. We currently offer two streams, Academic and Transition, which connect with stakeholders in the wider community to engage students in their post-school pathway options.

Our Strategic Directions encompass our current initiatives and the school is committed to future directions being sustained and embedded into the growth and improvement of the school.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Description must include evidence of how the project has contributed to achieving outcome(s) stated in the school plan (max 400 words).

The school is recognised as a major developer of innovative intellectual, organisational, professional and leadership capital. Increased school-wide culture of collaborative professional learning affecting improved student learning outcomes. Increased consistency of teacher judgement of student work samples to external data sources.

There has been a marked increase in enrolments in recent years that is evidence of a range of strategies taking effect. It is difficult to discriminate between these strategies, which include: the school became more discerning about the candidature of out of area applications formation of Community of Schools, creating strong ties and academic competitions with feeder primary schools introduction of Middle Schooling improved academic results re-branding and promotion of successes with a continual upward trend; which, with most recent enrolment data now at 621 student (1/3/17), has increased even further. Our improvement in NAPLAN data 15% of students are in the top two bands for reading and Numeracy in Year 7 as compared to 11% of students in similar schools. Our student attendance 93.9% is significantly higher than the DoE state average 89.7%. The DoE Tell them from me Survey (TTFM) also support the increased student motivation and engagement in their learning.

Our school was one of only three DoE schools from 30 invited to participate in the AIS ELEVATE program which is designed to lead schools through the process of "disciplined innovation" to better meet the needs of high potential learners.

In 2016 the Middle School was presented the Exemplary Transition Program award by the Adolescent Success Association of Australia. Requests from a large number NSW and interstate schools to visit, explore and investigate innovation in our management and curriculum structure.

Our school has been through a process of self-reflection, data analysis, learning and unlearning over the last seven years. With the structural management changes that have taken place over the last five years it can clearly be seen that Senior Executive have been successfully managing complex change. The structures, policies and procedures that have been put in place show a clear line of succession and sustainability, these are reviewed on an annual basis by the Senior Executive. The school has been recognised as a leader in educational innovation; the school and staff have also presented at local, state and international conferences and won numerous awards.

UPLOAD SUPPORTING MATERIAL

This optional step allows you to upload material supporting the success of your project. A maximum of 4 pages will be considered by the selection panel.

Support material contained additional documentation with evidence of achievement - within 4 page limit