

External School Review

Pooraka 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 September 2020.

In 2022, all staff were involved in reviewing the implementation of the school improvement plan and developing the revised challenge of practice and actions resulting in greater staff ownership of the plan. The school has focused on differentiation, direct explicit instruction and the use of learning intentions and success criteria to enable the implementation of effective pedagogical practices, particularly in reading. Teachers are regularly monitoring the impact of their teaching. They collaboratively analyse a range of assessments and have put faces on the data to track and monitor higher achieving students.

Staff have reviewed, refined, and implemented a phonics and word knowledge statement of practice aligned to the Science of Reading. Teachers have participated in professional learning on the Science of Reading and related assessments to support the implementation of this statement. Teachers use learning intentions and success criteria to enable students to monitor their learning and know when they are successful. Whilst most students were able to discuss how they use learning intentions to improve their learning they were unable to articulate how they use success criteria. Students also have individual reading goals to support stretch and challenge in learning. The use of goals could be strengthened through further developing a consistent language and practices for setting, monitoring and reviewing goals across the school.

The school has utilised a literacy coach to mentor teachers and support the development of student agency. Teachers are using phonics, sight word and fluency assessments to assess student learning and create individual reading goals. Students can be involved in a range of action teams including assembly leaders, as well as groups for gardening, social skills and the health hustle supporting the development of student voice. There is the opportunity to strengthen this work and further develop student agency to ensure students become more active participants in their learning.

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 and consolidate the use of learning intentions and success criteria in all curriculum areas to ensure students can articulate how they use them to monitor and self-assess their learning.**
- Direction 2** **Widen professional learning and implement effective structures that support the development of a common language for learning to further develop student agency and the use of metalanguage.**
- Direction 3** **Redevelop the school vision and values with all stakeholders so they align with and embed, the wellbeing model and framework.**

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



Debbie Grzczkowski
Acting Director
Review, Improvement and Accountability



Julia Oakley
Executive Director
System Performance

