

Strategic Improvement Plan 2021-2024

Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre 5745



School vision and context

School vision statement

Centre Vision Statement

To provide world class experiential learning in an urban environment, that enriches curriculum and inspires future focused global citizens.

Environmental and Zoo Education Centre's (EZEC) Network Vision

Leading environmental education to empower learners for a sustainable future.

School context

Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre (OHEEC) is one of 25 Environmental and Zoo Education Centres (EZEC) operated by the NSW Department of Education (D0E).

These specialised schools make up a learning community that lead schools in the implementation of environmental and sustainability education through experiential learning opportunities in both built and natural environments. They also provide support and advice to teachers and school communities (including professional learning opportunities) to assist them to integrate environmental education objectives across *Key Learning Areas* and sustainably manage school grounds and resources.

The Centre is located adjacent to Sydney's CBD in the historic precinct of The Rocks. The Centre:

- Provides unique, authentic and engaging experiential learning opportunities focussed on the urban environment
- Works with a variety of local commercial, government and community partners to enrich these learning opportunities
- Is easily accessible via public transport resulting in a wide drawing area of client schools from across Sydney and regional NSW

OHEEC uses other inner urban sites, works in schools and presents at educational events. The Centre delivers environmental programs and professional learning opportunities to thousands of K-12 students and teachers per annum and caters for a range of learning needs. Teachers who book Centre programs are offered a variety of support including pre and post program resources and Risk Assessment advice.

Strategic Direction 1: Enhancing assessment for learning

Purpose

To effectively use a range of assessment practices to support effective teaching and planning, and whole school monitoring of student learning.

Improvement measures

Target year: 2024

Enhanced data collection methods for assessing student learning, across all stages, are developed and implemented for students participating in a Centre program.

Target year: 2024

Student learning data is regularly collected, analysed, reflected on and actioned to inform teaching practice.

Initiatives

- A pre and post program assessment process is implemented to effectively assess student learning
- Student learning data is regularly monitored, discussed as a staff/school, and used for planning teaching activities and whole school planning

Success criteria for this strategic direction

- Teaching and Learning programs across the school are dynamic, showing evidence of revisions based on feedback on teaching practices and consistent and reliable student assessment.
- Centre teachers are skilled in implementing assessment practices.
- Centre teachers have a thorough understanding of their, and the program's effectiveness, through regular assessment of student's environmental and/or specific subject knowledge.

Evaluation plan for this strategic direction

Most students are assessed pre and post program participation, and this data is monitored regularly by all staff, and the results actioned, when required.

- Student feedback
- Participating teacher feedback
- Team meetings
- Assessment data
- Student work samples

Strategic Direction 2: Developing innovative programs to support curriculum implementation

Purpose

To provide a variety of engaging experiential learning programs that support the Centre's visions of "Providing world class experiential learning in an urban environment, that enriches curriculum and inspires future focused global citizens".

Improvement measures

Target year: 2024

The Centre develops and delivers five special projects annually to support the Centre's vision and participating school demand.

Target year: 2024

The Centre has a comprehensive suite of sustainability focused, curriculum linked, incursion programs that support sustainability education, enrich curriculum implementation, are regularly monitored and are booked at least 4 days per week.

Initiatives

Special Project program

Special Projects are developed, in collaboration with a variety of partner organisations, and implemented to support the Centre's vision and school demand.

Incursion programs

A suite of incursion programs are developed, implemented, and booked by schools with positive evaluation results.

Success criteria for this strategic direction

All programs developed are fully booked by participating schools, with positive evaluation data from participating teachers and students.

Evaluation plan for this strategic direction

Programs are developed and booking patterns, and program evaluation data, are monitored to assess the effectiveness of individual programs.