

2022 Annual Report to the School Community

School Name: Preston West Primary School (3885)



- All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (www.vit.vic.edu.au).
- The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December of the previous calendar year from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

- This 2022 Annual Report to the School Community has been tabled and endorsed at a meeting of the school council and will be publicly shared with the school community

About Our School

School context

Preston West Primary School is located on Murray Road Preston, in the City of Darebin. While located in a residential area, the school is in close proximity to the Preston Market and High Street shopping precinct. The main school building is a double storey brick building that was built in 1915. A gymnasium, built in 2010, which also accommodates a music room and our Before and After School Care Service. The gymnasium has a surrounding landscaped garden and dry creek river bed. A double storey building, accommodating four classrooms was completed in 2013 and five new buildings were erected in 2016 for students in Grades 4-6. Two galleries were constructed in 2017/18 to establish the Grade 4 and Grade 5 learning communities. Preston West Primary School has a rich history of educational excellence. Serving the community for over 107 years, the school motto coined in 1915, 'Duty First', is just as important in today's setting.

Our school encourages students to strive for excellence in all their endeavours. Our core purpose is to provide an inclusive and rigorous learning environment that challenges and engages children to grow as passionate learners and citizens. The school seeks to develop motivated, creative and independent learners who demonstrate strong social values and whose leadership, resilience and self-esteem is evident when interacting with the community. The school values are LEARN (Leadership, Excellence, Acceptance, Respect and Never Give Up).

Preston West Primary is a high performing school, placing significant emphasis on academic outcomes. Our achievements are consistently significant above state benchmarks in all areas. We are extremely proud of our reputation for providing a comprehensive and challenging curriculum, academic excellence, valuable friendships and catering for each individual. Preston West Primary School is committed to improving the achievements of all students. This is achieved through the provision of a challenging academic program, based on the Victorian Curriculum whilst reflecting worldwide best practice for 21st century learners. Our purpose is to provide a safe, stimulating and supportive environment that develops all students to their full potential - academically, socially and personally. We instill in students a lifelong love of learning. Our strong academic focus is supported by a multitude of extra-curricular activities and programs that provide a well-rounded education. Programs offered include Physical Education, Visual Arts, Music, Italian, STEAM, English as an Additional Language, Tutoring and Intervention/Support.

Preston West Primary School is committed to embedding FISO 2, HITS and DET initiatives into our everyday teaching and learning. Embedding these models underpin our focus and determination to improve teacher practice and in turn provide vital and successful learning opportunities for all our students. Teaching staff are highly focused, with ongoing professional development, to implement best practice to achieve improved outcomes for our students through explicit Literacy and Numeracy teaching models, shared curriculum planning, coaching, Peer Observations, Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and SPA (Student Performance Analyser). Staff work collaboratively in their teams to document a challenging and differentiated curriculum.

Student enrolments overall have risen dramatically over the past decade, which accounts for the significant expansion of the school's facilities. However, we are now encountering a greater stabilisation of our student enrolments – 677 students in 2023. Our predicted enrolment for 2024 is 688 students. Currently the gender break down is 46% girls and 54% boys. The proportion of students with a Language Background Other Than English is 55%. The proportion of English as an Additional Language (EAL) students has risen from 113 students in 2016 to 189 in 2022. At risk students equates to 1.32% of our students, refugees 0.29%, 0.88 have a disability and 1.9% are non English speakers. Preston West Primary has an enrolment cap of 725 students. Based on the school's Student Family Occupation and Education Index (measure of social disadvantage of a school), the socio-economic status of the student cohort is in the low range.

Our school has 41.8 equivalent full time staff, 2 Principal Class and 15 Educational Support staff. The Management Team consists of the Principal, Assistant Principal, two Leading Teachers and three Learning Specialists (Student Agency, eLearning and STEAM). A Health and Wellbeing Coordinator has been appointed for 2023. The School

Improvement Leadership Team (SILT) comprises of members of the Management Team and year level coordinators. The Consultation Committee includes representation from each teaching team. The results generated from the Staff Opinion Survey 'School Climate' section since 2016, show Preston West Primary School staff above the state median for overall satisfaction e.g. 88.3% positive responses in 2022. Preston West Primary School is a strong advocate of the Child Safety Guidelines. Everyone working at our school is responsible for the care and protection of the children and reporting information as per Department of Education and Training guidelines.

Straight grades have operated across the school since 2014. In 2023 we have 30 grades (5 Preps, 5 Grade 1s and 4 grades at all other year levels). In 2023, the 30 classroom teachers are supported by nine specialist/support teachers. Our journey to ensure we are promoting the very best educational opportunities for all our students continues. Building on the rich history, we continue to work collaboratively with families, to create citizens that add great value to the Preston West community and beyond.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

The 2022 Teacher Assessment using the Victorian Curriculum, shows the school performing significantly above the state median. In 2022, 98.2% of students in English and 97.9% in Mathematics were at or above the age expected standards, which places Preston West Primary School above the median level of other schools after accounting for background characteristics known to make a difference to students' results.

Results for 2022 NAPLAN show our Year 3 and 5 students performing significantly above the state median in all areas. When compared with a similar range of Government Schools in 2022, given our student cohort, both the Year 3 and Year 5 students performed above the similar schools average in all NAPLAN assessments. When comparing students in the top three bands in NAPLAN our results exceed both the similar and state school averages e.g. Year 3 Reading at PWPS 96.6%, similar schools 89.6% and state 76.6% and Year 5 Reading at PWPS 87.9%, similar schools 85.4% and state 70.2%. The percentage of students in the top 3 band in NAPLAN Year 3 Numeracy were PWPS 94.0%, similar schools 81.8% and state 64% and Year 5 Numeracy at PWPS 84.9%, similar schools 74.3% and state 54.2%. The four year average results for students at Preston West Primary School in both Year 3 and Year 5 Reading and Numeracy, are above similar government schools. Due to the Pandemic the 2021 Grade 3 cohort did not undertake NAPLAN, therefore Relative Growth data was not available for Grade 5 in 2022. The NAPLAN Relative Growth in our 2021 Annual Report from Year 3 in 2019 to Year 5 in 2021 shows 86% of children achieving medium to high growth in Numeracy and between 87 - 89% in the four domains of English (Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar/Punctuation). When compared to similar government schools, students at Preston West PS out performed their peers in the NAPLAN high gain criteria in Numeracy, Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation.

The tutoring initiative targeted students in Grade 1-5 and focused on the areas of literacy and numeracy. The tutoring program initiative in 2023 will be a valuable resource to target students who did not make the expected growth in the 2022 school year.

The staff at Preston West Primary School have worked conscientiously in the first year of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and are embedding High Impact Teaching Strategies and the Practice Principles for achieving Excellence in Teaching and Learning. There have been structural/process changes over the past few years and resources have been aligned to assist in our key focus areas of embedding our pedagogical model, promoting best teaching practices across the school and achieving quality outcomes for all students. Our expectation is for all students to achieve quality results. Strong performance in student learning has been achieved by a clear focus on improving learning outcomes for all students. This has been achieved through promoting the Framework For Improving Student Outcomes 2, high expectations, authentic relationships, staff working collaboratively in teams to plan an engaging and challenging curriculum, PLC and quality data sets utilised to inform planning, regular professional learning, peer observation of

teacher practice and coaching. There is an annual presentation to staff on the school's instructional models in Mathematics, Reading, Writing and eLearning and new staff receive a comprehensive induction into the teaching and learning expectations at the school. The core business of the School Improvement Leadership Team is to drive whole school improvement and achieve our goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan. Our committed involvement in building practice excellence across the staff will continue as we prepare our students to be independent learners, competent in our technological world and curious for a lifetime. In 2023 our journey to provide a challenging curriculum will continue and we aim to further improve outcomes, curiosity, motivation, engagement and student agency.

Our journey of unpacking and increasing the staff's knowledge/utilisation of the vast array of Framework For Improving Student Outcomes (FISO 2) resources e.g. Literacy and Numeracy Strategies, Amplify, Health and Wellbeing Menu, Whole School Guide to Curriculum Planning will continue in 2023. After actively participating in the Department of Education and Training's PLC professional learning program in 2018, we will be implementing and embedding the PLC inquiry cycle this year. This will further enhance our knowledge and use of data and the Student Performance Analyser (SPA) has been implemented as a portal for student outcomes data storage across the school. In 2022, our key focuses in FISO 2 were the initiatives of Building Practice Excellence, Building Leadership Teams and commencing work on developing a Health and Wellbeing Framework. The Victorian Curriculum has been successfully implemented and the four capabilities are integrated across the eight learning areas. At Preston West Primary School we are well on track to achieve the ambitious targets of the Education State in relation to our students and our school.

Wellbeing

In 2022 we continued to provide a safe and inclusive environment. We continue to embed Huddle across the school (a school 'Respectful Responsible Learners' approach to further promote our student wellbeing, engagement and academic focus in their learning environment). Huddle includes the documentation of class agreements and the reinforcement of our school vision, motto and mission. Our school values: Leadership, Excellence, Acceptance, Respect and Never Give Up (LEARN) are embedded across all domains of Preston West Primary School. In 2021 a staff team completed the Respectful Relationships Professional Learning Program. Following whole staff professional development and the documentation of a scope and sequence, the Respectful Relationships program was implemented at Preston West Primary School at the commencement of Term 2 2022. Our Integrated Scope and Sequence (History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Health, Design & Technology, Economics & Business, Science and Digital Technologies) was reviewed in 2022. Student goal setting will be a key focus in 2023.

Embedding the Compass program and SeeSaw across the school has significantly promoted communications with our parent community. The Parent Opinion Survey was conducted in 2022 and generated a 82.4% positive endorsement in Parent Satisfaction, which was above the state primary school average. In 2022 we will continue to investigate and evaluate strategies to further improve home/school communications, which promote understanding of the school's approach to teaching and learning and further explore ways to engage and communicate with parents. The School Climate result of 88.3% on the 2022 Staff Opinion Survey placed Preston West Primary well above the state median of 73.4%.

In 2023 and 2024 the school will receive additional funding from the Department of Education and Training under the Health and Wellbeing initiative. A Health and Wellbeing Coordinator has been appointed and in 2023 will commence work in the wellbeing area of our new strategic plan, promoting staff knowledge of the vast array of new department resources and lead small group social skills groups.

Engagement

At Preston West Primary School the average number of student absence days in 2022 was 19.3 (a significant increase from 10.1 in 2021), which is more positive than the state average of 23.3 and slightly lower than similar government schools at 19.6 days. The average attendance rate across Preston West Primary School in 2022 was 90.1%. Since

2019 the average number of annual days absent per student was 13.4 days, which was more positive than the state median (17.0 days) and slightly lower than that of similar government schools (13.8 days). Numerous strategies have been implemented from the 'It's Not Ok To Be Away' initiative to promote and track student attendance. Parents/carers are provided with attendance data via Compass, which can be accessed throughout the year.

The Attitudes to Schooling Survey was conducted in Years 4-6 at Preston West Primary School in 2022. In relation to the sense of connectiveness criteria on the Attitudes to Schooling survey, our students overall positive response at 85.9 % was above both the state median and similar government schools. Our four year average in the sense of connectedness at 83.4%, places us above the state median (79.5%) and slightly above the results of similar government schools (81.8%). In relation to the management of bullying criteria on the Attitudes to Schooling survey, our students overall positive response at 83% was above both the state median (75.8%) and similar government schools (76.6%). Our four year average in the management of bullying at 83.8% is above both the state and similar schools.

To strengthen student engagement in 2023, we will further develop opportunities to promote strong student voice/agency and leadership in areas such as learning, curriculum delivery, extra-curricular activities and school improvement.

Other highlights from the school year

Following a few years of cancelled activities due to the pandemic, it was wonderful to reinstate numerous special events across the Preston West Primary School calendar including:

- Community Art Show
- Grade 4 (Lake Dewar) and Grade 6 (Alexander Resort) camps
- Multi-aged day e.g. Multicultural day
- Leadership programs including school captains attendance at the Young Leaders Conference
- Extra Curricular activities e.g. Choir, Preston West Has Talent, Rock Band, Grade 4 Bike Education, House Sports days and Grade 2 Swimming Program
- Lunch Time Clubs program e.g. debating, chess, lego and dance
- Junior School Council school improvements, special days and support of charities
- Community end of the year celebration evening

In 2023 we look forward to welcoming back a school concert and Fresh Fruit Friday.

Financial performance

In 2022 numerous school based projects were undertaken including completion of laying synthetic turf, improving playgrounds and an increased focus was placed on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Significant funding was allocated in the 2022 global budget to support the the strategic direction of Preston West Primary School. Funding will be allocated in 2023 to support our new Strategic Plan and to further promote our school facilities. Our 2023 projects will include landscaping and an outdoor learning space. The equity funding received from DET in 2022 was directed towards small group intervention, predominately in the Prep - Grade 2 area. Small group intervention targeted Oral Language, English as an Additional Language, Fine Motor Skills, Literacy and Numeracy. The Department of Education and Training additional Tutoring funding in 2022 was targeted at small group intervention in Years 1-5 in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Phonics and Numeracy. The Tutoring and Swimming initiative will continue to be supported by the Department of Education and Training in 2023 and will receive funds in 2023/2024 under Health and Wellbeing.