

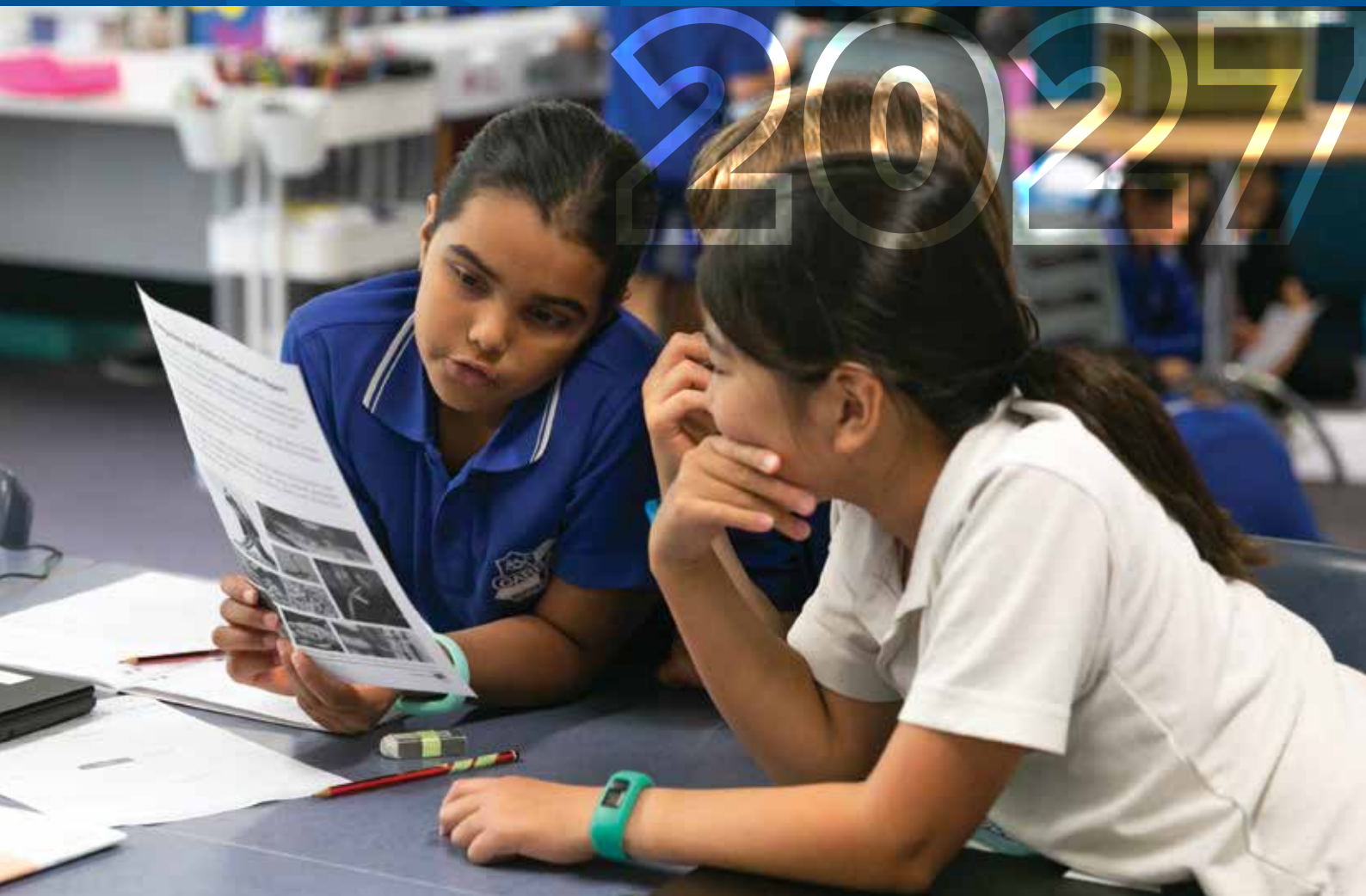


2023-2027 VISION STATEMENT

Striving for Excellence

2023

2027



2023-2027 VISION STATEMENT – STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Vision

Excellence in education.

Shared Values

The Garran Primary School values are intangible, deeply held beliefs that guide our actions and interactions. You will see artwork and evidence of our embedded values across the school. Our shared values of Respect, Responsibility and Versatility enrich the positive and friendly culture throughout the school, in everything we do.

Versatility: We can adapt to change and are willing to ‘have a go’, showing courage and a growth mindset. We also show resilience by being able to “Bounce Back” when things are challenging or when we initially don’t succeed. Versatility is also the school motto and is featured in the words of the school song which was written in 1967.

Respect: We treat everyone in a kind, friendly manner. Kindness is more than a value or behaviour. The art of kindness means harbouring a spirit of helpfulness as well as being considerate and doing so without expecting anything in return.

Responsibility: We care for our school, each other and our belongings, and always strive to do our best, taking responsibility for our own learning and actions.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our educational philosophy is to know every child and provide for them holistically to help them flourish. Moving into the future we will continue to preserve all that is authentic and unique to the school culture, while actively pursuing a direction which keeps Garran Primary at the forefront of educational thinking and contemporary practice.

The high academic achievements of the school continue to attract families from across Canberra, Australia and internationally. Our approach requires balancing the highest academic standards with opportunities that nurture the social and emotional wellbeing of every child.

This Vision Statement has been developed to be broad enough to ensure that it will be relevant over the planning period, yet specific enough to provide tangible guidance. During the last eight years, Garran Primary has successfully placed increased focus on the four factors that evidence-based research shows have the greatest impact on increasing student learning outcomes. These areas will continue to influence and guide school planning.

- The school's instructional pedagogical coaching model
- The expertise of the individual teacher
- The level of collective teacher efficacy
- The level of parent involvement and engagement

Mathematics has been identified as the next curriculum area for review and focus. The five-year targets are detailed in the Garran Primary School Improvement Plan which can be found on the school website, and updates regarding progress are communicated regularly to the P & C, School Board and are also published in the school newsletter.

To achieve the goals in our Vision, we will need to capture the enormous capacity of Garran families as we seek to reinvigorate family engagement, following three years of unprecedented and unique times.

The enduring support of Garran families, the commitment of the leadership team and the dedication from the entire staff towards our Vision give me great confidence that we will continue to be a leading school, delivering an exceptional educational experience for all students. I encourage all of our school community to share in our Vision and be part of the journey.

Jenny Priest

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Priest'.



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Garran Primary School is dynamic and global in its composition and nature. Community harmony, intercultural understanding and positive relationships between students and families from all cultural backgrounds contribute to the celebration of diversity which is evident across the school. Harmony Day is a highlight on the school calendar and is an opportunity to celebrate culture, friends and family as a school community.

Objectives

Our Vision Statement is comprised of three intents which are to:

1. **Inspire Learning** (teaching and learning)
2. **Empower and Engage Learners** (wellbeing, work habits, personal and social capabilities)
3. **Build a School for the Future** (connected community, Ngunnawal culture, facility modernisation)

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1. Inspire Learning

Educators at Garran Primary are guided by the Australian Curriculum, leveraging rich and deep opportunities for connection to the Australian Curriculum General Capabilities and Cross-Curriculum Priorities. Learners thrive and develop a sense of themselves through engaging with their community and have agency to create, shape and contribute to a changing world.

The primary school years are pivotal and provide the foundation for learning. Specifically tailored educational programs, where children set regular learning goals, provide opportunities for children to experience success in their learning. Explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy content and skills, combined with authentic inquiry-based tasks, are at the heart of teaching and learning, positioning students as problem solvers and creative and critical thinkers. The subjects of Science and Mathematics are highly valued by the school community, and extension opportunities, extra-curricular events, and school-wide festivals are offered each year to further enrich learning in these areas.

Enrichment opportunities ensure a broad and holistic education is provided to nurture the interests, gifts and talents of all students.

Teacher Quality

We understand that a great education depends on great teaching and, as a result, we foster a professional environment where collaboration empowers professional growth. Teachers develop deep knowledge about one another's teaching through learning collaboratively and co-constructing understanding of effective teaching practices.

To facilitate this, we will:

- enact the Garran Primary Collaboration Framework, which details professional learning pathways to support educators and staff at all stages of their career.
- inspire leaders of the future by supporting staff leadership aspirations and professional growth.
- sustain an Instructional Coaching Model, to facilitate teacher professional growth and school-wide consistency of high-impact teaching practices.
- continue to refine feedback and appraisal procedures to align with school and system priorities, and staff needs.

Teaching and Learning Excellence

Garran Primary high impact teaching practices are visible in every classroom, with all students being supported to progress from their entry point in their learning. Staff have high expectations for all students, empowering students to experience success in their learning and achieve personal excellence. At the heart of this is the development of quality relationships with peers, across year groups, between students and with parents.

To facilitate this, we will:

- drive the consistent implementation of Garran Primary high impact teaching practices to support outstanding teaching and learning.
- empower creative and inquiring learners to develop agency to lead their own learning in Integrated Learning Discoveries (integrated units).
- inspire curiosity and higher order thinking in the areas of STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics - through the application of authentic real-world issues and participation in targeted school events.
- reignite specialist programs and opportunities for Visual and Performing Arts, and showcase performances and student achievements.
- continue to provide opportunities for students to learn and engage with Indonesian language and culture, as well as languages and cultures from other countries around the world.
- develop a high level of digital citizenship, where technology is used effectively, safely and responsibly.
- instil in children a sense of ownership and pride in being a green and sustainable school.
- articulate the structure, approach and success of Gifted Learning within the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) to the broader community.

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2. Empower and Engage Learners

Student wellbeing underpins everything at Garran Primary. Learning and wellbeing are inextricably linked. The development of strong values and respectful relationships create a happy, vibrant and positive school culture. The school community embraces an inclusive culture that celebrates diversity and fosters rich, productive partnerships that contribute to the depth of, and engagement with, learning. Student voice, leadership opportunities and additional programs contribute to a holistic education for every child. Resilience, student agency, adaptability and inclusive mindsets will be character strengths that our students will be able to use to effectively navigate challenges in their future.

To facilitate this, we will:

- foster an atmosphere of care, focusing on student wellbeing, building personal character, work habits and embedding community values to enhance holistic growth.
- align the Australian Curriculum Personal and Social Capabilities with the Habits of Mind skills to nurture resilient and self-regulated students.
- implement social skills programs in the early years to support students establishing and maintaining healthy relationships and an awareness of self and others.
- embrace opportunities to inspire a growth mindset.
- prioritise Positive Behaviour for Learning approaches, to maintain high expectations for student behaviour and engagement in learning.
- refine the Garran Bounce Back strategies, which foster positive wellbeing and social-emotional learning, to tailor strategies to support student needs.

3. Building a School for the Future

We aim to provide the best possible learning and physical resources to attain our educational goals. We believe the school environment must be safe, secure, create pride, spark curiosity, and inspire learning.

The modernisation of Garran Primary facilities will see the redevelopment of the existing school site to create high-quality indoor and outdoor learning spaces. We are committed to taking the best of our past into the exciting future, ensuring that the unique culture that makes our school great continues.

Connected and Collaborative Community

Garran Primary considers all members of the community as partners on our journey in fulfilling our Vision. Our community comes together to enrich student learning with a shared responsibility in educating the students in our care. We greatly value these relationships and are committed to building on the spirit, strength and history of family engagement and support within the school community.

To facilitate this, we will:

- engage families as partners in learning - valuing the skills, knowledge and experiences that families can contribute, and providing opportunities for active engagement in school events and in supporting learning programs.
- promote the school's reputation in the community, ensuring that the school's values, behaviours and endeavours are aligned.
- encourage social cohesion and belonging by continuing to implement strategies from the Community Engagement Strategic Plan.
- initiate opportunities for the school to act as a community centre for student activities, playgroups, multicultural initiatives and adult learning.

Enriching Learning with Ngunnawal Culture

The design of new playground and outdoor spaces brings opportunities to link to the cultural heritage of the site and for cultural understandings, increased biodiversity and historical education to be embedded. To create a learning landscape where students connect with the plants, animals, stories and cycles of Ngunnawal Country, opportunities exist to draw upon the character of endemic landscapes and animals. The Ngunnawal language and culture will also be embraced to name unique spaces within the school such as different playground areas, pathways and outdoor learning spaces.

The design theme for the new facilities is 'Footprints'. For over 20,000 years, generations of families have walked and lived on the current school site. This rich history and the layers of stories shared over time can be represented by the tapestry of people and their footprints, which have contributed to our story as a learning site.

To facilitate this, we will:

- collate community and student ideas in order to retain and transfer school history, culture and items of importance as the school transitions into new buildings and recreation areas.
- incorporate Indigenous themes and designs into the new landscape and playground, which capture cultural elements and provide the opportunity for storytelling and education of Ngunnawal history and culture.



- incorporate Ngunnawal language into new school signage and utilise native animals and plants as names to define new playground zones.
- provide opportunities for student-driven activities to recognise, celebrate and learn about Ngunnawal and Aboriginal history and culture.

Facility Modernisation

Garran Primary School is on an exciting journey of transformation. Whilst the school and programs will continue along a path where long standing traditions are respected and valued, modernisation of the school facilities will provide opportunities for innovation and creativity. From teaching approaches to learning spaces and curriculum design, opportunities to deliver teaching and learning differently will be guided by community conversation and consultation. Innovation isn't necessarily just about improving academic outcomes or changing the way teachers impart content, but rather it is also aimed at equipping students with the necessary skills and ability to thrive in the modern world, setting them on a path of lifelong learning; fostering critical thinking skills to solve real world problems.

Opportunities will be presented to the community to reimagine everything from the physical environment and sustainable approaches of the school, to the ways we facilitate student wellbeing, self-concept and happiness. Thinking ingeniously and breaking new ground in learning approaches, as well as being an innovative school of the future, will ensure the best possible outcomes for students as they prepare for the world which awaits them beyond primary school.

To foster this, we will:

- work in partnership with the Education Directorate to ensure the safety of students, staff and the broader community is the highest priority during the construction period.
- liaise with specialists and experts from fields where new schools have been constructed to ensure that the new facilities will meet the needs of students in the future.
- collaborate with families to celebrate the achievements of providing a school of the future for the students, staff, families and broader community.

