

2022 Annual Report to the School Community

School Name: Knox Park Primary School (4990)



- 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

Knox Park Primary School is situated in the attractive, natural bushland setting adjacent to Lakewood Reserve, Knoxfield. School enrolment in 2022 was 271 students, with 33 staff: 2 Principal class, 19 Teachers and 12 Education Support Staff. We provide a comprehensive and sequential curriculum with a systematic synthetic phonics approach to teaching Literacy. Our high quality staff provide a caring and stimulating learning environment for all. We are proud of our continued academic success as we prepare our children to be 21st Century learners and citizens. Our vision at Knox Park Primary School is to foster the development of the whole child to become curious, critical and reflective citizens involved in their local community. Knox Park Primary School provides positive and engaging learning experiences in a welcoming and supportive environment through;

- Highly effective teaching, focused on improving student outcomes, through commitment to ongoing professional development, quality teaching, evidence based practices, coaching, mentoring and collaboration.
- Focusing on relationships, which are the foundation on which everything else is built, in the classroom, parent community and professional learning community.
- The school values community involvement in the education of our children. We pride ourselves on our fantastic school community spirit.
- We maintain a strong academic focus while ensuring the development of the whole child and offer a range of opportunities for personal growth that cater for various interests.

Knox Park Primary School is committed to;

- developing literate and numerate community minded learners through a rich and relevant curriculum.
- fostering socially and emotionally healthy students by maintaining a strong focus on wellbeing.
- building the skills of critical thinking, creativity and collaboration.
- promoting our school behavioural expectations of Being Safe, Being Responsible, Being Respectful and Being a Learner.

We achieve this through:

- Use of evidence to inform teaching of English and Mathematics
- Planning for the differentiated learning needs of students in English and Mathematics
- Evaluating the impact of teaching on student learning
- Leadership and coaching
- Improved instructional practice
- Students' intellectual engagement and self-awareness
- Feedback to and from teachers and students
- High expectations

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

2022 was the first year to return to school full-time after two years of various lockdowns and periods of remote learning. This enabled Knox Park Primary School to build upon the successes of remote learning and a strong rigour to the teaching and learning of English and Mathematics. With regard to Teacher Judgement in 2022, the school outperformed both State and Similar schools in all areas. From Prep - Year 6 the percentage of students at or above age expected standard in English was 93.3%, compared to 88.5% in similar schools. In Mathematics, this was 92.4% for Knox Park PS compared to 87.7% in similar schools.

In NAPLAN the 2022 Year 3 and 5 cohorts also outperformed both State and Similar Schools in English and Numeracy. In Year 3, the percentage of students in the top three bands in Reading at Knox Park PS was 90.0% (the highest in 4 years), compared to 82.7% in similar schools. In Year 3 Numeracy 77.5% (again higher than the 4-year average) scored in the top three bands for NAPLAN, compared with 68.3% in similar schools. In Year 5, the percentage of students in the top three bands in Reading at Knox Park PS was 76.2%, compared to 73.8% in similar schools. In Year 5 Numeracy 66.7% scored in the top three bands for NAPLAN, compared with 56.6% in

similar schools. It is pleasing to see results like these after the school's rigorous implementation of consistent practice throughout 2022. No NAPLAN growth data was presented in the 2022 Performance Summary. This was due to the Year 5 matched cohort not sitting NAPLAN in Year 3, 2020.

Wellbeing

Knox Park PS has been a School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) School since 2018 and worked hard in 2022 to attain Gold status (officially awarded in 2023). This was an in-depth process to tighten all wellbeing practices and protocols within the school. It involved close monitoring of student behavioural data to identify trends which resulted in specific interventions designed to bring about modified behaviours. The Student Attitudes to School survey results indicate less positive endorsement than both State and Similar Schools with regard to Management of Bullying and Sense of Connectedness. 69.9% of Year 4 – 6 Knox Park Primary School students indicated positive endorsement for Sense of Connectedness, compared to 75.9% from Similar Schools. The school recorded 70.6% positive endorsement for Management of Bullying, compared to 74.2% for Similar Schools. It is worth noting that both of these factors were trending negatively from 2021, while the State trend was positive. When delving deeper into this data the school identified a specific gender base and cohort with particularly negative attitudes towards school. Several actions are currently in place to address these concerns. Also worthy of note is the Parent Satisfaction Summary from 2022, with 94.3% positive endorsement, compared to 79.9% for the State. The School Climate from the Staff Survey indicated 87.8% positive endorsement, compared to 73.4% for the State. The schools wellbeing teaching and learning site goes live to the community in 2023 and highlights the wellbeing skills and strategies that children at Knox Park will experience from Foundation - Year 6. Resources used are based on the Respectful Relationships lesson plans.

Engagement

Upon returning to school full-time in 2022, Knox Park Primary School had a major push to 'bring back the community'. This included hosting several community events, encouraging families back on-site, monitoring absence data closely and following up consistently on all student absences. This had a significant impact on attendance in 2021, with a huge decline in absences per student. In 2022, we again show significantly lower average number of days absence per student (9.3) when compared with Similar Schools (22.3) and the State average (23.3). This low level of absence has been recognised as significant and is lower than absence levels at the school pre-covid (based on 2019 data).

Complimenting this strategy to 'bring back the community', teachers have had a big push to ensure that all students are happy and comfortable at school. This had led to reduced school refusal and an increase in engagement while at school. This may also be a contributing factor to increased academic outcomes, listed above. The school is currently targeting a specific gender cohort that are showing reduced Emotional Awareness and Regulation and Sense of Confidence in the Attitudes to School Survey.

Other highlights from the school year

2022 saw a significant revamp of the school's Pedagogical Approaches and Curriculum Framework book. This was the fourth edition of the document and clearly highlights the teaching approaches towards all learning areas. The fourth edition of this booklet has been shared widely beyond the school as an example of best practice.

Financial performance

Both Revenue and Expenditure for 2022 reflect our emergence from COVID restrictions on both our school community and local budget.

Department of Education and Commonwealth grants decreased with the reduced need for support in COVID related supplies. Other revenue and locally raised funds increased due to the availability of fundraising (in 2022 the school ran a Carnival and School Production). Camps and excursions were able to recommence due to the lifting of restrictions in 2022.

Expenditure for Camps and Excursions increased due to increased attendance and all the sporting events being well attended. Salaries and allowances increased, with \$22,000 spent covering staff with COVID, the school also had an increase on the general health of staff as we bounced back from the pandemic. Property services decreased reflecting a restraint on large building projects. The only Capital Expenditure was the installation of 2 shade sails paid for by a Department of Education grant.

The school finished the year with an operating surplus of \$51,021.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at <https://knoxparkps.vic.edu.au/>