

# External School Review – Williamstown 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 November 2019.

There are several whole school programs including Jolly Phonics, Brightpath and seven steps in writing that have been implemented since the last external review. A maths agreement has been developed and learning intentions and success criteria are being used to support student understanding of what they are learning and how they will know they have been successful. The school is currently supporting this work by strengthening a common understanding of effective pedagogy particularly in mathematics and writing. Staff are committed to improving as is the principal who is in the first year of their tenure.

Staff have had a focus of student influence in learning it was reported that there are pockets of good practice but there are opportunities to strengthen this work and provide greater consistency across the school. This was verified during the review. The staff regularly moderate student writing samples using the Brightpath assessment tool. Staff are also implementing learning intentions and success criteria to support student learning and some primary classes use rubrics to support students to know how to improve their work.

Strengthening partnerships with families has been a focus since the last review. There are many processes and practices in place to facilitate sharing of information. Staff communicate through class newsletters and electronic platforms to share events. There are opportunities to further develop this work with an emphasis on learning.

## Outcomes from the External School Review held in May 2023.

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

- Direction 1**      **Deepen staff and student understanding of learning intentions and success criteria to strengthen authentic student agency in their learning**
- Direction 2**      **Further develop formal and informal structures and processes to provide effective feedback that results in adjustments to practice and that accelerates learning for all students**
- Direction 3**      **Build cohesion and consistency of quality practice across the school R-6**

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, Williamstown Primary School will be externally reviewed again in 2026.**



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