

Connecting Learning at Home and at School

Sharing school data

Case Study – Williamstown North Primary School

Background

Williamstown North Primary School is a large metropolitan primary school located in a neighbourhood that is predominantly populated by professional and semi-professional families. In recent years, the school has experienced a steady increase in enrolments, as families with young children have moved into the area. Enrolment numbers now exceed 600 students.

Situation

With the increasing numbers of enrolments, the school identified that a new approach was needed to improve communication between the school and families.

What did you do?

The school decided that giving families the feedback on the Attitudes to School Survey, Parent Opinion Survey and national testing (NAPLAN) data would enable families to better understand the nature of this data.

In 2005, the School Council, through the Principal and the Community Liaison Sub-committee, published short articles in the school newsletter that explained what the surveys were, their purpose, what the key findings were and what the school proposed to do as a result of the feedback received from the data. Families could then access full copies of the data if they were interested.

Results

Sharing the data with the school community is now an embedded process in how the school operates. The school community has indicated over the years that they appreciate receiving this data and they are reassured that the school is using this data to identify and address issues relating to their children's learning and wellbeing. Actions arising from the analysis of the data are reflected in the following year's School Annual Improvement Plan.

