

School Review Report

Newham Primary School

1913

North Western Victoria

Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Public section

1.1 School context	
Location and history	Newham Primary School is situated near Hanging Rock, seventy-eight kilometres north of Melbourne and eighty-four kilometres south of Bendigo. The school was established in 1877 with the current school building built in 2010 under the Rural Replacement Program.
School facilities	<p>The school grounds comprise an oval, soccer field, cricket nets, playground equipment, sand pit and special play areas developed and maintained by the Newham community. There is a Multipurpose Court as a shared community facility and 2 outside covered areas suitable for a range of activities. Features include the frog bog, Bio-diversity outdoor learning space, a forest glade and outdoor quiet chill space.</p> <p>The school has a modern building that houses the school's administration, library and classrooms. Two portables house resource centres and classrooms. The school has a dedicated music room.</p>
Enrolments	Enrolments at the time of the review were approximately 76 students. Over the past four years, enrolments decreased by 56 students.
SFO and SFOE	The Student Family Occupation Education (SFOE) index was 0.2 in 2021–22.
Staff profile	The staffing profile of Newham Primary School includes a principal and 4.6 full time equivalent teachers, 1.0 full time equivalent Education Support (ES) staff and 1 office administration staff.
Curriculum	Newham Primary School provides a comprehensive curriculum with an emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy. Other subjects include Integrated Studies, Music & Drama, French, Physical Education & Sport, Science with a Sustainability focus and Visual Art.
Additional information	The school provides an accredited Out of School Hours Care Program and instrumental music through an outside provider. Newham Primary School is a Resource Smart Sustainable school.

1.2 School and community highlights

Highlight 1

Title: Numeracy Development

The development of an effective instructional model for mathematics over the previous School Strategic Plan was found to be a key highlight of the school. Through the use of the data driven Professional Learning Community model the school instructional model has been progressively revised and refined to its current model based on reflective use of data to inform successes and opportunities for further research. Professional learning from current leading mathematics research to develop lines of inquiry into improving numeracy approaches was aligned with the introduction of the 12 foci for teacher judgement and the 6 Big Ideas from the Department of Education. The continual development and refinement of teaching practice was supported with relevant assessment practices and analysis through a range of assessment and student data programs.

The panel found through review observations that the school had developed a consistent and effective mathematics model.

Highlight 2

Title: Student wellbeing

Newham Primary School has reviewed and revised school values with the aim of a wholistic approach that brought the values and the school's wellbeing practices into alignment.

The school has taken an integrated and data driven approach to student wellbeing over the School Strategic Plan following the revision of the school values and alignment through the introduction of SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support). The commitment to SWPBS was evidenced in the continuous training and coaching from regional support staff and the SWPBS coach with the school achieving its Blue Level certificate in 2023. SWPBS has formed the platform and framework for further wellbeing initiatives including Kimochis - a play-based program that uses character prompts to help children express and understand their emotions, each character representing a different feeling, like happiness, sadness, or anger. Mindfulness and meditation routines designed to practice and improve mental wellbeing have been introduced and practised daily and RRRR (Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships) with an explicit teaching approach has been an overarching tool of support.

The wellbeing team created a unified approach to wellbeing. Student voice was considered, leading to increased challenging activities and positive experiences. Data-driven methods were used to identify student needs, resulting in targeted support through behaviour plans and restorative conversations. The school allocated resources for mental health employing extra staff and an Art therapist.

The panel found over the review in its observations and interviews and forums with teachers and students that Newham Primary School's approach to student wellbeing is a highlight of the school.

Highlight 3

Title: Sustainability

Newham School has maintained a consistent focus on sustainability within its science curriculum with the school recognised as a leading 5-star resource smart school. The school won the Junior Landcare award in 2021 and was runner-up in 2019.

Newham actively practices recycling, utilises solar power, promotes water conservation, and composts. To ensure the sustainability initiatives are effectively managed, the school employs a dedicated sustainability teacher who oversees the renewal of the school's resource smart stars.

Newham has implemented several sustainability-focused projects on school grounds. These include an edible indigenous garden, and a kitchen garden, where students grow and cook their own produce. The school has built a biodiversity outdoor classroom, which it plans to complement with a rejuvenated natural habitat and signage in both English and Wurundjeri, honouring the local indigenous culture. Students in

years 2-6 participate in specialist sustainability classes, while Foundation and year 1 students collaborate with senior buddies on sustainability projects in the school's buddy program.

Newham has established a sustainability team comprising students who regularly attend and present at the Kids Teaching Kids conference, encouraging their peers to adopt resource smart practices through reports at assembly and create informative videos for classroom use.

The school values community connections and has a long-standing partnership with Newham Landcare, who provide support for environmental projects such as the creation of a frog bog at the school. Newham engages with the wider community through a joint project with Landcare and Macedon Shire. An ongoing initiative is the annual clean-up/environmental day at Hanging Rock; the school maintains a strong connection through "River Detectives" being introduced in 2023 to continue to support environmental awareness and understanding among students.

The panel found evidence through the school website, its award and in student forums that in integrating sustainability into its curriculum and fostering community connections, Newham Primary School provides its students with hands-on appreciation for the environment and the importance of sustainable practices.

1.3 Summary of key review findings

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

SSP Goal 1	The 2019-2022 SSP for Newham Primary School set a goal to improve the learning growth of every student. The panel found that the school had partially met this goal, with two targets partially met and two targets not met.
SSP Goal 2	The second goal in the 2019-2022 SSP was to improve student voice, agency and leadership. The panel found that this goal was partially met with one target partially met and two targets not met.
SSP Goal 3	On the third goal to deepen and strengthen students' sense of engagement and wellbeing and strengthen community partnerships, the panel found that this goal was partially met with one target partially met and four targets not met.

Findings against the Terms of Reference Focus Questions

Terms of Reference Focus Question 1: To what extent does Newham Primary School use data to inform planning and practice, implement a consistent and faithful literacy instructional model and differentiate learning to meet students' individual needs and learning styles?

The panel concluded that a whole-school instructional model was in place and that progress was made in using evidence-based teaching and learning approaches, particularly through the Professional Learning Community (PLC) approach. They found there was a focus on explicit teaching within the instructional model particularly in both literacy and numeracy, but that opportunities for further consolidation of the instructional model for literacy existed.

Terms of Reference Focus Question 2: To what extent has Newham Primary School embedded practices for student wellbeing and engagement at their point of need, provide ownership of learning through voice and agency, and embedded adjustments in classroom practices?

The panel found that the school had developed extensive programs and supports for student wellbeing, adjusted and scaffolded to engage all students in their learning across a diverse range of needs. There was evidence found of strong student voice throughout the school, however further student agency in understanding and monitoring their learning progress and student goal setting would have additional impact on student ownership of their learning.

1.4 Summary of areas of focus for the next School Strategic Plan

The school review panel recommends the following areas of focus be captured in the next School Strategic Plan:

- Improving learning outcomes for all students in literacy and numeracy
- Student voice and agency
- Attendance
- Student wellbeing

