

# TEACHING AND LEARNING AUDIT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – OAKENDEN SS

### DATE OF AUDIT: 6 MAY 2013



#### Background:

Oakenden SS Prep – Year 7 is a one teacher school located in a rural setting 30 kilometres west of Mackay in Central Queensland. The school is the centre of the local community and provides a central focus for the town. The school provides quality education to 16 students and also provides resources and facilities for other community groups, such as the local playgroup.

#### Commendations:

- There has been significant progress made since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit in the domains of An Explicit Improvement Agenda and Systematic Curriculum Delivery.
- The explicit improvement agenda, with a focus on writing, has been communicated to staff members and parents and is articulated in the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). Staff members have engaged in professional development to enhance the teaching of writing at Oakenden SS.
- The Principal has invested significantly in the improvement of the school curriculum. The school's curriculum delivery plan identifies the curriculum, teaching and learning priorities and requirements set out in the P-12 Curriculum Framework.
- The Principal accepts personal responsibility for driving improvements in teaching throughout the school. The Principal demonstrates a strong conviction that improved teaching is the key to improved student learning.
- The school ethos is built around high expectations and a commitment to academic excellence. There is an expectation that every student will learn and achieve positive outcomes.

#### Affirmations:

- Staff morale has continued to improve and is now generally high.
- Respectful and caring relationships are reflected throughout the school. Students are engaged in their learning and parents are welcomed as partners in their children's learning.
- Feedback to students about their work is explicit and forms part of the learning process.
- The Principal has paid attention to the strengths and weaknesses of the school wide team and deploys staff members in ways that make best use of their expertise.
- The classroom is organised very efficiently to cater for whole group, small group and individual work. The classroom displays of student work are very interesting and students are proud to have their work on display. The Oakenden SS Author Wall of Fame is an effective way to showcase excellent pieces of student writing.

#### Recommendations:

- Engage in professional development aimed at building data literacy skills. Use literacy and numeracy data to identify gaps in student learning, to monitor improvement over time and to monitor growth across the years of school. Implement individual learning plans for all students.
- Develop a strong collegial and self-reflective culture in which teachers invite the Principal and colleagues to observe their teaching, discuss their work with them and provide feedback. Use objective data to reflect on the effectiveness of teaching practices.
- Refine the documented school plan and timetable for the annual collection of student outcome data.
- Ensure programs to meet the learning needs (for example, programs for gifted students and students with learning difficulties) are developed and prioritised, where possible, in the school budget.
- Develop a whole-school professional learning plan and ensure the school has agreed arrangements in place for mentoring and coaching.