

# External School Review

## Mount Barker 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 March 2019.

Staff have worked in partnership with school leaders to develop a common understanding of school improvement plan actions and their implications for learning design and self-review. Teachers reported that they are genuinely engaged in the school improvement and review process and that aspects of the improvement plan are a regular focus of staff meetings. School services officers' understanding of their role in the school improvement plan is growing and this has been supported by targeted professional development.

Learning data is reviewed by staff, in an ongoing cycle, to keep track of student, cohort and whole school progress. School leaders have a clear line of sight on learning and wellbeing data and implement well planned responses to students at risk.

Professional development is planned in response to whole school data sets and aligned to school improvement actions. An outcome of this is the implementation of evidence-based literacy programs following analysis of student achievement data. Consistent teaching of these programs is evident in all classrooms while numeracy coaches, maths impact cycles and learning sprints in writing continue to build teacher capability and drive progress towards improvement goals.

Designated literacy and numeracy hours are a whole school agreement. The scheduling of these lessons is strategically planned to enable skilled school services officers to be matched with learning groups to support effective implementation of targeted learning interventions.

There is high emphasis placed on providing for the diverse range of student wellbeing needs. Several initiatives are in place to support students at the level they require. This is acknowledged by staff, students and parents and is evident in the positive school environment observed throughout the external review.

Governing council members, parents and staff are confident about the direction of the school. All said the school is now settled following completion of the facilities upgrade. Positive working relationships between students, teachers, school services officers and the leadership team are evident.

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

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

- Direction 1** Strengthen student achievement through the consistent implementation of learning intentions, success criteria and learning goals to enable authentic opportunities for students to have agency in their learning.
- Direction 2** Strengthen and expand the understanding of high expectations for learning to ensure they are implemented consistently and are clearly communicated with students and their parents.
- Direction 3** Strengthen student agency by amplifying the existing learning dispositions understanding to develop a consistent whole school model that engages students in developmentally appropriate self-determined learning.

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



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