

1. Public section

1.1 School context	
Location and history	Macarthur Street Primary School is located in the City of Ballarat in the Soldiers Hill suburb. The school was founded in 1877.
School facilities	The school grounds include one main building with 6 classrooms, a kitchen, art room and music room. There are multiple office spaces and multi purpose spaces within the main building. The grounds include an undercover area, basketball court, playgrounds and a large grassed area.
Enrolments	Enrolments at the time of the review were approximately 76 students. Over the past five years, enrolments have ranged between 75 to 99 students.
SFO and SFOE	The Student Family Occupation (SFO) index was 0.6858 and the Student Family Occupation Education (SFOE) index was 0.5747 in 2022.
Staff profile	The staffing profile of Macarthur Street Primary School includes a principal and 4.6 full time equivalent teachers, 3.8 full time equivalent Education Support (ES) staff, and one full time equivalent business manager
Curriculum	The school offers subjects aligned to the Victorian F-10 curriculum key learning areas, tailored to meet student needs. The school delivers an AUSLAN language program.
Additional information	The school provides social and emotional connectedness programs via art therapy delivered by an external art therapist and various extracurricular programs including cooking and performing arts.

1.2 School and community highlights

Highlight 1

Title: School culture

The panel found that the school continued work to develop a strong and positive culture which was a highlight for the school. The school:

- has founded its culture on the principles of respect, resilience, and responsibility. These values are ingrained in the school's curriculum, policies, and practices, and are reinforced by staff where possible.
- encourages students to be active participants in shaping the school's culture through various extracurricular activities, programs and the way they portray the values during school time.

Both staff and student surveys strongly endorsed the positive school culture. Feedback included the comments *"There are clear expectations, the focus is on the child"* and *"People are rowing the same boat in the same direction."*

Highlight 2

Title: Student Wellbeing

The panel found that although previous School Strategic Plan goals and targets focused around student wellbeing were not met, this work remained a highlight for the school. The school:

- employed an Art therapist to attend school each week to deliver both individual and group programs designed to address anxiety, depression and stress
- provided information and resources to support parents and students who experience skill deficits with regard to coping skills and resilience
- implemented the Respectful Relationships program, focusing on social-emotional learning, development of interpersonal skills, empathy and emotional intelligence
- introduced programs designed to provide students with the opportunity to practice mindfulness techniques and develop stress management strategies.

Both parent survey and student forum results supported the positive experience described by the school. Feedback included the comments *"There are wellbeing and safety leaders within the school community"*, *"involving parents and communicating well through challenging circumstances"* and *"If we are worried the teachers understand and immediately help us"*

1.3 Summary of key review findings

Performance against the School Strategic Plan (SSP) goals and targets

SSP Goal 1	The 2019-2023 SSP for Macarthur Street Primary School set a goal to improve the literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students. The panel found that the school had not met this goal, with 2 targets not met and one target partially met.
SSP Goal 2	The 2019-2023 SSP for Macarthur Street Primary School set a goal to improve the engagement of all students through the activation of student voice, agency and leadership. The panel found that the school had not met this goal, with the 2 targets not met.

SSP Goal 3

The 2019-2023 SSP for Macarthur Street Primary School set a goal to develop healthy, happy and resilient students who display behaviours that reflect the school value. The panel found that the school had not met this goal, with the one target not met.

Findings against the Terms of Reference Focus Questions

Terms of Reference Focus Question 1: To what extent is student data understood, analysed and used effectively to inform planning and to monitor student growth?

The panel found that the school had utilised a range of assessment tools over the course of the School Strategic Plan, with assessment data used to identify gaps in student knowledge and to monitor student growth. It was not apparent that the school had embedded a consistent use of student achievement data to inform planning and to pose problems of practice through the effective use of Professional Learning Community (PLC) inquiry cycles. There was not yet evidence of a whole school assessment schedule being utilised consistently across all year levels.

Terms of Reference Focus Question 2: To what extent is there a collaborative and accountable culture that builds staff capacity, has high expectations and improves students learning outcomes?

The panel found there were some opportunities for shared instruction and modelled teaching across classrooms, but that a whole-school instructional model was not in place. There was not an embedded culture allowing for collaborative planning and moderation of student work. It was evident that the school had commenced work towards developing a shared understanding of the school instructional model.

Terms of Reference Focus Question 3: To what extent does the school foster inclusion and engagement to create a positive and safe learning environment?

The panel found that there was evidence of calm, safe and orderly learning environments with clear understanding of the school values as well as a positive and inclusive culture. School values were clearly visible throughout all areas of the school, and were observed to be referred to during some classroom observations. There were some opportunities for students to be recognised for displaying school values, but limited evidence of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support practices.

1.4 Summary of areas of focus for the next School Strategic Plan

The school review panel recommends the following areas of focus be captured in the next School Strategic Plan:

- consistency in the collection, analysis and use of student data to inform planning, instruction and monitor student growth
- whole school documentation for all areas of the curriculum
- non-negotiable expectations and accountability for consistent planning and delivery
- attendance, in particular reducing unexplained absences.