

# School Review Report

## 2022 cycle

### Wallan Primary School

North East Victoria

Validation Day: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Fieldwork Day/s: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Final Panel Day: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022

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# 1. Public section

1.1 School Context	
<b>Location and history</b>	Wallan Primary School was established in 1857 and is situated in the township of Wallan, approximately 50 kilometres north of Melbourne.
<b>School facilities</b>	Wallan Primary School has 28 classrooms with four classes located in relocatable buildings. The school has a DigiTech space, art room, wellbeing space, music tutor space, canteen, gym, learning tutor spaces, literacy support program spaces, conference and teacher resource rooms, English Additional Language Program (EAL) space and a dedicated library. At the time of the review a new gymnasium was under construction featuring a new competition-sized indoor basketball court, storage space, teacher office, classroom, outdoor half court and landscaped gardens.
<b>Enrolments</b>	Between 2017 and 2020, enrolments remained consistent with approximately 600 students each year. Enrolments have since trended upwards with 666 students at the August 2022 census.
<b>SFO and SFOE</b>	The Student Family Occupation Education (SFOE) was 0.51 in 2022.
<b>Staff profile</b>	Wallan Primary School has a Principal and an Assistant Principal who is mainly responsible for student wellbeing. The school has two Leading Teachers with a teaching and learning focus (Literacy and Numeracy), one Learning Specialist with a wellbeing focus, two Learning Specialists with a teaching and learning focus, 41 classroom/specialist teachers and 21 Education Support Officers on various time fractions.
<b>Curriculum</b>	The curriculum at Wallan Primary School has an emphasis on Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry based learning. The school provides an approved curriculum framework differentiated to meet student needs. Physical Education, Visual Art and DigiTech classes are offered across all the year levels.
<b>Additional information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wallan Primary School has implemented the Tutor Learning Initiative (TLI) throughout the school.</li> <li>• The school operates a Before and After School Program</li> <li>• Wallan Primary School has an English Additional Language Program</li> <li>• The school conducts a camping program</li> </ul>

## 1.2 School and Community Highlights

### Highlight 1

**Title: Progress with Numeracy**

**FISO2.0 Core Element:  
Teaching and Learning**

The panel were informed that Wallan Primary School (WPS) participated in the Primary Mathematics and Science Specialists (PMSS) initiative during 2019 and 2020. Maths was nominated as the area of focus for the school. The program provided high-quality face-to-face and online professional learning across the two years, including developing the learning specialists' knowledge about the key concepts and pedagogies in mathematics and leading whole school improvements.

The school identified the need for improvement in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Teachers analysed NAPLAN and school data, along with surveys from students that identified a lack of persistence in problem-solving.

Throughout the two-year PMSS initiative WPS:

- completed an audit and replenished maths equipment, including new storage
- privileged professional development sessions to enhance pedagogical skills and teacher knowledge of problem-solving and open-ended tasks
- completed an audit of the whole school assessment, developing and publishing an assessment schedule with consistent assessment and protocols
- created whole school curriculum planners and unit planners
- collaborated with teachers to plan evidence-based units of work that targeted student learning needs
- collaborated with classroom teachers through observation and feedback processes to increase engagement and positive dispositions
- introduced new resources, including Rich Tasks and Work samples and access to leading consultants in the area of Mathematics and implemented evidence-based programs.

The panel noted improved NAPLAN performance in Numeracy where Year 3 to 5 growth had improved from 12% of students above expected growth 2017 to 21% 2021 and Year 5 students in the top 4 bands NAPLAN Numeracy from 59% 2018 to 72% 2022.

### Highlight 2

**Title: Community Involvement and Communication**

**FISO2.0 Core Element:  
Engagement**

Community involvement and communication was found by the panel to be a strength during COVID-19 lockdowns. Communication protocols were introduced, which included allocated time for teachers to contact families. SMS and emails were used to communicate with families. The school had received positive feedback around communication from families and teachers, which supports the improvement shown in previous years. The introduction of more technology in 2022 has seen an increase in communication supporting the existing structure that was put in place.

The improved community connection was demonstrated with over 100 families responding to the parent survey with high levels of parent support for the school. The school received a 75% Positive Endorsement for school communication and 83% Positive Endorsement for School Connectedness. The strength of the survey response gave WPS valuable data to contribute to school improvement planning.

Wallan Primary demonstrated a commitment to participating in and organising community events that included:

- ANZAC day attendance at the Wallan RSL service and walk along the main road
- Student leaders and FAF (Family and Friends) led the Father's and Special Person's Day Stall and Mother's and Special Person's Day Stall

- Student Leaders run a fundraiser each term e.g. Selling bandanas to help raise funds for Canteen cancer, animal dress up day - raise funds for animals in need
- A transition connection with Wallan Secondary College VCAL - support reading in the classroom
- The whole school participated in a Colour Run
- The Festival of Fun (2022) - end-of-year concert and family picnic with food trucks
- Literary and Numeracy week activities
- Harmony Day – students dressing up in their cultural dress and placing a flag to represent their identity on the whole school display

The community connection was acknowledged by parents during the COVID-19 lockdown periods with regular personal connection by teachers to students and families.

### Highlight 3

**Title: Student Wellbeing**

**FISO2.0 Core Element:  
Engagement**

During the review the panel viewed a presentation on Wallan Primary School’s social program 2022 that aimed at *“providing extra support to students and teachers to assist in building the social, emotional and behavioural capacities of our students”*, with the slogan *“Doing what is right when no one is watching”*. The program contained a range of activities, programs and protocols that would also enhance student inclusion, resilience and wellbeing. One aspect of the program viewed by panel members was the team building program, a fortnightly timetabled session for all Grade 1 to 6 students. Year levels met as a team in one environment to participate in activities that promote team skills, relationship building and confidence. In student forums students demonstrated a high regard for the value of the program and the activities that promoted cooperation and peer to peer acknowledgment. The high level of student engagement was also observed in a session by panel members.

WPS had also been involved in Mitchell & Murrindindi Wellbeing Community of Practice (CoP). A network of wellbeing staff from various schools met twice a term to discuss predetermined wellbeing foci such as mental health, attendance, data, sharing school-based documents, shared professional learning and hosted guest speakers. Hosted by the network Senior Education Improvement Leader, the group share ideas, understandings and common language, and discuss matters such as the future needs of the group and student data. The leadership of the school considered the CoP provided excellent support for the network and WPS in catering for student and community wellbeing needs.

## 1.3 Summary of Key Review Findings

### Performance against the School Strategic Plan (SSP) goals and targets

#### SSP Goal 1:

The 2018 -2022 School Strategic Plan for Wallan Primary School set a goal to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for students. The Panel found that this goal was partially met following an analysis of evidence of achievement against each target, with two targets met, one target partially met, and one target not met.

#### SSP Goal 2:

The second goal was to further develop the school's positive climate for learning. The Panel found that this goal was partially met following an analysis of evidence of achievement against each target, with one target met and two targets partially met.

#### SSP Goal 3:

The third goal was to build greater community engagement in learning and the school. The Panel found that this goal was met following an analysis of evidence of achievement against each target, with the two targets both met.

### Findings against the Terms of Reference Focus Questions

#### Terms of Reference Focus Question 1:

##### **To what extent do the practices and processes at WPS School support consistent teaching and assessment of Literacy and Numeracy?**

WPS demonstrated the provision of comprehensive classroom programs offered across the school, however the use of the instructional model lacked consistency across the school. The school had documented approaches to the teaching of literacy and numeracy and a clear focus on staff professional growth in these areas.

#### Terms of Reference Focus Question 2:

##### **To what extent does the school have a consistent approach to Student Engagement and Wellbeing that will enhance student outcomes and promote inclusion?**

Overall Wallan Primary School has a clear wellbeing program and strategy for student engagement in place. The school has a positive climate for learning and good connections with the school community. Student engagement would be enhanced by a shared understanding of the tiered approach to student management and consistent engagement of higher achieving students.

#### Terms of Reference Focus Question 3:

##### **To what extent does the school provide opportunities for students to have ownership of their learning and awareness of their stages of development?**

WPS demonstrated the provision of student leadership opportunities with clear roles and responsibilities within the school community. The provision of ongoing reciprocal feedback between teachers and students and higher levels of student agency in the classroom would enhance student engagement and student awareness of their next stages of development.

## 1.4 Summary of Key Directions for the next School Strategic Plan

The School Review Panel recommends the following key directions for the next School Strategic Plan:

- Student growth in Literacy and Numeracy
- Student engagement in their learning
- Student resilience and wellbeing