

A key to the future

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



OUR VISION

To develop the students' academic, social and physical skills so that they may develop a balanced attitude towards life and participate as a responsible member of society.





Photos show School Board and P & C Executive in 2021. There were absences for these photos but if you think you are seeing double that is because these amazing women do so much around the school.

Thank you so much ladies, you are so appreciated here at Spearwood Primary School.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

It is with great pride that I present the 2021 Annual School Report which highlights the achievements and progress of Spearwood Primary School in the second year of the 2020 - 2022 Business Plan.

Schools are busy places and we were fortunate in 2021 to be able to carry on with only one learning week lost to the pandemic. With closed state borders we were able to hold assemblies and other events many of which are highlighted in the next section of the annual report.

The school gained several grants including the ongoing Sporting Schools which enabled the hiring of specialist sporting staff for sessions and the purchase of sporting gear. These Sporting Schools sessions were generally held within our Specialist Physical Education classes.

Student leaders were voted upon and represented almost the entire Year Six group with Captains, Prefects, Faction Captains and Faction Vice Captains. The student leaders managed assemblies and selected charities for fundraising along with their other responsibilities.

In 2021, Spearwood was able to run a Specialist Music program which hasn't been possible for a couple of years. Our outstanding Specialist Languages: Italian sessions were presented to years One to Six. Swimming lessons did not run in 2021, due to storm damage at the pools and the lack of alternate venues and teachers.

The 2021 Parents and Citizens (P & C) Committee was once again a fantastic group of parents and community members working hard to provide for the students of Spearwood Primary School. Many of the following highlighted events were paid for or subsidised by the P & C. Bingo, run by Wendy Anderson, earned money all year and financed various opportunities for students including Mathletics for every child. The whole school thanks those members of the P & C providing services for our students including: Banking, the Canteen and Uniform shop.

The Grounds Committee and the Cultural Committee had a large impact and big projects again in 2021. We thank the staff and volunteers who worked in and with these committees.

The School Board were leading the school and supporting all that was required in this difficult year.

Marta Rotondella
Principal

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

TERM 1. 'Mad Hatters Tea Party' was used as a hook for the writing in a whole school 'Talk for Writing' task. The value of this learning program can clearly be seen later in this report. In Term Two all classes presented at the Talk for Writing Assembly showing the oral language component of this program.

Thanks to the wonderful Spearwood Staff who work hard to make learning fun.



The 'Packed with Goodness' session in first term had parents going back to school learning about healthy eating with the fantastic and practical Cancer Council Presentation.



The annual Clean-up Schools Day is always a valuable lesson in waste reduction and social responsibility.



Harmony Day is always a great time to learn about inclusion and celebrating the multicultural community. In 2021 Spearwood also held a Fathers' Group Big Breakfast.



Dads of Spearwood Primary School! Join other like-minded fathers and father figures supporting each other to be better role models in their children's lives.

We are hosting a free Harmony Day breakfast for all Spearwood Dads on Wednesday 17 March, run in conjunction with The Fathering Project and Connecting Community for Kids. Dads and kids will eat free thanks to the P&C! The breakfast is an opportunity to spend some time with your kids, whilst giving you time to connect with other dads in a relaxed social environment.

Wednesday 17 March | 8am - 9am
Spearwood Primary School

Washing Hands has never been more important than during a pandemic, so our School Nurse ran sessions with classes to reinforce this key message. Another incursion for the Years One to Three had students learning about tying their shoe laces.



Ms Carol Derbyshire, our Manager of Corporate Services and Community Liaison works for many hours outside of school including with the Spearwood Progress Association. One of the years' highlights was a direct result of her hard work. A free movie night was held with support of the Cockburn City Council grant and Carol's exceptional effort. Our P & C also lent a hand and did some fund raising on the night.

Term One ended with the always fun and impressive Easter Hat Parade.



TERM 2. Term Two started with our School ANZAC Ceremony lead by the student leaders of the school and then the Annual RSL and Cockburn City Council ANZAC Youth Parade.



National Simultaneous Storytime is always fun and interesting but this year was amazing as the story was read by a female astronaut on the Space Station.



After several years of a Father's Day lunch the P & C decided to host a Mother's Day morning tea to thank our mothers. First the mothers ate then the children joined us.

Fathering Project held a Paper Planes and Pizza night which was great fun for all. Thank you to the P & C for funding this event.



Every year we have a World Environment Excursion that is possible thanks to the Cockburn Council. We appreciate their many programs that work with Spearwood Primary Schools as partners in care and education of our community.



An incursion teaching Marine Safety was a first in 2021 and a big hit with students with all the hands-on activities





Reconciliation Day celebrations were planned and run by the Cultural Committee



TERM 3. Rooms Six and Seven went to the Azelia Ley homestead to see historical items up close.





Room 14 learned about natural gas and healthy eating on the Blue Flame Kitchen excursion.

Once again supported by grants from the Cockburn Council, our students went on a Wetland excursion to learn about and celebrate NAIDOC day.



Book Week is always a highlight culminating in the Book Character Parade.



Hiroshima Day is honoured each year by the Cockburn Council with the Japanese Consulate so that we avoid nuclear weapons in the future. Our school Captains attended to represent our school and plant a tree.



Father's Day Lunch supplied by the P & C has become a tradition and the children love the extended lunch to play with Dads.



Term Three was highlighted all term with Athletics and Edu-Dance. These came to a spectacular end with the Edu-Dance Concert and the two day Faction Athletics Carnival.





TERM 4. The Term started with the Interschool Athletics Carnival where Spearwood students again in 2021 did much better than should be expected for such a small school.



Our school joined in the Blue Tree project to let people know – “It’s ok to not be ok”
We used our Simone McGurk grant to buy playground sports equipment.



In Term Four we learned a lot about singing and Opera from the WA Opera Incursion and many interesting things about Aboriginal Culture and artefacts from a Wadjini Aboriginal performer.



The end of the year was busy with Year Sixes having a Big Day Out.



Graduation and the Christmas Concert.



But the biggest end of year highlight was the P & C Water Fun Day. Thanks to the P & C this was an awesome day.



PROGRESS AGAINST BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES

High expectations within a safe learning environment developing healthy and resilient learners.

Attendance.

Spearwood kept a strong focus on improving the attendance of students at risk and supporting families.

In 2020 and 2021 the attendance of students at schools across the State have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Parents, sometimes for extended periods of time, were keeping children home to feel they could keep them safe.

The school Attendance rate was 90.4%.

The overall attendance rate for all grades except Pre-Primary was above 90% which is the safe from risk percentage and most above the 91% which was the Public Schools Attendance Rate. Teachers and administration staff made regular contact with families of children who were absent to check on their welfare.

Behaviour and Engagement.

The school has a focus on positive behaviours and a strong behaviour management process.

The whole school resilience program, Highway Heroes, continues to demonstrate a strong and positive impact.

The School Survey in 2020 had 4.5/5 Rating from parents for the item:
“Student behaviour is well managed at this school.”

In 2022 the next biannual survey will be held. Our goal will be to maintain this rating in the high 4's.

Our Chaplain, Coral Atkins, is successfully working with students and families at risk. She works with individual families and students when they self-identify or are identified by teachers or the Community Liaison, our Manager of Corporate Services (MCS), Ms Carol Derbyshire.

The Chaplain and Manager of Corporate Services have worked to develop relationships and partnerships with a wide variety of agencies and these work to increase the opportunities for our students. These include: Ed Connect, Foodbank, Goods 360, Spearwood Progress Association, Cockburn Men's Shed, disability service workers, Freedom Church and Share the Dignity.

On top of the emotional support of calls and on site pastoral care, connections with the assistance of our partnerships, these families are supported with food, uniforms, school supplies and links to community groups to assist in other areas

Retention.

We had a small group of nine in total Year Six students. They mostly left Spearwood Primary School to attend Government High Schools (7/9 students).

In 2022, a group of four Spearwood students, are enrolled and attending Fremantle College. One student each is attending: Melville and Lakeland Senior High Schools. Two students are attending non-Government High Schools one each at Seton and Kennedy College.

High quality teaching utilising contemporary curriculum and assessment.

Staff attended professional learning and implement best practice pedagogy throughout the whole school including: Explicit Instruction, Connect, Bright Path, and Talk4Writing. The whole school approach facilitates sequential, consistent teaching and learning programs across all phases of learning.

Individual staff attended specific Professional learning including two staff attending five days of 'Language Leadership Schools Initiative'. This professional learning allowed the start of whole school literacy planning under the leadership of these attendees.

After school professional learning on Grammar and Vocabulary presented by the Language Development Centre staff, allowed teachers to focus on these areas of language and work with colleagues for shared understandings.

In Term Two the School Development Day was used to allow teachers and education assistants to attend the online professional learning on Autism. What was most assuring in this session and the discussions that followed were the recommended strategies that are already in place at Spearwood automatically with such an experienced staff with years of professional learning and varied experience behind them.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) standards are used in observation, planning and reflection. Standards are used for personal reflection and professional feedback from peers and line manager. All teachers engaged in the Performance Management process in 2021 through the development of SMART goals with their line managers. The process was based on their self-reflections and peer feedback using the AITSL standards at 'Proficient' level and above.

Teachers use data and additional evidence to explain what they do and the impact it has on student learning in data analysis and performance management processes.

Effective Leadership.

Spearwood Primary School has a professional team of highly skilled staff with the majority of the teaching staff having earned Senior Teacher level. They share the responsibility for student learning and success and recognise that the school's vision can only be achieved by working together. Through self-reflection and performance management, they know their strengths and continue to grow their capacity as leaders. Staff are encouraged to take active leadership roles beyond their classrooms and have high aspirations.

The Student Leadership Team were responsible for all formal leadership requirements such as running Assemblies and Ceremonies. The School Captains represented the school at events held by external partners such as City of Cockburn and the local RSL. All positions were gained through merit selection involving speeches to the student body and secret ballot. Students demonstrated high levels of responsibility in all areas.

Student Leadership is highlighted in Faction events including training and Athletics Carnivals. These students are elected into their positions and have a strong voice in the teams' selection and training.



Strong governance, partnerships and collaboration.

Governance, Partnerships and Collaboration Groups include the: School Board, Staff Leaders, P & C and Cultural Committee. The leadership team and School Board are united in their purpose. Board members are highly motivated and make substantial contributions to the school.

The School Board effectively leads the school reviewing reports and carrying out all key business under the School Board Chair, Mrs. Janine Griffiths. This is a positive and proactive group that held open meetings once or twice a term.

The Cultural Committee is led by the Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (AIEO) and has implemented the Aboriginal Standards Framework with tangible and permanent school improvements. This Committee, formed in 2019 by the MCS, is working to increase indigenous representation membership. In addition to the Chair, our AIEO current Indigenous members include our P & C President and a community member.

In 2021 the Cultural Committee commenced our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) through Narragunnawali Reconciliation in Education (Reconciliation Australia). Together they created a working group with 8 members, completed a reflection survey and developed the vision.

Spearwood Primary School Vision for Reconciliation is:

- Develop students' cultural awareness,
- Build an educated community that learns from the past and shapes the future,
- Create an environment that fosters acceptance and pride in self,
- Encourage connection to culture and heritage,
- Value all people so they can participate in the community.

In collaboration with the whole school staff during professional learning sessions and at staff meetings the committee have assigned 6 of the 14 required actions. In 2022 they will work to refine our actions and assign the remaining 8 actions.

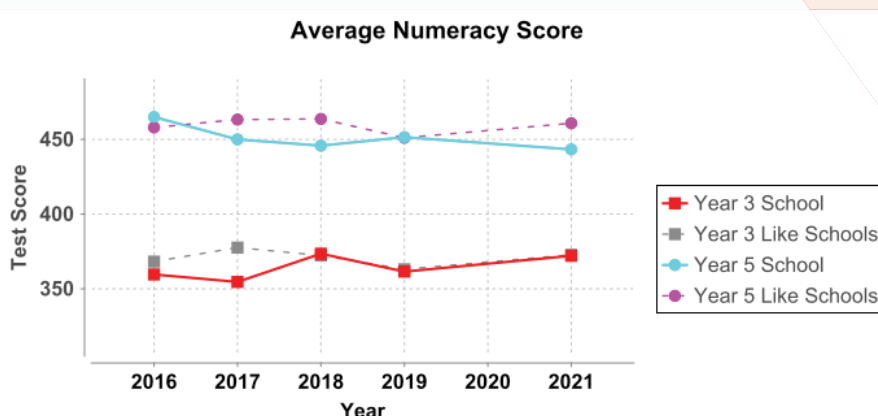
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS

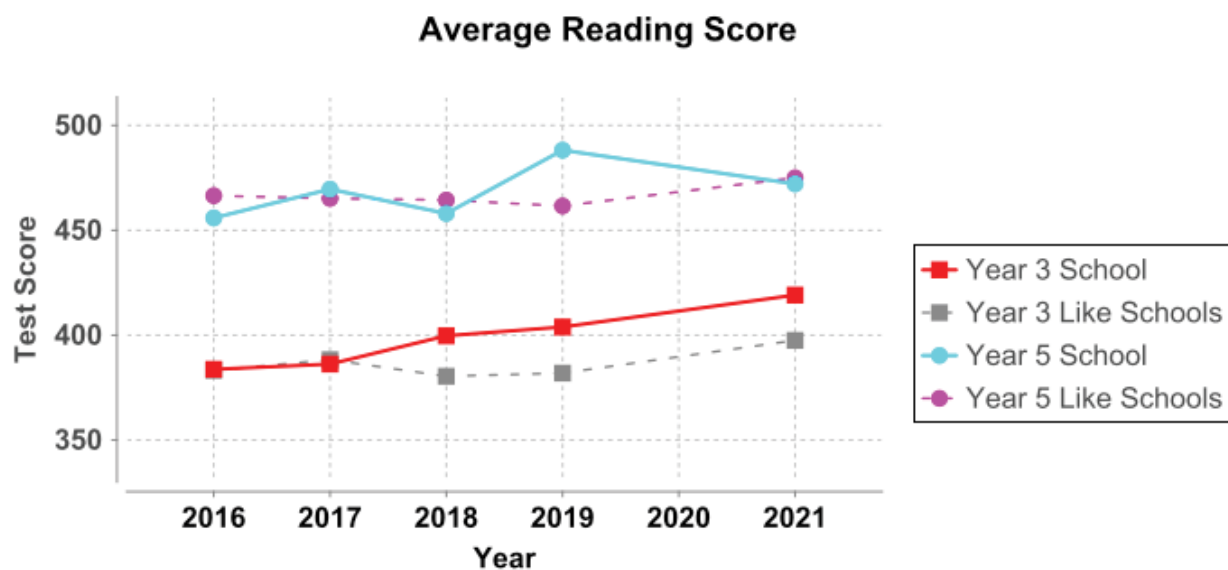
A variety of standardised testing supplements the individual student assessments carried out by teachers.

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was conducted in 2021 having been cancelled in 2020.

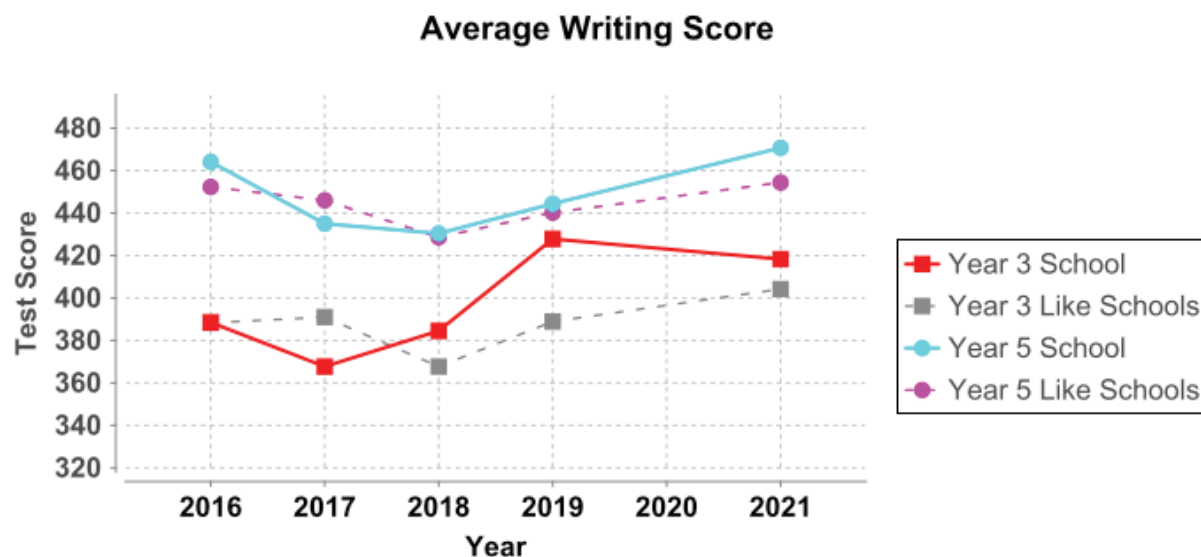
The Longitudinal Average Numeracy Score Graph shows Spearwood Primary School maintaining results close to our comparative 'Like Schools'.

While the Year Five group is slightly lower in 2021 it needs to be acknowledged throughout this year's data analysis that a single new student with significant learning difficulties has impacted in this very small group of 12 students.



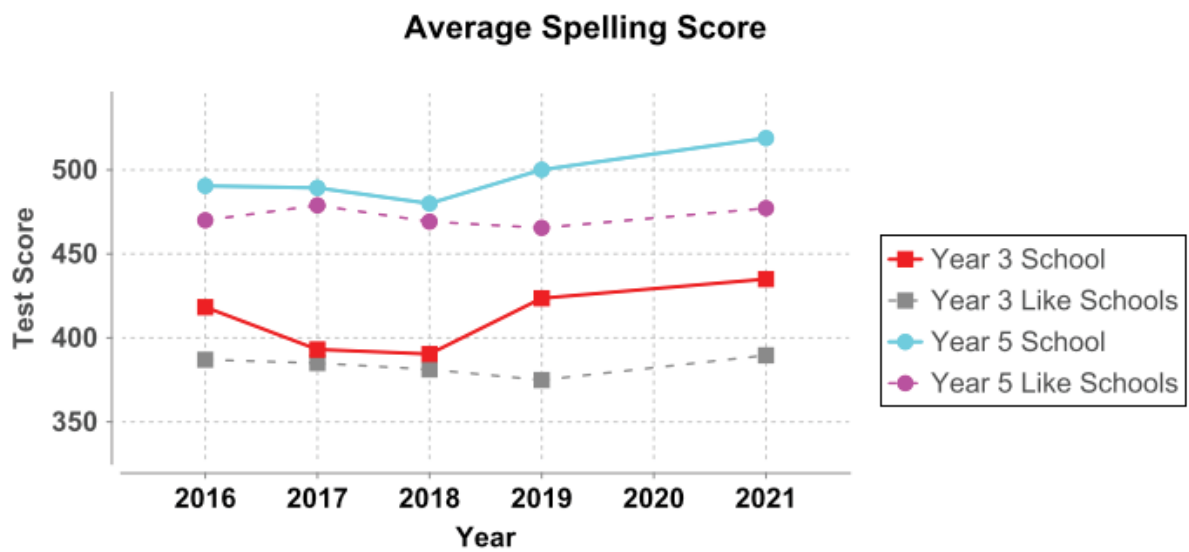


The Longitudinal Average Reading Score Graph shows Spearwood Primary School maintaining results close to our comparative 'Like Schools'. It is pleasing to note the consistently higher than 'Like Schools' in the Year Three group over the last three years showing the strong Early Childhood Literacy programs.



In 2018 Spearwood Primary School introduced the 'Talk for Writing' program throughout the school. This strong oral language pedagogical approach clearly has a positive impact on the students' writing.

Teachers take particular delight in the progress in the Brightpath assessment from the 'Cold Task' at the start of a program of learning to the 'Hot Task' at the end where students successfully work independently on a writing task.

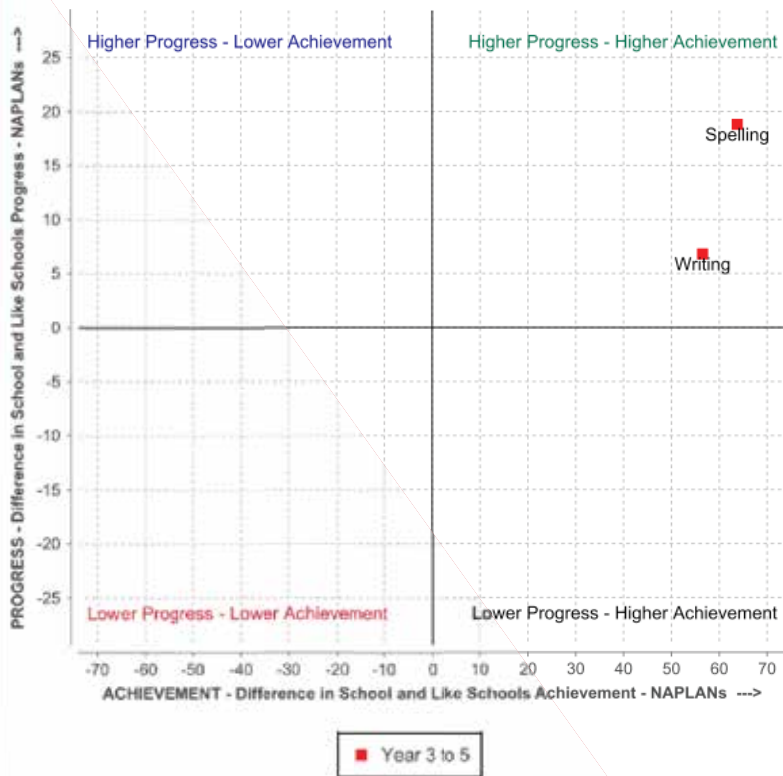


In 2016 the 'Soundwaves' spelling program was introduced across the school from Pre-Primary to Year Six. Spearwood had immediate and sustained success with this program. It also is demonstrated in these results that the introduction of 'Talk for Writing' compounded the success in Spelling.



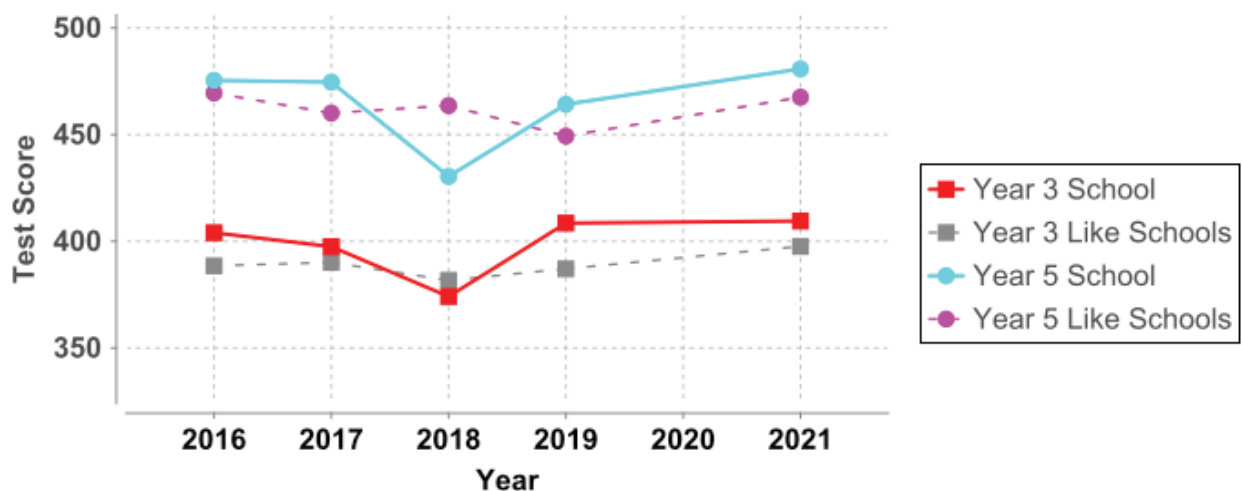
Student Progress and Achievement Compared with Like Schools

NAPLAN Writing and Spelling Year 3 2019 to Year 5 2021



This graph showing the progress from Year Three to Year Five best highlights the strength of the Spelling and Writing programs at Spearwood Primary School. This shows the school has both higher progress and higher achievement when compared with like schools in these key literacy areas.

Average Grammar & Punctuation Score

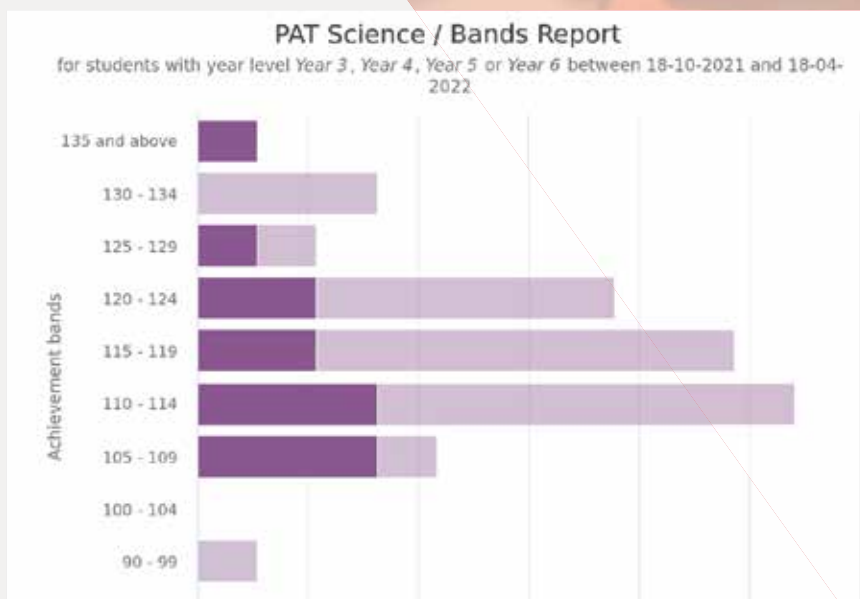


Spearwood Primary students have achieved better results in Grammar and Punctuation than 'Like Schools' in all years except 2018. Since 2018 teachers formally timetable and teach this area to maintain a focus on these skills in weekly explicit instruction sessions. They also take opportunities in Reading and Writing to focus on areas with the Grammar and Punctuation skill set.

PROGRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT TESTING (PAT)

Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT) has been utilized as a normative testing tool at Spearwood for many years. This testing also allows for the collection of data on students in year groups not assessed by NAPLAN as well as years three and five. It has been used in the areas of: Mathematics, Reading and Science.

In 2020 the school increased the tests to include the tests for Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation as a result of the cancelation of NAPLAN due to Covid. In 2021 teachers decided that the school would continue to collect this data for at least one more year as it gave strong individual student information allowing for student and group remediation and program review.



This graph shows pleasing results for the Year Three to Year Six students in PAT Science testing in 2021.

It is interesting to note that the top student is a Year Three student. Year Three students are shown in the darker purple area of the bands.

The Year Six students are in the next four bands with none in the bottom three bands. The student in the lowest band is a Year Four English as a Second Language (ESL) student.

BRIGHT PATH ASSESSMENT

Bright Path Assessment is a tool to assess student writing and is used throughout the school. Teachers at Spearwood and neighboring schools have moderation sessions to maintain consistent and accurate assessment using this tool. Teachers get a lot of individual information and can see the progress over programs of learning and years using this assessment tool. As mentioned earlier it is used during 'Talk for Writing' programs to measure the improvement in writing. Given the school's excellent NAPLAN results in writing, the value of this time consuming detailed assessment is clearly shown.

In 2021 the Bright Path tools added Mathematics: Measurement & Geography and Number & Algebra and Science: Science Investigations. The Mathematics tests were trialled by teachers in 2021. The Science investigations will be trialled in 2022. The value of these assessments in comparison to PAT and other data will be reviewed in 2022 in planning for the Spearwood Primary School 2023 – 2025 Business Plan.

ON-ENTRY TESTING

On-entry Testing occurs in terms one and four for the Pre-Primary students. Individual reports are supplied to parents for each testing period and used by the classroom teachers.

PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

The National School Opinion Surveys (NSOS) must be administered every two years. The Survey was last administered in Term Three in 2020. This will next be administered in 2022.

2018 Areas in Parent Survey for focus to reach a target score of 4 or above in 2020

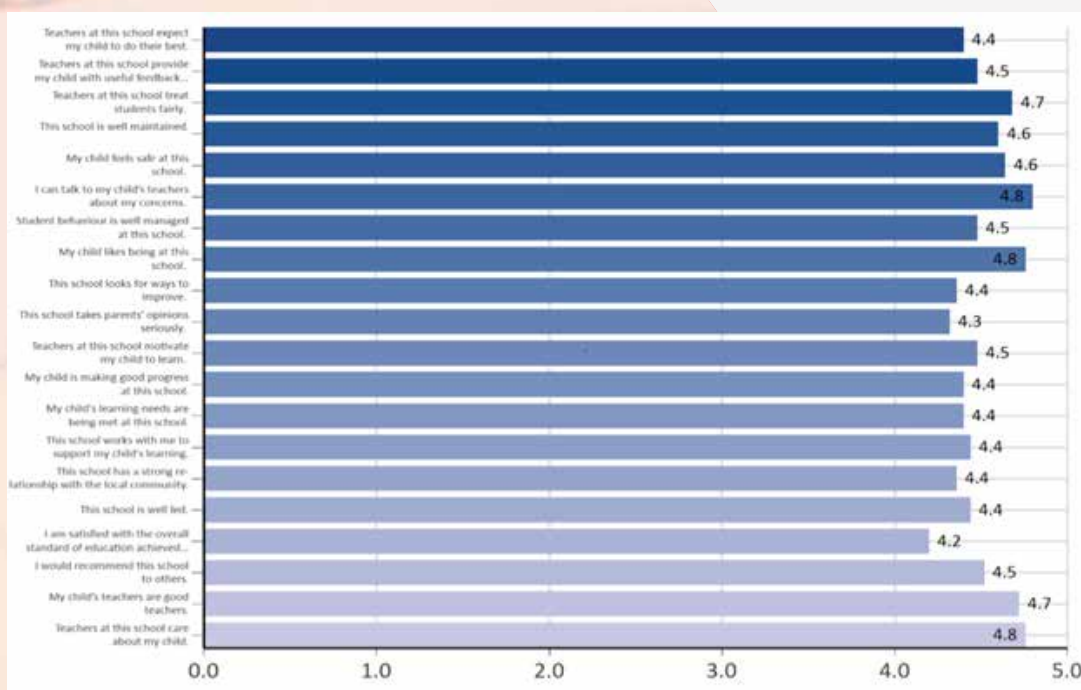
1. The school is well maintained
2. My child feels safe at this school
3. Student behaviour is well managed at this school
4. This school looks for ways to improve

Survey Group	1 Well Maintained 2018 - 2020	2 Feel Safe 2018 - 2020	3 Student Behaviour 2018 - 2020	4 School Improvement 2018 - 2020
Parents	3.3 - 4.6	3.8 - 4.6	3.9 - 4.5	4.8 - 4.8
Staff	3.8 - 4.7	3.8 - 4.4	3.8 - 4.1	3.9 - 4.6
Students	3.7 - 4.2	3.5 - 4.0	2.8 - 3.4 (+0.6)	4.2 - 4.4

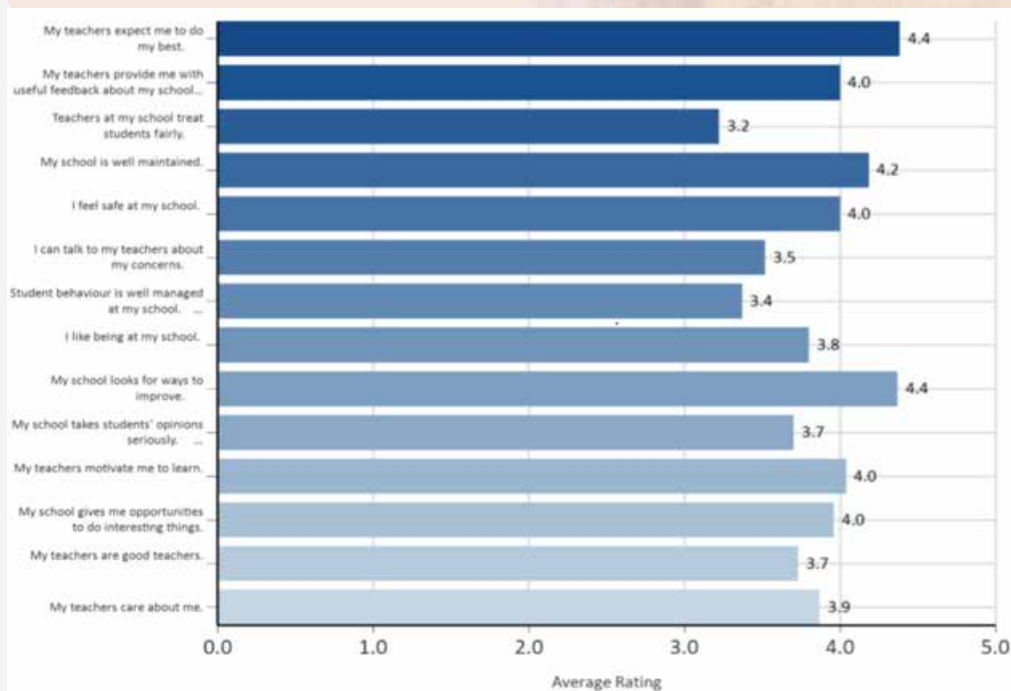
SPEARWOOD PARENT SURVEY 2020

The National School Opinion Survey was distributed by Newsletter link with paper copies on offer. No parent took the paper copy option in 2020. Twenty-five of our 86 families responded in 2020 which represents 29% of our school population. This represents significantly the highest percentage of engagement since the first survey in 2015. For example, in 2018, 13 families responded and the student population was larger. Staff actively encouraged families to complete a survey more in 2020 than in previous survey years.

The Parent results are overwhelmingly positive. Some of this can be attributed to the good will of the community in these difficult times, and that our parents who engage with the newsletters are the positive and proactive parents. The survey closed after three annual highlights: Book Character Parade, School Athletics Carnival and Mrs Miller's Assembly. There were useful suggestions which will be followed up with staff and the School Board.



SPEARWOOD STUDENT SURVEY 2020



We surveyed the one Year 5/6 class with 27 responses.

There are some areas which have become highlighted for improvement and we will conduct the student survey again in 2021 to see if this can be achieved.

This survey has increases in 8 items, 1 remained equal, 2 small reductions in 1 item and there are two new items in this year's survey.

The survey item: 'Teachers at my school treat students fairly' had a reduction (0.4) and the lowest ranking (3.2). It should be acknowledged that most school would consider a 3.2 to be a good rating but at Spearwood Primary School we aim higher. It has been identified previously with this class that they view the required differentiation for students in curriculum and behavioural plans as other students getting attention that they do not. This is, in their eyes, 'not fair'. In these cases the school and the parents of the individual students would see the same differentiation for 'at risk' students and their improvement and successes as desirable.

We need to assist students in understanding that fair is not equal. A simple explanation is the disabled parking space - Not everyone can park there so it is not equal but it is fair. Students and Parents are usually much more tolerant of differentiation based on physical abilities than on behavioural and mental health on individual basis.

Other areas which we will investigate to find the reasons for lower scores:

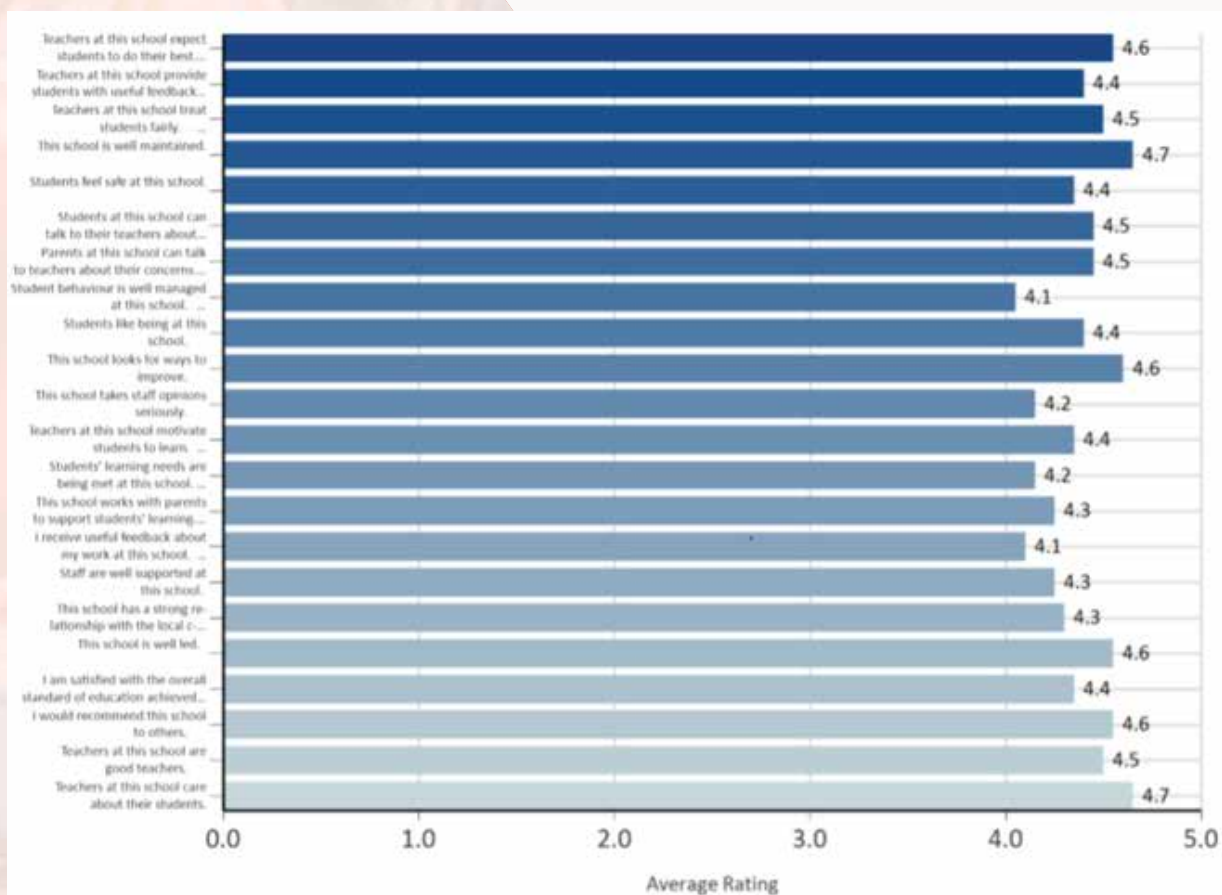
- I can talk to my teachers about my concerns.
- Student Behaviour is well managed.
- School takes students' opinions seriously.
- My teachers are good teachers.

Let's celebrate the high expectations, high maintenance and continual school improvement identified by the students.

We asked the students about the highlights of attending Spearwood Primary School.
Examples of the most common Highlights:

- 17 comments with ICT including talking about STEM, computers, microbots, with Ms Irving and Ms Dowding.
- 14 comments included Sports including PE, Carnivals and Sports for Schools.
- 10 comments on Arts learning area – Guitar Speciality program and Ms Dowding’s amazing visual arts program.
- Italian and Signora Gorman got some great comments.
- ‘It’s good to be at Spearwood Primary School because... it provides a bigger education for younger and older kids we have; Art, Music, ICT, Italian and my favourite LUNCH!!!!’
- “I really enjoy that we have opportunities to participate in ICT, school carnivals, Edu-dance and lots more. Our school also is best to make friends as everyone knows each other seeming we’re such a small school and stuff doesn’t get crowded.”

SPEARWOOD STAFF SURVEY 2020



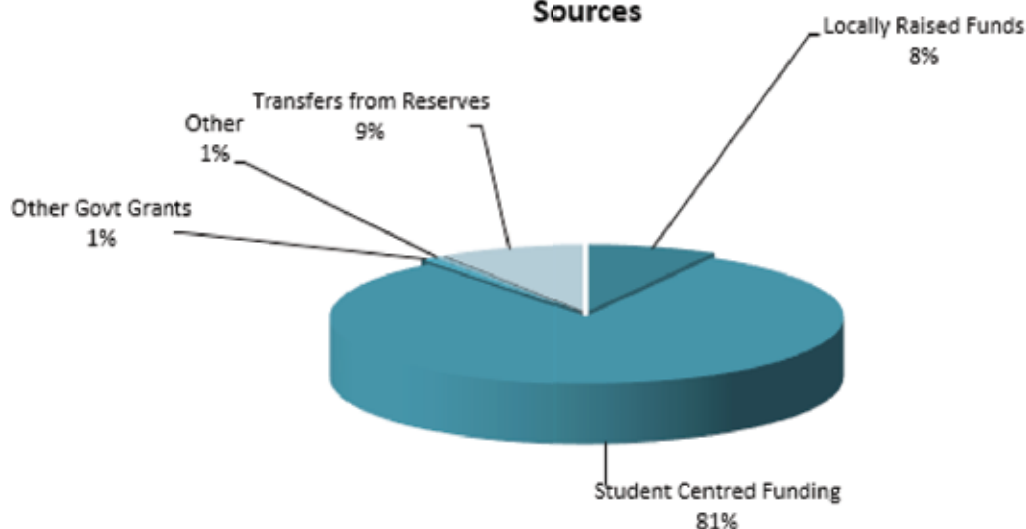
Staff have acknowledged the hard work of their colleagues and the progress in the school in this survey. Staff provided many suggestions which were examined in Term Four 2020 and the beginning of 2021 as part of the continual improvement processes of Spearwood Primary School.

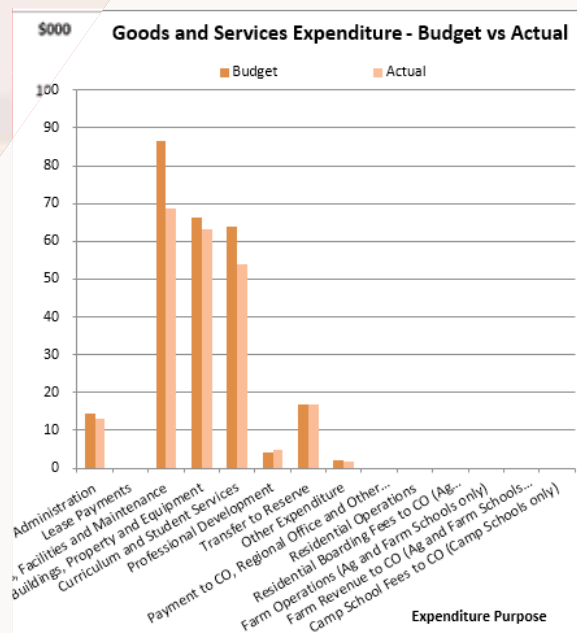
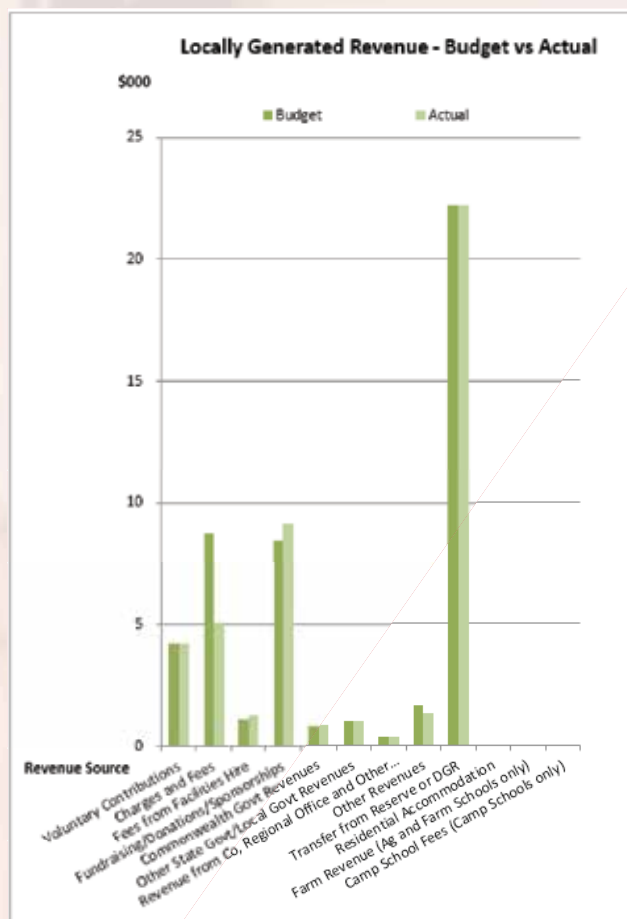
SPEARWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDING

Financial Summary as at 31 December, 2021

	Revenue - Cash & Salary Allocation	Budget	Actual
1	Voluntary Contributions	\$ 4,252.00	\$ 4,250.00
2	Charges and Fees	\$ 8,748.00	\$ 5,080.83
3	Fees from Facilities Hire	\$ 1,127.00	\$ 1,298.61
4	Fundraising/Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 8,463.00	\$ 9,140.84
5	Commonwealth Govt Revenues	\$ 824.98	\$ 824.98
6	Other State Govt/Local Govt Revenues	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
7	Revenue from Co, Regional Office and Other Schools	\$ 356.15	\$ 356.15
8	Other Revenues	\$ 1,672.45	\$ 1,338.74
9	Transfer from Reserve or DGR	\$ 22,210.94	\$ 22,210.94
10	Residential Accommodation	\$ -	\$ -
11	Farm Revenue (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
12	Camp School Fees (Camp Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Locally Raised Funds	\$ 48,654.52	\$ 45,501.09
	Opening Balance	\$ 8,257.05	\$ 8,257.05
	Student Centred Funding	\$ 197,407.67	\$ 197,407.67
	Total Cash Funds Available	\$ 254,319.24	\$ 251,165.81
	Total Salary Allocation	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Funds Available	\$ 254,319.24	\$ 251,165.81

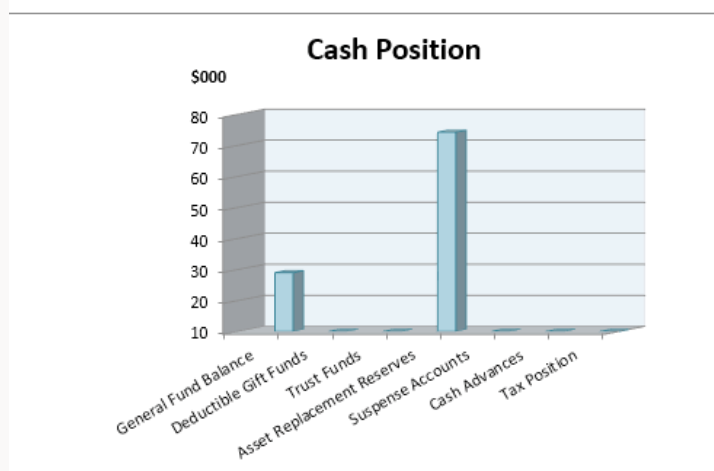
Current Year Actual Cash Sources





Cash Position as at:	
Bank Balance	\$ 100,484.46
Made up of:	
1 General Fund Balance	\$ 28,926.81
2 Deductible Gift Funds	\$ -
3 Trust Funds	\$ -
4 Asset Replacement Reserves	\$ 74,200.24
5 Suspense Accounts	\$ 291.41
6 Cash Advances	\$ -
7 Tax Position	\$ (2,934.00)
Total Bank Balance	\$ 100,484.46

Expenditure - Cash and Salary		Budget	Actual
1 Administration	\$	14,436.05	\$ 13,102.07
2 Lease Payments	\$	-	\$ -
3 Utilities, Facilities and Maintenance	\$	86,556.00	\$ 68,574.01
4 Buildings, Property and Equipment	\$	66,322.09	\$ 63,172.55
5 Curriculum and Student Services	\$	63,979.10	\$ 53,861.68
6 Professional Development	\$	4,000.00	\$ 4,863.64
7 Transfer to Reserve	\$	16,950.00	\$ 16,950.00
8 Other Expenditure	\$	2,076.00	\$ 1,715.05
9 Payment to CO, Regional Office and Other Schools	\$	-	\$ -
10 Residential Operations	\$	-	\$ -
11 Residential Boarding Fees to CO (Ag Colleges only)	\$	-	\$ -
12 Farm Operations (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$	-	\$ -
13 Farm Revenue to CO (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$	-	\$ -
14 Camp School Fees to CO (Camp Schools only)	\$	-	\$ -
Total Goods and Services Expenditure	\$	254,319.24	\$ 222,239.00
Total Forecast Salary Expenditure	\$	-	\$ -
Total Expenditure	\$	254,319.24	\$ 222,239.00
Cash Budget Variance	\$	-	\$ -





A key to
the future

Spearwood Primary School
An Independent Public School



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