



Gold Creek School

Annual School Board Report 2020



ACT
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Education

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

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Contents

Reporting to the community.....	1
Summary of School Board activity	1
School Context	2
Student Information	2
Student enrolment.....	2
Student attendance	2
Supporting attendance and managing non-attendance.....	3
Staff Information.....	3
Teacher qualifications.....	3
Workforce composition	3
School Review and Development	3
School Satisfaction	4
Overall Satisfaction	4
Learning and Assessment	6
Performance in Literacy and Numeracy	6
Early years assessment	6
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.

Summary of School Board activity

It's my pleasure as Chair of the School Board to present to you the Annual School Board Report for 2020 – what a year it was!!

It was a challenging start to 2020. Our city was cloaked in a blanket of smoke as bushfires burned on the South Coast and in Namadgi National Park. Then COVID-19 arrived on our shores. Australian schools closed their classrooms to students in a country-wide lock down. Gold Creek School moved their classes online, and students began schooling from home.

Staff worked extraordinarily hard to move to virtual learning in a matter of weeks. They quickly provided engaging and meaningful lessons across the whole school curriculum. Teachers developed a range of great content from science experiments and 'at home' workouts, to creative writing and cooking tasks. Even the school musical auditions and rehearsals continued online!

While it wasn't without its challenges, the staff went above and beyond to ensure students were able to continue their learning under extremely difficult circumstances.

The year also saw significant planning work carried out on the senior site expansion, the International Baccalaureate School Evaluation and ACT Government School Review process.

We also farewelled our Principal Angela Spence, who took on a Director of Schools role in the Department of Education. Acting Principal Jacqui Chapman led the school through the incredible year, managing both the shut down and return to school.

Despite everything 2020 threw at us, the school community remained strong and connected. All staff deserve our thanks for their tireless work teaching and supporting our children in extraordinary circumstances.

Thanks also to the many volunteers at the school, including David Pollard and the other members of the P&C committee, who soldiered on despite all the event cancellations. We were overjoyed that they were able to hold the colour run as restrictions eased - a highlight of the school year. Finally, thank you to my fellow board members for their work and support.

I commend the report to you.

Kirsten Maloney
Board Chair
Gold Creek School

School Context

Gold Creek School is a preschool to year 10 school offering education across three sites. One Principal provides educational leadership across the whole school. The primary site in Nicholls comprises a preschool and years kindergarten to 6. A second preschool site is situated in Hall. The secondary site comprises years 7-10. The primary and secondary sites are headed by an Associate Principal and is supported by an executive leadership team. In April 2016 Gold Creek School was authorised by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) at the school. The programme is based on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community through exploration and discovery and aligns with the IB philosophy underpinning the programmes on the primary and senior sites. The preschool classes utilise the Reggio Emilia approach of play based learning. The primary site has undertaken learning programmes using the PYP framework in all classes from kindergarten to year 6. The senior site has implemented the use of the MYP framework for all classes in years 7 to 10.

Gold Creek School continues to grow in student enrolments. There has been a steady increase in numbers with an ongoing increase in Kindergarten over the last few years. The numbers of LBOTE and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students continue to rise. Out of school area enrolments remains steady due to the non-acceptance of new out of area students in the school.

Student Information

Student enrolment

In this reporting period there were a total of 1,143 students enrolled at this school.

Table: Student enrolment*

Student type	Number of students
Gender - Male	600
Gender - Female	543
Gender - Non-binary or other	0
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	50
LBOTE**	376

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

* To protect personally identifiable information any figures less than six are not reported.

** Language Background Other Than English

Student attendance

Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 attendance data has not been published in the Annual School Board Report.

Supporting attendance and managing non-attendance

ACT public schools support parents and careers 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, 135 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members were employed across the Directorate.

Table: Workforce composition numbers

Staff employment category	TOTAL
Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent Permanent	68.74
Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent Temporary	13.06
Non Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent	34.89

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.

Our school was reviewed in 2021 A copy of the Report of Review 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 from 2020 students from year 4 and above (previously year 5 and above) through an online survey.

Overall Satisfaction

In this period of reporting, 75% of parents and carers, 80% of staff, and 44% 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.

Note: The overall response rate for parents and carers in ACT public schools was negatively impacted by COVID-19, dropping from 31% in 2019 to 23% in 2020.

A total of 91 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.	95
Staff are well supported at this school.	69
Staff get quality feedback on their performance.	62
Student behaviour is well managed at this school.	45
Students at this school can talk to their teachers about their concerns.	88
Students feel safe at this school.	71
Students like being at this school.	66
Students' learning needs are being met at this school.	73
Teachers at this school expect students to do their best.	90
Teachers at this school motivate students to learn.	89
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	90
Teachers give useful feedback.	79
This school is well maintained.	89

This school looks for ways to improve.	89
This school takes staff opinions seriously.	64
This school works with parents to support students' learning.	84

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Proportion of those who responded to each individual survey question

A total of 143 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.	83
My child feels safe at this school.	71
My child is making good progress at this school.	73
My child likes being at this school.	85
My child's learning needs are being met at this school.	71
Student behaviour is well managed at this school.	55
Teachers at this school expect my child to do his or her best.	85
Teachers at this school give useful feedback.	72
Teachers at this school motivate my child to learn.	74
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	75
This school is well maintained.	76
This school looks for ways to improve.	68
This school takes parents' opinions seriously.	63
This school works with me to support my child's learning.	75

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Proportion of those who responded to each individual survey question

A total of 117 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.	45
I feel safe at this school.	40
I like being at my school.	40
My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things.	54
My school is well maintained.	31
My school looks for ways to improve.	56
My teachers expect me to do my best.	75
My teachers motivate me to learn.	66

Staff take students' concerns seriously.	43
Student behaviour is well managed at my school.	19
Teachers at my school treat students fairly.	34
Teachers give useful feedback.	50

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Proportion of those who responded to each individual survey question

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 BASE 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.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, analysis of BASE data for 2020 has been delayed. Analysis will be provided to schools in 2021. Please speak with the school should you require further information.

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.

*Note: There are no NAPLAN results for 2020, with the assessments not being conducted due to the impacts of COVID-19.

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	471463.05	441992.16	913455.21
Voluntary contributions	2627.50	22044.50	24672.00
Contributions & donations	668.00	1521.79	2189.79
Subject contributions	16149.00	13966.00	30115.00
External income (including community use)	7823.56		7823.56
Proceeds from sale of assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	5776.58	16345.48	22122.06
TOTAL INCOME	521124.95	505693.49	1026818.44
EXPENDITURE			
Utilities and general overheads	108113.22	163072.73	271185.95
Cleaning	6040.75	7610.07	13650.82
Security	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance	197467.39	95843.80	293311.19
Administration	63331.35	489.28	63820.63
Staffing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communication	11306.08	25553.81	36859.89
Assets	3610.01	42818.64	46428.65
General office expenditure	12494.83	26471.47	38966.30
Educational	99419.10	98657.71	198076.81
Subject consumables	0.00	4937.19	4937.19
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	501782.73	465454.70	967237.43
OPERATING RESULT	19342.22	40238.79	59581.01
Actual Accumulated Funds	287971.58	359202.17	219768.53
Outstanding commitments (minus)	-47731.25	0.00	-47731.25
BALANCE	259582.55	399440.96	231618.29

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.

Reserves

Name and Purpose	Amount	Expected Completion
SS ICT LAB upgrade	30,000	2022
SS Tech/ metal upgrade	10,000	2021
IB workshop	60,000	2023
SS GYM floor upgrade ongoing	20,000	2025

Endorsement Page

Members of the School Board

Parent Representative(s):	Kirsten Maloney	Natasha Grant	Anna Fortuzzi
Community Representative(s):	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teacher Representative(s):	Katie Bennett	Bianca Porcheddu	
Student Representative(s):	Keona Abraham	Annalise Fitzsimons	
Board Chair:	Kirsten Maloney		
Principal:	Daniel Breen		

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

2020 Board Chair Signature: Kirsten Maloney

Date: 25/06/2021

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: Daniel Breen

Date: 25/06/2021