

External School Review – Marion 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 2019.

Staff at Marion Primary School are developing common understandings of the site improvement plan actions and their implications for learning design and self-review, through several measures. The site improvement plan is now uploaded to a common share point which all staff can access easily. Review of the site improvement plan in a regular and timely manner is being done through staff using the traffic light process to highlight agreed actions in different colours. This makes clear which actions have not yet commenced or are in progress. Staff are now collaboratively involved in end of cycle Step 5 review process of the plan determining whether site goals have been achieved and the setting of new goals for the following year.

Teachers are starting to build their capability in using evidence based differentiated practices that provide stretch and challenge. They are working collaboratively with other schools in the partnership in professional learning that focusses on challenge and stretch. All staff were involved in the learning design and moderation project with the local partnership and some staff are in the early stages of engaging with the department's new units of work, with a focus on assessment for stretch. Reception staff have participated in an early year's project with a focus on seeing the whole child as a learner, in relation to stretch and challenge for their students.

The school is ensuring the continuity of learning for all students and consistency of planning, teaching and learning, through using a whole school approach. There is a greater emphasis on collaborative planning in like composite year level teams and staff are using yearly overviews using an annual planner framework. Timetabled planning days are resourced to ensure that staff can plan alongside each other and in teams, providing opportunities for purposeful dialogue and sharing of planning ideas.

The school is working on using evidence-based feedback and assessments to provide staff and students with data to inform next steps in learning, including opportunities for further stretch and challenge.

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** Build and strengthen staff efficacy and common understandings in applying multiple data sets, to intentionally plan lessons that differentiate learning, ensuring challenge and stretch for all learners.
- Direction 2** Build and strengthen teacher capability in high quality teaching practice, through the creation of agreed structures and processes, that embed regular opportunities for observation and feedback.
- Direction 3** Strengthen and foster a culture of high expectations for all learners through regular and structured dialogue of evidence-based practices, ensuring consistency of high-quality teaching and learning (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, Marion Primary School will be externally reviewed again in 2026.**



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