

External School Review

Plympton Primary School

Across our education system, we seek growth for every student, in every class, and in every school. The external school review value-adds and supports schools to raise student achievement and sustain high performance by providing an expert external perspective on school performance by verifying or challenging:

- a school's improvement planning and processes and its impact on student learning
- the impact of previous external school directions
- the rigour of a school's improvement practices
- the school's capacity to achieve or sustain learning improvement over time.

The external school review lines of inquiry focus on:

- quality school improvement planning
- expert teaching
- quality leadership
- conditions for optimal learning.

The overarching question in every external school review is: How well does the school improve achievement, growth, challenge, engagement, and equity?

Reported impact of directions from the previous External School Review in October 2020.

Staff at Plympton Primary School are strengthening their understanding of school improvement plan actions and their implications for learning design and self-review. The engagement of teachers in the improvement plan is growing and performance development plans are aligned with improvement decisions.

Progress towards the 2020 external school review directions has been underpinned by teachers' capability to design learning experiences supported by formative assessment and feedback loop processes. All staff have a commitment to implementing improved teaching and learning directly linked to their year level. Development of whole school teaching and learning agreements will promote consistency of practice and support implementation of a consistent method of pedagogy from reception to year six.

An evidence-based, explicit direct instruction literacy approach has been implemented to improve consistency of teaching and learning in junior primary classes. Teaching of this approach with fidelity is evident from reception to year two. A trend of improving year one phonics screening data indicates that the pedagogy aligned with the implementation of this explicit direct instruction pedagogy, is having a positive impact.

Students understand the concept of learning intentions, success criteria and learning goals. These aspects of high impact teaching strategies are clear throughout the school. The use of bump it up walls is evident in classrooms, however, there was limited evidence of students having authentic influence in their learning.

High emphasis is placed on student wellbeing and a positive staff culture is clear. Students are immersed in the school values at a developmentally appropriate level and these support a positive, engaging culture, in all aspects of school life.

Governing Council members, parents and staff are positive about the direction of the school and the principal is quickly developing a high level of relational trust with staff, Governing Council and parents.

Outcomes from the External School Review held in October 2023.

The principal will work with the education director to implement the following directions:

- Direction 1** Review and refine the school improvement plan to strengthen staff ownership of the whole school improvement agenda and promote a sharp focus on pedagogy consistency and growth in targeted areas.
- Direction 2** Strengthen consistency of teacher practice, through development of whole school literacy and numeracy agreements, to promote low variability in teaching practice and ensure students have access to a guaranteed curriculum entitlement.
- Direction 3** Strengthen and expand the understanding of high expectations in all aspects of the school to ensure they are implemented consistently in all classes and clearly communicated with students and their parents.

These directions are published on the school improvement plan and will support the school's ongoing improvement work. **Based on the school's current performance, Plympton Primary School will be externally reviewed again in 2026.**



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