

Ashcroft Public School Annual Report



2018



4344

Introduction

The Annual Report for **2018** is provided to the community of Ashcroft Public School as an account of the school's operations and achievements throughout the year.

It provides a detailed account of the progress the school has made to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students, as set out in the school plan. It outlines the findings from self–assessment that reflect the impact of key school strategies for improved learning and the benefit to all students from the expenditure of resources, including equity funding.

Kaliope Poppy Loueizi

Principal

School contact details

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Message from the Principal

It is with great pleasure I present the achievement of the Ashcroft Public School community for 2018. In 2018, the focus was developing the 'whole child', it is paramount that a student's wellbeing (social, emotional, physical, behavioural and creative development) is balanced against their academic learning goals and personal interests.

We successfully collaborated with the school community, students and staff to refine practices in PBL and reviewed our policies in student wellbeing. This resulted in significant improvements in student engagement and learning.

We aimed to increase parent involvement and participation. A shared commitment and a genuine partnership between school and home will enhance the learning opportunities for our students. As a community, we work together, to optimise the potential of each child as they grow to become lifelong learners.

Thank you to all staff, community partners and families for your combined efforts.

Warmest Regards,

Ms Kaliope Poppy Loueizi

School background

School vision statement

The Ashcroft Public School community is committed to supporting every student, through quality education in an enriched, supportive environment. We aim for all students to become successful learners, confident and creative thinkers and active and informed citizens. Communication and collaborative partnerships are valued and encouraged amongst the entire school community.

School context

Ashcroft Public School is a vibrant P–6 school located in Southwest Sydney in the Liverpool Principals Network. The school has an enrolment of 251 students, including 38 aboriginal students and a diverse population from 31 different language groups.

The school has seen an increase in students from a refugee background and supports these students and their families with considered support and positive teaching and learning interventions. The school is a part of the Early Action for Success program and teachers are committed to increasing and improving their capacity to deliver quality education driven by evidence based programs and practices with the collaborative support of the Instructional Leader and executive.

The school is also committed to providing positive and meaningful parent and community engagement opportunities with its diverse community, as well as rich extra—curricular opportunities for students that further support student learning and wellbeing. Ashcroft Public School hosts a Schools as Community Centre program that provides quality early intervention prevention support to families and young children. The school is committed to contributing to the 2168 Community of Schools and to fostering productive programs and initiatives with its partner high school.

Self-assessment and school achievement

Self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework

This section of the Annual Report outlines the findings from self–assessment using the School Excellence Framework, school achievements and the next steps to be pursued.

This year, our school undertook self–assessment using the School Excellence Framework. The framework supports public schools throughout NSW in the pursuit of excellence by providing a clear description of high quality practice across the three domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading.

Learning Elements

In 2018 in the domain of *Learning* school staff reviewed processes that identified and acknowledged student achievements. Strategies to strengthen parent collaboration, participation and reflection were strengthened and became an integral part of the school's planning processes. This involved a school wide collective responsibility for student learning and behaviour. Professional learning in assessment and curriculum focused on differentiation and catered for individual student needs. School systems focusing on student achievement and behaviour were refined and implemented consistently across the school. This resulted in an increase in positive behaviour, student engagement and teacher confidence. Respectful relationships enhanced the learning environment across the entire school community.

Teaching Elements

In 2018 in the domain of *Teaching* the process for Teacher Professional Development Plans were reinforced through a collaborative approach for all staff teaching and non–teaching. Through analysis of their own Professional Development Plan and utilising the Australian Professional Standards, teachers identified areas to build their capacity to improve student learning outcomes. A large number of beginning teachers attained proficient accreditation through a rigorous self–reflective process, collection of evidence and analysis of their practice to ensure quality teaching and learning occurs within their classroom. Professional learning focused on building teacher capacity to use effective research based strategies, with a focus on unpacking the National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions.

Leading Elements

In 2018 in the domain of *Leading*, the leadership team designed and implemented a school plan that delivers high expectation, continuous evaluative practices in order to facilitate change in school culture, pedagogy and student progress and achievement. Processes were established to create a professional learning community which is focused on developing evaluation and improvement strategies to build a strong culture within and beyond the school community. The school values and welcomes feedback from all stakeholders and uses the information to guide our practice in the where to next.

Our self–assessment process will assist the school to refine our school plan, leading to further improvements in the delivery of education to our students.

For more information about the School Excellence Framework:

https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/school-excellence-and-accountability/sef-evidence-guide

Strategic Direction 1

SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS. INFORMED CITIZENS

Purpose

To ensure all students are successful, committed learners. To create an environment where every child has differentiated opportunities to connect, succeed and thrive.

Overall summary of progress

- Teachers entered data against National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions
- Teachers reported an improvement in their ability to utilise data to inform practice
- · Implementation of stage based QTSS professional learning opportunities, collaborative planning and assessment
- · Refined PBL Practices, through professional learning in classroom behaviour systems
- Increased confidence and skills to create, monitor and implement personalised, positive behaviour plans that has an emphasis on proactive preventative strategies

Progress towards achieving improvement measures		
Improvement measures (to be achieved over 3 years)	Funds Expended (Resources)	Progress achieved this year
Increase the number of students achieving in the top 2 bands for reading in NAPLAN.	\$12,500	All staff participated in Professional Learning and demonstration lessons focusing on the delivery of guided reading and comprehension. Infants staff attended training in L3 and were supported by the schools Instructional Leader. Staff collaborated on a fortnightly basis in stage teams with a focus on assessing and planning. The school's MultiLit program further supported the development of reading skills.
Increase the number of students achieving in the top 2 bands for numeracy in NAPLAN.	\$7,000	The Building Numeracy Leadership team developed and delivered a series of professional learning experiences for staff inclusive of in class 'shoulder to shoulder' support. All staff were trained in delivering TEN strategies.
Increase proportion of students achieving expected growth in writing measured against the National Learning Literacy Progressions.	\$35,000	The schools 'Writing Interventionist' worked closely with individual teachers and teams to scaffold the writing process.
Ashcroft Wellbeing Framework, systems and structures, reflected in teacher programs and practice.	\$15,000	A review was conducted of current practices in PBL with a focus on positive preventative strategies. Behaviour data demonstrates a 40% improvement in playground behaviour and a 36% improvement in classroom behaviour. Improved systems have been implemented to monitor and support student wellbeing.

Next Steps

- · Continued refinement of Learning and Support structures to support all students
- SLSO engage in professional learning to further support students who are having difficulty in reading through the MiniLit program
- Design and implement a Wellbeing Framework for Ashcroft Public School continued refinement and strengthening of PBL systems and practices across the school community
- Strategic focus and professional learning on Creating Texts and Additive Strategies within the National Literacy

•	and Numeracy Learning Progression Ongoing support and additional training provided for all K–2 Staff to successfully implement L3	

Strategic Direction 2

QUALITY LEADERSHIP, QUALITY TEACHING

Purpose

To create a culture where all staff are inspired to engage in professional learning that supports quality teaching practices and leadership. The success of all students will be maximised through the delivery of contemporary, differentiated, evidence–based programs.

Overall summary of progress

- Executive focus on developing deeper understanding of Simon Breakspears's Agile Learning processes
- All staff participated in professional learning focusing on collective efficacy and Visible Learning with a focus on learning intentions and success criteria
- · Strengthened the PDP process to ensure continuous improvement and reflection

Progress towards achieving improvement measures			
Improvement measures (to be achieved over 3 years)	Funds Expended (Resources)	Progress achieved this year	
Differentiated learning programs are evident across the curriculum.	\$10,000	Executive staff attended a series of Professional Learning opportunities with Simon Breakspear focusing on developing strategies for all students to achieve expected outcomes. Staff were trained on how to implement SPRINT Cycles. Staff were individually assisted on how to make modification to curriculum ensuring all students received quality instruction.	
Data demonstrates a visible learning environment.	\$2,500	Walk through data demonstrates teaching staff are utilising the use of Success Criteria and Learning Intentions in lesson delivery for Numeracy and Literacy.	

Next Steps

- Designing processes and practices in order to implement a scope and sequence for the SPRINT cycle specific to Ashcroft Public School
- · Creating Visible Learning environments in all classroom and learning spaces
- Staff using Learning Intentions and Success Criteria in Literacy and Numeracy lessons
- Strengthening teacher capacity to collect, analyse and use data and student work samples in order to inform teaching and learning cycles

Strategic Direction 3

CONNECTED. ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Purpose

To enrich and sustain successful, collaborative relationships with students, staff and community which will promote a quality partnership where all members have a shared vision to create a positive learning culture.

Overall summary of progress

- Increase engagement in families accessing a variety of different programs and services through the Beehive (Schools as Community Centres)
- Increased parent participation across all events at Ashcroft Public School, which has enabled teachers to report back to parents on their child's achievements
- · Closer links have been established with our local and wider school community
- Parent workshops provided parents with an opportunity to extend their understanding and skills in supporting their children in Literacy and Numeracy
- Parents were engaged in the School Planning process. Through information sessions parents were able to provide suggestions and feedback impacting the creation of our three year plan
- Our Sistaspeak program was offered to Aboriginal Girls attending local schools in the 2168 area

Improvement measures (to be achieved over 3 years)	Funds Expended (Resources)	Progress achieved this year
Increased engagement for families accessing the Beehive School as Community Centre (SaCC).	\$2,000	In 2018 there was an increase in families accessing the Beehive Schools as Community Centre resources. There was increase in outside agency support for the families. The relationship between the Beehive and Ashcroft Public School's Preschool has strengthened through collaborative initiatives and events and transition programs.
Increased engagement and wider participation with the Aboriginal community.	\$10,000	Expanded Ashcroft Public School's Sistaspeak program to include Aboriginal Girls in years 3–6 across the 2168 community of schools, culminating in a showcase for families. Stage 3 Aboriginal students participated in Yarn Up. Expanded membership of the AECG Liverpool. The Women's Resources Centre, Aboriginal Women's Group collaborated with Liverpool Council to open the "Gathering Place". These resources will be utilised to upskill Aboriginal women in hospitality and share resources with the wider community in the 2168 area.
Increased participation and collaboration with the schools Aboriginal community.	\$5,000	Increased parent participation in NAIDOC activities at a school level and combined 2168 area celebrations. Increased parent participation in parent and teacher interviews, school events and cultural days.

Next Steps

- · Organise and coordinate combined schools NAIDOC for the 2168 area
- Increase the Beehive participation programs
- Strengthen the Aboriginal Pathways PLP's processes for students
- Increase input and consultation into school planning by parents through the Friends of Ashcroft group

Key Initiatives	Resources (annual)	Impact achieved this year
Aboriginal background loading	\$36,000	Consultation with Aboriginal Education Consultation Group (AECG), LST and families to best determine how to support Aboriginal students and learning.
		Developed Personalised Learning Pathways PLP's for all Aboriginal students in collaboration with families.
		Employment of an Aboriginal School Learning and Support Officer to support Aboriginal students.
		Continued and expanded SistaSpeak program to promote cultural identity and wellbeing.
		Participated in a Community of Schools NAIDOC week initiative.
English language proficiency	\$45,000	Employment of an EALD teacher 3 days per week and 2 days as a part of our equity funding.
Low level adjustment for disability	\$65,000	Employment of SLSO to work with students not meeting national averages across K–6 through the implementation of MultiLit and QuickSmart. SLSO's to support students within the classrooms.
Quality Teaching, Successful Students (QTSS)	\$50,000	Teachers were released for collaborative professional learning sessions with the Instructional Leader and Executive staff to participate in professional dialogue relating to assessment, data collection and analysis to ensure the building of teacher capacity in the National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progression.
Socio-economic background	\$150,000	Off class Assistant Principal to support students at risk in the playground and classroom and to assist in the management of complex cases with families and community agencies.
		Purchase of iPads to support and increase student engagement and improve learning outcomes.
		Support teachers through the Building Numeracy Leadership team for professional learning to deliver quality numeracy lessons.
Support for beginning teachers	\$26,000	Beginning teachers supported through accreditation processes. 6 teaching staff gained proficiency in accreditation during 2018. Beginning teachers supported by the Instructional Leader in literacy, numeracy and understanding the progressions.

Student information

Student enrolment profile

	Enrolments			
Students	2015	2016	2017	2018
Boys	152	153	144	133
Girls	122	120	138	119

Student attendance profile

School				
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
K	93.5	90.3	89.4	87.1
1	91	90.8	84.3	87.7
2	91	92	88.1	89.8
3	93.3	92.5	90.5	89.3
4	92.6	94.1	87.9	90.1
5	91.4	93.3	89.8	89.2
6	91.7	92.4	91	90.9
All Years	92.1	92.3	88.9	89.1
		State DoE		
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
K	94.4	94.4	94.4	93.8
1	93.8	93.9	93.8	93.4
2	94	94.1	94	93.5
3	94.1	94.2	94.1	93.6
4	94	93.9	93.9	93.4
5	94	93.9	93.8	93.2
6	93.5	93.4	93.3	92.5
All Years	94	94	93.9	93.4

Management of non-attendance

Ashcroft Public School is proactive in managing students of non–attendance. Together with the teaching staff, Home School Liaison Office (HSLO) and Deputy Principal, students are identified whose attendance is of concern. As our school policy states these students are closely monitored through a school program initially by the Deputy Principal and then through the HSLO. To review and monitor attendance we:

- Consistently communicate with parents by telephone, interview and letters
- Stringent adherence to HSLO procedures
- Meet with all stakeholders to discuss areas of concern and ways the school can support

Workforce information

Workforce composition

Position	FTE*
Principal(s)	1
Assistant Principal(s)	5
Classroom Teacher(s)	10.09
Teacher of Reading Recovery	0.42
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	1.4
Teacher Librarian	0.6
Teacher ESL	0.6
School Administration and Support Staff	3.77
Other Positions	1.2

^{*}Full Time Equivalent

Ashcroft Public School have 4 staff whom identify as Aboriginal.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Teacher qualifications

Qualifications	% of staff
Undergraduate degree or diploma	100
Postgraduate degree	0

Professional learning and teacher accreditation

The teaching staff at Ashcroft Public School participated in a number of professional learning activities to build the capacity of staff to achieve some key priorities as set out in our School Plan. As well, staff have been involved in professional learning programs that have built the capacity of early career teachers, current teachers and aspiring and current school leaders.

During 2018, Ashcroft Public School had 6 New Scheme Teachers accredited as proficient. We had one staff member complete their maintenance of accreditation at Proficient level.

Teachers have had access to a range of professional development learning opportunities both within the

school and externally. Some of these experiences included:

- · Building Numeracy Leadership
- L3 Training both Kindergarten and Stage 1
- · Berry Street Educational Model Training
- CPR and anaphylaxis
- Preschool Induction and network meetings
- Unpacking the National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions

Financial information

Financial summary

The information provided in the financial summary includes reporting from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

	2018 Actual (\$)
Opening Balance	554,621
Revenue	3,956,692
Appropriation	3,851,137
Sale of Goods and Services	18,046
Grants and Contributions	85,548
Gain and Loss	0
Other Revenue	100
Investment Income	1,861
Expenses	-4,085,955
Recurrent Expenses	-4,085,955
Employee Related	-3,505,427
Operating Expenses	-580,528
Capital Expenses	0
Employee Related	0
Operating Expenses	0
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-129,263
Balance Carried Forward	425,358

School funds were distributed equitably and ethically.

Financial summary equity funding

The equity funding data is the main component of the 'Appropriation' section of the financial summary above.

	2018 Actual (\$)
Base Total	1,905,841
Base Per Capita	56,319
Base Location	0
Other Base	1,849,522
Equity Total	880,486
Equity Aboriginal	36,171
Equity Socio economic	531,268
Equity Language	104,893
Equity Disability	208,154
Targeted Total	23,827
Other Total	933,237
Grand Total	3,743,392

Figures presented in this report may be subject to rounding so may not reconcile exactly with the bottom line totals, which are calculated without any rounding.

A full copy of the school's financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the parent and/or community groups. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance

NAPLAN

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

From 2018 to 2020 NAPLAN is moving from a paper test to an online test. Individual schools are migrating to the online test, with some schools attempting NAPLAN on paper and others online.

Results for both online and paper formats are reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. Any comparison of NAPLAN results – such as comparisons to previous NAPLAN results or to results for students who did the assessment in a different format – should take into consideration the different test formats and are discouraged during these transition years.

95.2% of Ashcroft Public School students in Year 5 compared to 68.3% of the state made average scaled growth in Grammar and Punctuation

92.9% of Ashcroft Public School students in Year 5 compared to 79.7% of the state made average scaled growth in Spelling

55.9% of Ashcroft Public School students in Year 5 made at or above expected growth in Spelling

95% of Ashcroft Public School students in Year 5 compared to 93.1% of the state made scaled average scaled growth in Numeracy

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing. Go to http://www.myschool.edu.au to access the school data. As schools transition to NAPLAN online, the band distribution of results is not directly comparable to band averages from previous years. While the 10 band distribution available to schools who completed NAPLAN online is a more accurate reflection of student performance, caution should be taken when considering results relative to what was formerly a six band distribution. As the full transition of NAPLAN online continues, the most appropriate way to communicate results for NAPLAN online is by scaled scores and scaled growth. This is the reporting format agreed by state and territory education ministers, and is reflected on the myschool website.

11.11% of Year 5 students at Ashcroft Public School are in the top 2 bands in Reading

10% of Year 3 students at Ashcroft Public School are in the top 2 bands in Reading

Parent/caregiver, student, teacher satisfaction

In 2018, a parent P&C group, the Friends of Ashcroft was strengthened with the aim to increase engagement from within the parent community. On average between 10 and 15 parents attended the meetings, twice per term. Consultative focus groups were established and engaged in reflecting on school practice. Parents had the opportunity to provide the school with feedback by completing a survey on School Operations and on the schools Behaviour systems. Survey results were anaylsed and data utilised to implement improvement measures for 2018.

Overall, parents:

- felt welcomed into the school environment
- were well informed of their child/ren's progress
- had opportunities to meet with their child/ren's teacher to discuss their learning and progress
- felt their children were a valued member of the classroom and the schools learning community

In 2018, Stage 3 students reported that:

- they were interested and motivated in their learning
- they understood the school rules Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner
- they felt teachers were responsive to their needs and encouraged independence

Staff used the School Excellence Framework to reflect on current practice and determine future direction. In addition to this all staff had the opportunity to provide feedback on Professional Learning.

Results include:

- 100% of teachers collaborated and worked together to plan learning opportunities for students and provide feedback to each other
- Teachers engaged in opportunities to give feedback and future direction on professional learning opportunities
- All teachers participated in meetings where their professional learning needs were addressed
- Increased participation in parent teacher interviews
- Significant increase in parent attendance across all school events

Policy requirements

Aboriginal education

In 2018, 38 students were enrolled who identified as being of Aboriginal descent. All students had Personalised Learning Pathways (PLPs) which were created in consultation with families, local AECG, and our Aboriginal staff member. These plans were monitored closely throughout the year to ensure students were successful in achieving their learning goals.

Female Aboriginal students in Stage 2 and 3, participated in our SistaSpeak program on a weekly basis which enabled them to participate in a series of activities focused on health, self–esteem and social development. This resulted in increased engagement and participation in classroom and non–classroom based activities.

All Aboriginal students, K–6, attended a combined schools NAIDOC event with a focus on celebrating cultural identity. NAIDOC week was also celebrated at Ashcroft Public School with activities and events related to increasing students understanding of Aboriginal culture.

The school has continued to maintain a strong commitment to supporting Aboriginal students and embedding Indigenous perspectives across the curriculum in 2018.

In 2018 the school strengthened links with the Women's Resource Centre Aboriginal Women's Group which combined with Liverpool councils Think Do Tank to create the "Gathering Place". The Gathering Place is a multi purpose trailer designed to up skill Aboriginal Women, promote Cultural Identity and provide Educational

Multicultural and anti-racism education

opportunities for the community.

At Ashcroft Public School we ensure effective Multicultural education is embedded in all teaching and learning programs from Preschool to Year 6. We celebrate our Multicultural population with many events including Multicultural Day, Harmony Day, Eid celebrations and the inclusion of Multicultural units of work. During our Positive Behaviour for Learning lessons, opportunities were utilised to educate students about racial bullying and discrimination. During Harmony Day lessons focused on diversity and unity. The activities specifically addressed anti discrimination and respect for all.

At Ashcroft Public School the role of the Anti–Racism Contact Officer (ARCO) in schools is to be the contact between students, staff, parents and community members who wish to make a complaint regarding racism. The ARCO role involves promoting the values of respect for all races and cultures and our school rules of being a respectful, safe learner help support these values. Students, teachers, parents and the community are doing a harmonious job of living together in peace and harmony.

Other school programs

Breakfast Club

Through the implementation of our Breakfast Club program which runs five mornings per week, students were able to access healthy breakfast options. Food was donated and sourced from the Food Bank as well as donations from community organisations. On average, 50–60 students per day accessed the school's Breakfast Club program.

Junction Works

The Junction Works program offered students opportunities to participate in quality extra—curricular activities after school. Activities included art and craft, cooking, social skill games and sport.

Creative Arts- Dance/Choir Performance Group

The Ashcroft Public School Senior and Junior Dance Groups and Choir group provided students across Stages 1– 3 the opportunity to refine and develop their dance, choir and stage skills. Students participated in regular rehearsals and performed at a range of school assemblies, and at the Western Liverpool Festival of Performing Arts. For the first time Ashcroft Public School's dance groups, were selected to perform at the In the Spotlight of Dance Festival. This festival showcases talent at a regional level.

The Stage 3 High School Transition Dance Group travelled regularly to Ashcroft High School where they were taught by the school's dance teacher in a modern dance studio. Students performed the dance they learnt at a range of school assemblies and became familiar with learning in a high school environment.

Clubs

All 3–6 students were involved in extra curricula activities, these clubs included gardening, cooking, jewellery making, photography, forensic science, visual arts and sport. The program focused on personal interest with an emphasis on wellbeing and creating positive relationships across the school community.

Apple Program – iPad Learning Experience (iLE)

This program utilised the use of iPads to extend the skills of both teachers and students. This involved professional learning by an Apple Learning Specialist (iTeacher). Face to face lessons were part of the program with stage 2/3 students. Students were able to explore application and creation of an app. This program included an upgrade of the school iPads and wi–fi system.

Aboriginal Community Dance

The Liverpool Women's Resource Centre facilitated an Aboriginal After–School Dance group which catered for Aboriginal children and families across the Liverpool area. Aboriginal students participated in weekly dance activities. Dance classes were delivered by Aboriginal dance teachers.

Public Speaking/ Debating

This program was introduced in 2018. The program was designed for primary students to gain confidence and skills in public speaking and debating. The students competed in their first debate against other schools in the Liverpool network.

Design Committee

This committee was formed to review and plan for school upgrades to both the physical indoor and outdoor environments. They worked closely with the Health and Safety and Curriculum Committees to ensure safe productive learning environments were achieved. As a result physical and technological upgrades were commenced at Ashcroft Public School to enhance learning outcomes.

Beehive Community Centre

Ashcroft Public School facilitates a community centre that encourages families to engage in early childhood parent groups including an Aboriginal and Arabic playgroup. The Beehive provides parents with opportunities to engage in educational activities and builds positive relationships with members of the greater community.

Ashcroft Public School Preschool

During 2018 our Preschool went through considerable upgrade and delivery changes. The preschool has moved towards a play based program which reflects the interests of the children and the Early Years Framework. The preschool updated and made significant changes to policies and procedures in line with the National Quality Standards. The preschool went through Assessment and Rating and was deemed as Meeting the Standards, which was an excellent

achievement.