

External School Review

East Marden 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.

In order to strengthen consultative processes to determine school priorities, a student free day was dedicated to analyse data and identify the school improvement priorities. Regular staff meeting time was allocated to identify strategies and actions to achieve the improvement goals. Professional development has been aligned to improvement priorities and time is provided to monitor progress. Committees in Numeracy and Literacy have been established to distribute leadership and drive the improvement work. In consultation with staff, agreed practices have been developed and documented. Learning walkthroughs are used to monitor practice in the improvement priorities and agreements. Lead teachers have been introduced and all staff work in professional learning communities to further develop practices. Feedback processes have been established to provide additional opportunities for consultation. Common understanding and agreements to strengthen the use of formative assessments and feedback to students that provide stretch and challenge have been established. This has resulted in reporting formats being developed that are inclusive of the diverse community and provide information about student progress. Curriculum overviews have been introduced to create greater consistency in curriculum delivery and scaffolds to support student learning have been implemented across the school. Strengthening staff capability to ensure students have authentic influence in their learning, including identifying learning goals and monitoring their own learning, is a continuing focus. Sharing practice in professional learning communities has helped develop staff capability to use data to set goals in reading and writing. Structures and processes that provide student leadership opportunities have been refined and strengthened. Students provide an in-depth summary of their learning in the report, which has strengthened their ability to articulate what they have achieved. A whole school approach to an inquiry cycle to develop effective learners has been implemented.

Outcomes from the External School Review held in October 2023.

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

- Direction 1** Strengthen and further develop practices across the school that provide effective and developmentally appropriate feedback that results in students knowing their next steps in learning R to 6.
- Direction 2** Further develop processes for leaders, peers, and students to provide explicit feedback to teachers that result in adjustments to practice and identify next steps for improvement.
- Direction 3** Strengthen and embed learner agency across the curriculum R to 6 that engages, motivates and empowers students to be leaders of their 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, East Marden Primary School will be externally reviewed again in 2026.**



Roy Page
Director
Review, Improvement and Accountability



Julia Oakley
Executive Director
System Performance

