

TEACHING AND LEARNING AUDIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – DOOMADGEE SS

DATE OF AUDIT: 28-30 APRIL 2014



Background:

Doomadgee SS is located in the north western corner of Queensland, approximately 120 kilometres east of the Northern Territory border. Doomadgee is a small Aboriginal community with a population of approximately 1,500 people. The school has a current enrolment of approximately 356 students, with 99.6 per cent being Indigenous. The Principal, Mr Chris Erbacher, was appointed to the school in 2014.

Commendations:

- Since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit there has been a significant improvement in the domains; An Explicit Improvement Agenda, Targeted Use of School Resources and An Expert Teaching Team.
- *Build It Up, Break It Down*, scaffolds children's understanding of different texts and is being consistently implemented in Years P – 3. Teachers are optimistic about its potential.
- *PM Benchmarking* is being used to effectively monitor progress in reading, providing teachers with a good understanding of students' performance.
- There has been a marked improvement in student attendance in Term One, 2014, with some classes achieving attendance rates of up to 80 per cent.
- The Pre - Prep program provides a warm, welcoming and rich environment which is establishing a culture for learning amongst parents and some of the Doomadgee community's younger children.
- A Curriculum team has been established providing mentoring for teachers and establishing the basis for rich coaching practices.

Affirmations:

- *Guided Reading* is recognised as a powerful practice in improving literacy. Attention has been given to ensuring teachers are being effectively mentored in guided reading practices.
- A school wide *Bookwork Policy* has been introduced and is strongly supported by staff members.
- The *Home Economics Kitchen* has been reopened and the subject is being re-introduced to the curriculum.
- A substantial number of community members are employed and engaged in the school in a range of roles.

Recommendations:

- Continue the development of the pedagogical framework and consistent expectations around a range of practices that give clarity about what students are expected to learn and be able to do.
- Support the development of quality teaching practices with ongoing professional development, modelling by leaders and peers, observation, feedback, mentoring and coaching and align these practices with teachers' Developing Performance Plans.
- Consider restructuring the Junior Secondary curriculum and timetable to better cater for student needs and interests including more practical subjects, such as, Industrial Design and Technology and Agriculture; these could also include Certificate 1 courses. Investigate ability based core classes that enable a sharper focus of needs based resources.
- Continue to enhance teacher capacity to include, differentiate and support learning success for all class members in all classes.
- Develop a whole school curriculum plan that aligns with the P - 12 Curriculum Framework, with which all unit plans align and which provides a reference point to monitor the effectiveness of delivery. This plan should also clearly map assessment. All unit plans should be subject to regular quality assurance.
- Investigate ways to use community resources and cultural contexts in supporting curriculum implementation of the curriculum.
- Review induction practices for beginning teachers and teachers new to Doomadgee. Consider a more systematic approach that incorporates the macro and micro elements of teaching and living in Doomadgee.
- Continue to develop and implement the focused attendance strategy.
- Explore innovative and systematic strategies for monitoring and promoting staff health and wellbeing.
- Investigate a range of training and professional development options for community members who work in the school, particularly Student Attendance Officers (SAOs), in order to continue to build their capabilities to influence parents and carers' level of engagement with the school and their children's schooling.