



Farrer Primary School

Annual School Board Report 2019



Ellyard building is home to our K-2 learning spaces.

This page is intentionally left blank.

This report supports the work being done in the ACT Education Directorate, as outlined in *Strategic Plan 2018-21: A Leading Learning Organisation*.

Accessibility

The ACT Government is committed to making its information services, events and venues accessible to as many people as possible.

If you have difficulty reading a standard document and would like to receive this publication in an alternate format, such as large print and audio, please telephone (02) 6247 4580.

If English is not your first language and you require the translating and interpreting service, please telephone 13 14 50.

If you are deaf or hearing impaired and require the National Relay Service, please telephone 13 36 77.

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra, 2020

Material in this publication may be reproduced provided due acknowledgement is made.

Contents

Reporting to the community.....	1
School Context	1
Student Information	1
Student enrolment.....	1
Student attendance	2
Supporting attendance and managing non-attendance.....	2
Staff Information.....	2
Teacher qualifications	2
Workforce composition	2
School Review and Development	3
School Satisfaction	3
Overall Satisfaction	3
Learning and Assessment	5
Performance in Literacy and Numeracy	5
Early years assessment	5
NAPLAN	6
Financial Summary	7
Voluntary Contributions	8
Reserves	8
Endorsement Page	9
Members of the School Board	9

Reporting to the community

Schools report to communities in range of ways, including through:

- Annual School Board Reports
- a (5-year) School Improvement Plan (formerly School Strategic Plan)
- annual Impact Reports
- newsletters
- other sources such as My School.

School Context

Farrer Primary School prides itself on being a school of academic excellence that provides an inclusive and challenging school environment for all students. Farrer Primary School offers preschool to year 6 education for an enrolment of approximately 350 students from kindergarten to year 6 and 44 students in the preschool. The school offers a supportive and caring environment that meets and differentiates for the needs of all students. The school's vision of 'Educational success for a socially and environmentally sustainable future' is reflected in the specialist teachers and purpose built classrooms from preschool through to the Environment Centre. The Japanese language program delivers a specialised language approach from year 1 to 6. Every child also has access to a specialised Visual Arts program and spends time each week participating in an art program with a specialist teacher. Farrer Primary School is focused on excellence in Literacy and Numeracy as its main priorities develops socially literate students delivered through a well designed curriculum. The school values inclusivity and provides a Learning Support Unit for students with autism and successfully integrates students with disabilities. Teachers also support students with specific learning needs within the classroom by differentiating the curriculum. Some unique features of our school include our Parliament which acts as a school governing body for year 6 students to become part of the decision making process of the school. Peer mediators ensure that our playground is a happy and safe place for all students and provide another pastoral care aspect to our playground along with the teachers on duty. We offer both a year 5 and year 6 woodwind band. Our school culture fosters authentic partnerships to provide the best educational experience for every student. We encourage sustainable and effective partnerships between all members of the school community including teachers, families, students and outside organisations and agencies. In term two of 2019, Linda Heath, Principal retired and in term three our new Principal, Liz Wallace was appointed.

Student Information

Student enrolment

In this reporting period there were a total of 345 students enrolled at this school.

Table: Student enrolment

Student type	Number of students
Male	165
Female	180
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	12
LBOTE*	86

Student attendance

The following table identifies the attendance rate of students by year level during this reporting period. Student attendance rate is the percentage of school days attended by students in each year level at the school. Student attendance is measured over two school terms; that is from the first day of the school year for students in term 1 to the last day of term 2.

Table: Attendance rates in percentages

Year level	Attendance rate
1	92.0
2	92.0
3	92.0
4	92.0
5	91.0
6	93.0

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

Supporting attendance and managing non-attendance

ACT public schools support parents and carers to meet their legal responsibilities in relation to the compulsory education requirements of the *Education Act 2004*. The Education Directorate's *Education Participation (Enrolment and Attendance) Policy* describes its position with regard to supporting attendance and managing non-attendance. A suite of procedures supports the implementation of the policy. Please refer to <https://www.education.act.gov.au/> for further details.

Staff Information

Teacher qualifications

All teachers at this school meet the professional requirements for teaching in an ACT public school. The ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) specifies two main types of provision for teachers at different stages of their career, these are detailed below.

- **Full registration** is for teachers with experience working in a registered school in Australia or New Zealand who have been assessed as meeting the Proficient level of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.
- **Provisional registration** is for newly qualified teachers or teachers who do not have recent experience teaching in a school in Australia and New Zealand. Many teachers moving to Australia from another country apply for Provisional registration.

Workforce composition

Workforce composition for the current reporting period is provided in the following table. The data is taken from the school's verified August staffing report. For reporting purposes, it incorporates all

school staff including preschools, staff absent for a period of less than four consecutive weeks and staff replacing staff absent for more than four consecutive weeks. It does not include casuals and staff absent for a period of four consecutive weeks or longer.

The Education Directorate is required to report Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff figures. As of June of the reporting period, 119 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff members were employed across the Directorate.

Table: Workforce composition numbers

Staff employment category	TOTAL
Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent Permanent	16.20
Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent Temporary	3.60
Non Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent	11.14

Source: ACT Education Directorate, People and Performance Branch

School Review and Development

The ACT Education Directorate's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 provides the framework and strategic direction for School Improvement Plans (formerly School Strategic Plans). This is supported by the school performance and accountability framework *'People, Practice and Performance: School Improvement in Canberra Public Schools, A Framework for Performance and Accountability'*. Annually, system and school level data are used alongside the National School Improvement Tool to support targeted school improvement, high standards in student learning, innovation and best practice in ACT public schools.

Prior to 2016 all ACT public schools participated in a four-year improvement cycle. In the fourth year schools underwent an external Validation process. In 2016 this changed to a five-year cycle with a School Review at the end.

Our school will be reviewed in 2021. A copy of the most recent Validation Report can be found on our school website.

School Satisfaction

Schools use a range evidence to gain an understanding of the satisfaction levels of their parents and carers, staff and students. Annually in August / September ACT schools undertake a survey to gain an understanding of school satisfaction at that time. This information is collected from staff, parents and students from year 5 and above through an online survey.

Overall Satisfaction

In this period of reporting, 86% of parents and carers, 96% of staff, and 83% of students at this school indicated they were satisfied with the education provided by the school.

Included in the survey were 16 staff, 14 parent, and 12 student items which are described as the national opinion items. These items were approved by the then Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) for use from 2015. The following tables show the percentage of parents and carers, students and staff who agreed with each of the national opinion items at this school.

A total of 22 staff responded to the survey. Please note that not all responders answered every question.

Table: Proportion of staff in agreement with each national opinion item

National opinion item	
Parents at this school can talk to teachers about their concerns.	91
Staff are well supported at this school.	96
Staff get quality feedback on their performance.	64
Student behaviour is well managed at this school.	41
Students at this school can talk to their teachers about their concerns.	96
Students feel safe at this school.	86
Students like being at this school.	96
Students' learning needs are being met at this school.	82
Teachers at this school expect students to do their best.	96
Teachers at this school motivate students to learn.	91
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	96
Teachers give useful feedback.	86
This school is well maintained.	59
This school looks for ways to improve.	91
This school takes staff opinions seriously.	96
This school works with parents to support students' learning.	100
Teachers give useful feedback.	86

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Data derived from annual School Satisfaction Survey

A total of 56 parents responded to the survey. Please note that not all responders answered every question.

Table: Proportion of parents and carers in agreement with each national opinion item

National opinion item	
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns.	93
My child feels safe at this school.	90
My child is making good progress at this school.	86
My child likes being at this school.	97
My child's learning needs are being met at this school.	74
Student behaviour is well managed at this school.	70
Teachers at this school expect my child to do his or her best.	93
Teachers at this school give useful feedback.	80
Teachers at this school motivate my child to learn.	88
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	90
This school is well maintained.	88
This school looks for ways to improve.	81

This school takes parents' opinions seriously.	63
This school works with me to support my child's learning.	74

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Data derived from annual School Satisfaction Survey

A total of 142 students responded to the survey. Please note that not all responders answered every question.

Table: Proportion of students in agreement with each national opinion item

National opinion item	
I can talk to my teachers about my concerns.	68
I feel safe at this school.	72
I like being at my school.	70
My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things.	72
My school is well maintained.	66
My school looks for ways to improve.	83
My teachers expect me to do my best.	89
My teachers motivate me to learn.	78
Staff take students' concerns seriously.	67
Student behaviour is well managed at my school.	41
Teachers at my school treat students fairly.	64
Teachers give useful feedback.	66

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Data derived from annual School Satisfaction Survey

Learning and Assessment

Performance in Literacy and Numeracy

Early years assessment

Students in kindergarten undertake an on-entry and on-exit assessment of their early reading and numeracy skills using the Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS) program. Student results are reported against five performance bands at the end of semester 1 and 2. Below are the results for this school for the current reporting period.

Table: Farrer Primary School PIPS 2019 mean raw scores

Agency	Reading start	Reading end	Mathematics start	Mathematics end
School	56	144	41	57
ACT	49	123	39	55

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

NAPLAN

Students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all ACT schools participate in the National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This program assesses skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

In this reporting period, no students were exempt from testing based on nationally agreed criteria.

For reasons of statistical reliability, as well as to protect the privacy of students, results are not reported when the sample size is less than five.

The following table shows the mean scores achieved by students at this school compared to all other ACT public schools for this reporting period.

Table: NAPLAN Mean Scores

Test Domain	Year 3 School	Year 3 ACT	Year 5 School	Year 5 ACT
Reading	428	438	528	516
Writing	402	418	492	474
Spelling	392	408	508	497
Grammar & Punctuation	435	440	537	500
Numeracy	399	411	504	496

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

Financial Summary

The school has provided the Directorate with an end of year financial statement that was approved by the school board. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school. The following summary covers use of funds for operating costs and does not include expenditure in areas such as permanent salaries, buildings and major maintenance.

Table: Financial Summary

INCOME	January-June	July-December	January-December
Self-management funds	165424.48	150609.17	316033.65
Voluntary contributions	17161.00	3525.00	20686.00
Contributions & donations	3944.31	869.24	4813.55
Subject contributions	0.00	49962.86	49962.86
External income (including community use)	12937.05	16402.87	29339.92
Proceeds from sale of assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	5091.84	2917.82	8009.66
TOTAL INCOME	204558.68	224286.96	428845.64
EXPENDITURE			
Utilities and general overheads	37755.07	76358.47	114113.54
Cleaning	45302.72	578.07	45880.79
Security	391.91	0.00	391.91
Maintenance	131808.06	20431.75	152239.81
Administration	2509.54	3363.51	5873.05
Staffing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communication	5465.89	2259.67	7725.56
Assets	11104.00	6244.36	17348.36
Leases	0.00	0.00	0.00
General office expenditure	9652.89	12223.96	21876.85
Educational	30174.69	26446.45	56621.14
Subject consumables	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	274164.77	147906.24	422071.01
OPERATING RESULT	-69606.09	76380.72	6774.63
Actual Accumulated Funds	214145.98	214145.98	214145.98
Outstanding commitments (minus)	-28153.27	0.00	-28153.27
BALANCE	116386.62	290526.70	192767.34

Voluntary Contributions

The funds listed were used to support the general operations of the school. The spending of voluntary contributions is in line with the approved budget for this reporting period.

Voluntary Contributions 2019 amount received \$20,686.00

Reserves

Name and Purpose	Amount	Expected Completion
Future Projects To improve school facilities	\$30,000.00	2020/2021
Staffing Additional teaching resources	\$30,000.00	2020/2021
Work Reduction Resource Additional administration resources	\$35,688.00	2020/2021

Endorsement Page

Members of the School Board

Parent Representative(s):	Gregory Andrews	Judi Barton	Connie Venning
Community Representative(s):	Judy Pettiford		
Teacher Representative(s):	Jessica Pickering	Kate Banwell	
Board Chair:	Gregory Andrews		
Principal:	Liz Wallace		

I approve the report, prepared in accordance with the provision of the ACT *Education Act 2004*, section 52.

Board Chair Signature: Gregory Andrews

Date: 29 / 06 / 2020

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the evidence and information reported in this Annual School Board Report represents an accurate record of the Board's operations during this reporting period.

Principal Signature: Liz Wallace

Date: 29 / 06 / 2020