

External School Review - Peterborough High School

Across our education system, we seek growth for every student, in every class, and in every school. The external school review value-adds and supports schools to raise student achievement and sustain high performance by providing an expert external perspective on school performance by verifying or challenging:

- a school's improvement planning and processes and its impact on student learning
- the impact of previous external school directions
- the rigour of a school's improvement practices
- the school's capacity to achieve or sustain learning improvement over time.

The external school review lines of inquiry focus on:

- quality school improvement planning
- expert teaching
- quality leadership
- conditions for optimal learning.

The overarching question in every external school review is: How well does the school improve achievement, growth, challenge, engagement, and equity?

Reported impact of directions from the previous External School Review in November 2018.

Due to ongoing changes in leadership and Principal positions and high staff turnover, there has been little traction and impact around the previous External School Review direction to develop whole school agreements and learner dispositions. A new Principal has been appointed in 2023. There has been the appointment of a quality teaching and learning leader, with a key focus being on building staff capability in learning design, where staff design learning tasks that have different entry points. Moderation processes commenced last year but staff turnover has hindered any real progress in this area. The school's second direction was to develop whole school agreements in literacy and numeracy. This was achieved in 2020 but these documents now require revision. Staff have established professional learning teams to collaboratively undertake this work, but this is in its infancy. Using SACE planning documents was an expectation, but this did not become embedded practice. The school's final direction was to develop agreements and documentation that give clarity about self-review and improvement processes. This direction was only recently addressed and the school is in the process of ensuring staff professional learning plans reflect actions in the site improvement plan. A student data wall was created last year to help create a line of sight from the student's data sets, back to the actual student. The school is strengthening its data review process and in term 4 2022 an annual data review day was held to review the progress of agreed site improvement plan actions. School support officers undertake professional learning alongside teachers, to help build their capability in the use of data to help inform next steps in learning. The school is utilising the local education team and support services to assist them with their improvement work.

Outcomes from the External School Review held in April 2023.

The principal will work with the education director to implement the following directions:

- Direction 1** **Build and strengthen staff capability in learning design and planning, providing differentiation and stretch for all learners.**
- Direction 2** **Build and strengthen leaders' instructional capability to lead the learning, resulting in high quality teacher practice and improved learning outcomes.**
- Direction 3** **Engage all stakeholders in building a culture of high expectations where students have active agency in their learning.**

These directions are published on the school improvement plan and will support the school's ongoing improvement work. **Based on the school's current performance, Peterborough High School will be externally reviewed again in 2024.**



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