

Derrimut Heath Primary School School Strategic Plan : 2007-2010

Purpose and Values: At Derrimut Heath Primary School we believe that every child has the capacity to learn. We provide the best possible learning environment to support personalised learning and teaching strategies and approaches that ensure that individual student outcomes are achieved. Students are at the centre of all planning and decision-making processes. It is our aim to empower students to take ever increasing responsibility for their learning and provide them with the strategies to be effective lifelong learners. Derrimut Heath Primary School maintains a strong sense of community within and beyond the educational setting and will continue to be: *'Looking Forward, Staying Ahead'*.

	Student Learning Outcomes	Student Engagement and Wellbeing	Student Pathways and Transitions
Goals	<i>For all students to achieve their personal best in Numeracy and Literacy.</i>	<i>To improve, enhance and sustain student engagement, connectedness and well being at school.</i>	<i>Students will enter and transit through different stages and locations with confidence, support and a positive attitude.</i>
Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Year 2 students 'deemed as capable' will be reading Level 20 text with at least 90% accuracy by 2010. • 80% of students in Year 1 – 9 will progress at least one VELS level in Writing and Number within a two year period by 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student absenteeism will be at or below the state mean across all year levels by 2010. • Student 'classroom behaviour' as measured by the Staff Opinion Survey and Student Attitudes to School Survey to be at least 60% by 2010. • Students' attitudes to all aspects in the 'Teaching & Learning' section of the Student Attitudes to School Survey will be at or above 60% by 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will participate in a school-based transition program. • At least 80% of pre-school students enrolled at DHPS will participate in the Prep entry transition program. • 100% student satisfaction will be demonstrated in a school-based survey one month after transition to a new class.
Key Improvement Strategies	<p>To enhance learning, teaching and assessment practices across the school by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to provide opportunities for staff to engage in professional learning based on students' needs & outcomes and staff needs to support personalised student learning • Establishing a criteria to determine how students will be 'deemed as capable' of learning in accordance with DE&T guidelines. • Continuing to update the Numeracy Interview database and investigate a consistent system of recording and analysing student data over periods of time • Investigating and trialling the use of Assessment On Line for Middle Years assessment tasks • Reinforcing clarity and consistency in the measurement of student achievement re: VELS using criteria based benchmarks <p>To ensure student engagement and wellbeing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to reflect on the Attitudes to School Survey in consultation with students • Developing and trialling a simple measuring device to measure school connectedness in the Early Years • Maintaining programs that provide strategies for student welfare – Values, Friendly Kids, Feeling Is Thinking, Stop Think Do, Seasons • Continuing to review and monitor student attendance records, reinforcing clear expectations related to maximum student attendance and optimal student learning • Developing an action plan for transition points within and between Derrimut Heath and Tarneit campuses as well as entry and exit points to and from each campus • Ensuring that all new students receive a package of information and are assessed before entering their classroom 		

Environmental Context:

Derrimut Heath Primary School is located in Hoppers Crossing, a fast growing suburb of Werribee, west of Melbourne, near the Princes Highway. It opened in 1992 and has a current student population of around 600 although predictions would suggest 485 is perhaps where the Derrimut Heath campus may plateau in the future.

The demographics of the Derrimut Heath community are changing. There are more rental properties, an increase in the enrolment of ESL students and a growing number of our new students are exhibiting challenging behaviours. However, the most significant change has occurred in Prep enrolments. A number of these children beginning school have had neither kindergarten nor day care kindergarten experience. The result has been more impulsive and immature behaviours being exhibited which has impacted on classroom behaviours and learning. As a result successful intervention programs have been put in place.

The school has a staff of approximately 50, with the leadership team consisting of the principal, assistant principal and three leading teachers. There are 24 classrooms. A major change in 2006 has been the introduction of straight Grade 2 classes that operate within the multiage groupings of P / 1, Grade 3 / 4 and Grade 5 / 6. This came about as a result of a review which involved the school community and supports the commitment to delivering needs-based curriculum with a multiage focus. There is an extensive specialist program operating and the school demonstrates a strong commitment to ICT through its programs and facilities. It has piloted a number of ICT initiatives – Interactive Whiteboard Trial, I-Pod Pilot and Re@ct Film Workshops.

The school is very proud of its practical, functional buildings and well-maintained grounds and is currently in the process of upgrading the oval/fitness track through the 'Investing in Schools' grant. The recent completion of a building program has resulted in a building that houses four interactive classrooms that support shared, cooperative learning and teaching in the Middle Years.

Parent support and participation in the school is encouraged with parents trained as classroom helpers each year. Parents and members of the local community regularly attend weekly assemblies where awards are made to students, parents and staff.

Out of School Hours programs are another successful feature of the school.

During the term of the next Strategic Plan, a new school campus will be built nearby at Tarneit and will be under the Governance of this School Council. Members of the School Council and the Leadership Team have contributed to the design of the Tarneit campus in consultation with architects (John Brand) and also participated in a two day workshop in July, facilitated by a consultant (Sharon Butler) which focussed on short and long term planning for educational provision across both campuses. An outcome of the workshop was the identification of key issues that would be discussed and resolved through the strategic use of working parties consisting of a range of stakeholders. The initial working parties will focus on: Curriculum, Communication, Protocols and Uniform. It is anticipated that these working parties will meet at least twice in Term 4 of 2006 and continue to determine the educational provision across both campuses throughout 2007, in preparation for the new P – 9 Campus opening at Tarneit in 2008. It is also expected that the Tarneit campus will have an impact on enrolments at Derrimut Heath in the near future.

Signatures

SIGNED by the Principal

Name JULIE MASON
Date ... /... / 2006

SIGNED by the School Council President

Name ANGE DREVER
Date ... /... / 2006

SIGNED by the Regional Director (or nominee)

Name ROB BLACHFORD
Date .../.../.....