

Heany Park Primary School

School Strategic Plan



2006–2009

Part 1– School Profile

Purpose:

Our school's mission is to:

- create a safe, caring and supportive learning environment that is stimulating and challenging
- provide a high quality, balanced educational program for all students
- foster a culture of optimism, resilience and tolerance
- develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that support life-long learning

Values:

Integral to all aspects of our school's operations are the following values:

respect

- Developing a positive sense of self worth
- Treating others with consideration and regard
- Taking care of personal and communal property
- Caring for the environment

integrity

- Being truthful and fair to ourselves and others
- Maintaining professional confidentiality
- Taking personal responsibility for our actions
- Fostering loyalty and pride in our school

teamwork

- Recognising and valuing the opinions of others
- Contributing positively to achieve a common goal
- Ensuring inclusiveness of all
- Supporting and encouraging other team members
- Promoting effective communication at all levels

life long learning

- Reflecting on and taking responsibility for own learning
- Striving to achieve personal best through effort and persistence
- Developing an enquiring mind
- Fostering innovation and creativity
- Actively supporting the learning of others

Environmental Context:

Location, Population and Demographics

Heany Park Primary School is located in the outer South Eastern metropolitan suburbs, in the relatively new, high student population area of Rowville. The school opened in 1993 and the growth in residential development over the subsequent years resulted in student numbers increasing rapidly, with enrolments reaching 811 in 2002 and stabilising to around 760 students over the past two years. The school expects enrolments to remain stable at around 770 students over the implementation period of the new School Strategic Plan.

Initially, the number of junior grades exceeded the number of senior grades. Over the past three years, this has changed with the intake of Preps usually corresponding to the number of exiting Year 6 students. Students are generally grouped in straight classes, with four or five classes at each grade level. Change of residence is the main reason for fluctuations in enrolment during the year and this has the result of changing the composition of year level groups across the school.

Approximately 11.2% of students come from a non English speaking background, (NESB) and approximately 19% of students come from families that receive the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Heany Park's School Family Occupation Index (SFO) is 0.3321 and currently the school is placed in Like Schools Group 2, low NESB and low EMA, for comparison purposes.

Facilities and Grounds

Fifteen classrooms are housed within the school's three permanent brick buildings, as well as a LOTE classroom. The remaining seventeen classrooms are located in portables. Classrooms are well equipped and conducive to effective learning. All spaces are heated and most are air conditioned. The school also has a well equipped gymnasium, canteen facilities and allocated rooms for Art, Indonesian and Music. A 'Before and After School Care' program is provided and is well supported by the school community.

Construction of the new six classroom building was commenced in August 2002 and completed in 2003 and the official opening ceremony was held in May of 2004, as part of the school's tenth birthday celebrations. Plans are in place to install air conditioning in the new building, in the near future.

Extensive work has been undertaken to further develop and enhance the school's grounds. This includes the recent completion of paving and the establishment of a native garden at the front entrance of the school. The school has ample playing space for all students including two adventure playgrounds, two basketball courts, a school oval and access to the adjoining municipal oval. Plans are currently in place to replace shade sails and to resurface the school oval to address drainage problems during wet weather.

Staff and Educational Programs

Heany Park Primary School has an enthusiastic and professional staff, comprising 44.2 equivalent full time teaching staff. The age / experience profile of the staff has generally been steady over the life of the previous charter, with around 11% of teachers in the Leading Teacher range, 38% of teachers in the 'Expert' range, 22% in the 'Accomplished range and 16% Graduate Teachers. It is anticipated that this profile will change over the course of the school's new Strategic Plan to include around 22% Graduate Teachers in 2006 as a result of staff retirements from the Expert and Leading Teacher ranges.

The school provides a full list of specialist programs with at least one specialist teacher for each of the following programs, Music, Art, Physical Education, Library and Indonesian. Also provided is English as a Second Language (ESL), Reading Recovery and Religious Education. Chess and Instrumental Music lessons are offered during school time as optional electives and various interest group / clubs operate outside instruction times.

As part of the Government's 'Bridging the Digital Divide' initiative, the school has achieved a 1:5 ratio of students to computers. Two part-time Technical Support Personnel facilitate the update and maintenance of ICT equipment and practices. A global classroom web project, focusing on the newly developed Reptile Atrium, has been initiated as a result of the school's involvement in the Science In School Research Project.

2006 will see the introduction of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards, (VELS), and new assessment and reporting arrangements. Curriculum planning has already commenced to ensure that the school's documentation and program delivery will reflect the three key components of:

- i) Physical, personal and social learning
- ii) Discipline based learning
- iii) Interdisciplinary learning

In 2006 the school will align English and Mathematics assessment procedures in keeping with the VELS. Reporting in all subject areas against the VELS will be implemented in 2007.

An audit of current performance and development practice and culture will also be conducted next year, with the school seeking to gain accreditation in 2007.

Community Interest and Participation

Heany Park has a supportive School Council with six sub committees: Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Policy, Hire of Facilities, Information Computer Technology and Out of School Hours Care. An active PFA has also been maintained over the school's history. Generally the school parent body has high academic aspirations for their children and this is reflected in their response to school initiatives and the Parent Opinion Survey data. Parental involvement at Heany Park is considerable, both at the classroom level and in general. Parents help with classroom programs such as Reading, Computer, Mathematics and special activities. Sport, Physical Education and the Perceptual Motor Program are also well supported, as are excursions and camps.

Part 2 – Strategic Intent

Student Learning Outcomes

Goal:

- To improve student achievement in Literacy and Numeracy through a whole school approach, with specific emphasis at Levels 3 and 4 in Reading and Number.

Targets:

- Focused improvement in student achievement as measured by AIM for Years 3 & 5, with the matched cohort to show growth of 1.0 level, (VELS).
- To track the progress of Years 2 and 4 cohorts over the period 2006 to 2008, to generate improved results and ensure that:
 - i) 80% of students are achieving at or above the indicative level in Reading and Number by the end of Year 4.
 - ii) 78% of students in Reading and 82% of students in Number are achieving at or above the indicative level, by the end of Year 6.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Goals:

- To improve student wellbeing and engagement through a whole school approach, with specific Middle Years emphasis.
- To continue to provide a safe and caring learning environment.

Targets:

- The 'All Students Years 5 & 6', Connectedness To School variable, to be at least 70% 'agree' by 2008 as measured by the Student Attitude to School Survey.
- The 'All Students Years 5 & 6', Student Safety variable, to be at least 75% 'agree' by 2008 as measured by the Student Attitude to School Survey.

Student Pathways and Transitions

Goal:

- To promote our school to the local community to ensure:
 - i) all families receive high quality information on our educational opportunities and achievements.
 - ii) a supportive transition process for all students.

Targets:

- The proportion of parents reporting:
 - i) satisfaction with the pre-school to school transition and orientation program to be greater than 80% by 2008, as measured by the school's 'Prep Entry Parent Survey'.
 - ii) 'General Satisfaction' to have a Mean above 5.4 as measured by the Parent Opinion Survey.

Key Improvement Strategies:

- To prioritise a whole school Learning and Teaching approach to English and Mathematics in keeping with the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.
- To identify and implement programs and practices that embed the teaching of social competencies in the curriculum.
- To review, refine and document transition practices across the school.

Part 3 – Signatures

SIGNED by the Principal

Name Barbara Crowe

Date/...../.....

SIGNED by the School Council President

Name Rob James

Date/...../.....

SIGNED by the Regional Director (or nominee)

Name Margaret Ockwell

Date/...../.....