

Strategic Improvement Plan 2021-2025

Illawarra Hospital School 5551



ILLAWARRA
HOSPITAL SCHOOL

School vision and context

School vision statement

Illawarra Hospital School is committed to providing a holistic education that is focused upon supporting the continuity of quality education for every student.

The school's inclusive, safe and supportive environment will enable students in exceptional circumstances to connect and engage in meaningful learning and promote student wellbeing.

We will foster authentic partnerships with students, parents, census schools and medical staff to ensure the health and education needs of every student is supported.

School context

Illawarra Hospital School is K-12 SSP located in the Child and Adolescent Ward of Wollongong. The school provides highly individualised and differentiated education, catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 12 who have been admitted to Wollongong Hospital. It provides a supportive and engaging environment enabling students to maintain their educational program. Students are either inpatients or outpatients of Wollongong Hospital. Our students are an extremely diverse group, coming from a range of cultural backgrounds and all sectors of schooling. While the school is situated in the Child and Adolescent Ward, it also caters for older students who may be admitted into other wards. The school staff work closely with the student's census school, parents and family members, medical staff, therapy teams and social workers on a daily basis to provide high quality care and individualised education.

Illawarra Hospital School has an Anxiety and Engagement Outreach Class located on a local primary school site in Fairy Meadow. The flexible learning space providing a shared and alternative education to support children who are showing signs of anxiety and are at risk of disengaging from their school setting. The students are identified by their school. The students are provided with a tailored program that implements strategies to help students overcome their anxieties associated with school and enables them to feel safe in a small and supported environment. The program aims to enhance the student's engagement in education and to partner with schools to build their capacity to manage students with anxious behaviours.

Based on our situational analysis we have identified a need for a strong emphasis on embedding quality, differentiated teaching practices across the curriculum and establishing innovative, high possibility classrooms. The wellbeing and engagement of our students remains a priority. We will revisit our understanding of effective wellbeing practices, reflecting on the needs of our increasing student mental health admission cohort. We will continue to implement and support our initiative supporting primary aged students with anxiety in Wollongong and North Wollongong networks. To ensure every teacher and every leader improves every year we will embed explicit systems that facilitates the sharing of professional knowledge and collaborative practice to sustain whole school improvement.

Strategic Direction 1: Student Growth and Attainment

Purpose

To ensure students connect, succeed and thrive in their learning through explicit, evidence-based teaching practices in an innovative learning environment. Our teachers will understand the learning needs of individual students, differentiate their teaching, evaluate their effectiveness and adapt their practice to optimise student outcomes.

Improvement measures

Improved reading outcomes

There is a whole school focus on demonstrating growth in reading to improve the achievement levels of all students.

Achieve by year: 2024

Contribute to the improvement of reading outcomes of students in the school.

Improved numeracy outcomes

There is a whole school focus on demonstrating growth in numeracy to improve the achievement levels of all students.

Achieve by year: 2024

Contribute to the improvement of numeracy outcomes of students in the school.

Initiatives

Effective Classroom Practice

Whole school approach to effective classroom practice through a focus on explicit, evidence-based teaching strategies that caters to diverse learning needs to ensure students are challenged and engaged in their learning.

Success criteria for this strategic direction

All teachers employ explicit, evidence-based teaching strategies in literacy and numeracy that have been adjusted to contribute to the improvement for all students.

Whole-school processes and practices to support teachers in improving their practice in their explicit teaching that cater for diverse learning needs.

Evaluation plan for this strategic direction

How can the school demonstrate that our focus on effective classroom practice is having a positive impact of the learning outcomes of students?

The school will use the following data sources to regularly analyse the effectiveness of the initiatives in achieving the purpose and improvement measures of the strategic direction.

- Student and parent/carer exit slips
- Lesson observations
- Staff surveys

The evaluation plan will involve a regular review of these data sources to determine whether we are on track to achieve annual milestones and improvement measures.

Strategic Direction 2: Engage and Thrive

Purpose

To build a positive and inclusive learning environment, in each educational setting, through whole school wellbeing processes and practices that support the wellbeing of all students so they can engage and thrive in their learning and wellbeing.

Improvement measures

Achieve by year: 2025

The Illawarra Hospital School wellbeing processes and practices support the wellbeing and learning needs of individual students.

Achieve by year: 2025

The evidence-based Anxiety and Engagement Outreach Program is published and shared across the system.

Attendance

There is a whole school focus on improving attendance to strengthen student sense of belonging, engagement and outcomes.

Achieve by year: 2027

Improve the attendance rate of students in the school.

Initiatives

Whole School Approach to Student Wellbeing

The school has a comprehensive and integrated strategy in place to support the cognitive, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of students in a context of quality teaching and learning.

Success criteria for this strategic direction

Student wellbeing processes and evidenced-based practices are embedded into the ongoing work of the school to enhance student wellbeing, attendance and learning.

The school has process and practices embeded to promote strong partnerships with all key stakeholders that focuses on supporting student wellbeing, attendance and learning.

Evaluation plan for this strategic direction

How can the school demonstrate that our whole school approach to student wellbeing is having a positive impact of the learning and wellbeing of students?

The school will use the following data sources to regularly analyse the effectiveness of the initiatives in achieving the purpose and improvement measures of the strategic direction.

- Student and parent/carer exit slips
- Lesson observations
- Staff surveys

The evaluation plan will involve a regular review of these data sources to determine whether we are on track to achieve annual milestones and improvement measures.