



Falls Creek Primary School

School Strategic Plan

2006–2009



Part 1– School Profile

Purpose:

The purpose of the Falls Creek Primary School is to provide a range of challenging, integrated and motivating learning experiences for our students in all strands which will develop high standards, foster high self esteem, maximise each child's potential and prepare them for further education. This will be done in a positive, caring environment with teachers, parents and students working together in partnership.

Values:

We value:

- Fairness, respect and trust
- Cooperation and teamwork
- Honesty and integrity
- The rights of individuals

Environmental Context:

Location:

Falls Creek Primary School is a remote, rural school in a unique alpine environment. The area is often subject to snow and adverse weather making access difficult.

Situated 30 kms from Mt Beauty in the Victorian High Country, the school services the small but fluctuating cosmopolitan population of the ski resort.

Student numbers vary seasonally from an initial enrolment of around 10 at the beginning of the school year to approximately 40 in the winter terms. Some changes have had to be made to the internal environment, utilising the available space to provide three classrooms and providing additional furniture, and to some of the outdoor activities, eg the students are unable to use the playground due to weather conditions.

The school was established in 1972 and largely owes its existence to the dedication of the Falls Creek community. This sense of community remains as strong today as evidenced by the assistance and involvement of the parent body in the school's activities.

The current building was constructed in 1985 and provides a modern comfortable learning environment. The well-heated classrooms can readily be converted to a multi-purpose area, as dictated by the needs of the school or those in the wider community. The outdoor facilities have been improved over the past few years.

The school is a member of the Upper Kiewa Valley Innovation and Excellence cluster. The schools meet on a regular basis for group days, sports days, grade days and art performances. Teachers join together for professional development activities.

Other Significant Factors:

- Since 1992 this school has had Japanese as its LOTE. Interns from the University of Kitakyushu assist in the delivery of this program. Since 1997 Falls Creek has had a sister school relationship with Hokubu Elementary School, Innai, Oita Prefecture on the Island of Kyushu.
- The school has had a very effective student teacher program operating since 1990. During the year, two or three student teachers in their final year of teacher training undertake practicums at the school, usually during the winter months. The enthusiasm, youth and expertise of the student teachers greatly enhances program delivery.
- Falls Creek Primary makes the most of the unique alpine environment in which the school is situated. In winter, snow sports are an integral part of the school curriculum. Students each have an afternoon per week of alpine and cross-country skiing. Successes in the Victorian and Australian Interschool competitions reflect the skills and enthusiasm this program provides.

Part 2 – Strategic Intent

Student Learning Outcomes

Goal:

To ensure that all children are extended and supported to improve their achievement within the framework of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

Targets:

- All students will maintain or exceed expected growth levels in Literacy and Numeracy relative to levels achieved in 2004.
- Improved student achievement in other domains over the duration of the Strategic Plan.

Key Improvement Strategies:

- To further enhance consistent and innovative approaches to teaching and learning through active involvement in the 'Innovation and Excellence cluster.
- Class Teaching Programs
 - Plan for and deliver stimulating and challenging tasks across all levels utilising the Principles of Learning and Teaching (POLT)
 - Review and implement new strategies to support both under achieving and high achieving students.
 - Continue to focus upon communication skills of students especially in the area of 'The Arts'.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Goal:

To promote and maintain a positive, caring and safe environment that encourages self-esteem, responsibility, and mutual respect for others.

Targets:

- High student satisfaction as measured by student attitude survey as developed by the school.
- Parent satisfaction to remain above the 75th percentile.

Key Improvement Strategies:

- Continue the You Can Do It program throughout the school.
- Develop a student maintained website, highlighting the school and its students' achievements.
- Actively market the school to the local community.

Student Pathways and Transitions**Goal:**

To provide students with pathways that facilitate effective transitions between pre-school and school and between year levels.

Target:

- All year 6 students to participate in secondary transition programs.
- Transition programs to be available to all prep students.
- High levels of satisfaction with induction on school based survey.

Key Improvement Strategies:

- Document an approach to the transfer of key information regarding student needs prior to entering school for short-term enrolments.
- To further enhance consistent and innovative approaches to teaching and learning through active involvement in the 'Innovation and Excellence' cluster.
- To enhance the relationship between cluster school and school staff through the development of school visitation program

Part 3 – Signatures

SIGNED by the Principal

Name Mr John G Ross

Date .../.../.....

SIGNED by the School Council Vice President

Name Mrs Karen Ford

Date .../.../.....

SIGNED by the Regional Director (or nominee)

Name

Date .../.../.....