

External School Review

Tumby Bay Area 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 September 2019.

Whole school processes are being developed, including the use of tracking and monitoring tools with a focus on literacy improvement. The Literacy Guarantee Unit have been working alongside and supporting early years teachers through modelling and observing practice and providing feedback on phonics instruction. Synthetic phonics is taught through a consistent explicit teaching model and this has resulted in a significant increase in year one phonics screening results. A focus on using formative assessment before and after explicit teaching in the middle years and using close reading in the senior years is ongoing. Further work will be needed to consolidate and further strengthen skills in the teaching of reading R-12.

The school is using and adapting the Australian Curriculum units of work to ensure that students receive their curriculum entitlement appropriate to their year level. Tracking and monitoring of student data continues to be a focus. Some primary teachers are using core data sets and data folders to inform decisions about groupings for extension groups or placement into intervention programmes with a school support officer. The middle and senior school are beginning to use some data sets on a digital platform, to make tracking and monitoring easier and to strengthen practices in collaborative use of data.

Outcomes from the External School Review held in September 2023.

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

- Direction 1** **Build and strengthen staff capability in collaboratively using data, to intentionally plan tailored learning, ensuring quality differentiated teaching instruction.**
- Direction 2** **Ensure congruence between the site improvement plan and agreed actions by reviewing and aligning professional learning opportunities, embedding quality teaching practices R-12.**
- Direction 3** **Revisit and reshape the school's vision and values using contributions from all stakeholders and a lens on student learning and high achievement.**

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, Tumby Bay Area School will be externally reviewed again in 2026.**



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