



# National School Improvement Tool School Review Report

**School:** The Canberra Montessori School

**Review Dates:** 6-7 September 2016

**Principal:** Mr Anthony Vandermolen

**Reviewer:** Carmel Ryan

## Commendations:

- The ethos of the Canberra Montessori School is built around a genuine desire for all of its students to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens through its core values of Respect, Community Spirit, Independence, Caring and Individuality.
- The change process is a complex one which takes conviction, courage and commitment. The Principal and staff members are to be congratulated for the professional journey they have undertaken. The focus on strengthening practice and on deepening knowledge and understanding of the Montessori Principles and Pedagogy has the intent of delivering the best possible outcomes for each and every student.
- Members of the parent body expressed that the Canberra Montessori School has a warm and friendly learning environment, where staff members genuinely engage in the teaching and learning process. Staff work to build mutually respectful relationships with the children.
- The students interviewed expressed a great love and pride in the school and were appreciative of the unique and diverse experiences afforded to them by the school within a safe and supportive environment.
- Significant works including better connectivity of classrooms, a comprehensive audit of facilities, refurbishment of the front office and reception area, a new look website and re-invented school logo is an endeavour to raise the profile of The Canberra Montessori School within the community.

## Affirmations:

- The mapping of the Montessori Curriculum against the Australian Curriculum has commenced.
- The school is committed to developing a culture of continuous professional improvement and building a school-wide professional team of highly able teachers and leaders.
- The Principal and leadership team is endeavouring to improve communication channels across the whole school community.

## Recommendations:

- Narrow and sharpen the improvement agenda with explicit and clear school-wide targets for improvement with accompanying timelines and communicate to parents and families, teachers and students.
- Continue to build a school-wide self-reflective culture focused on improving classroom teaching and pedagogical practices consistent with the Montessori way.
- Continue to map the Montessori Curriculum against the Australian Curriculum and ensure it provides a shared vision for curriculum practice and remains a focus for discussion amongst teachers.
- Explore a research-based model to embed reflective and deliberate pedagogical practices consistent with the Montessori philosophy and pedagogy. Utilise the broad range of expertise on staff to support this.
- Ensure clarity about what students are expected to learn and be able to do; have high expectations of every student's learning; individualise attention as determined by data analysis and provide feedback to students to guide student learning towards improved outcomes.
- Enhance the school community's understandings of initiatives such as Appretio; Schoolstream and PC School to ensure that the communication channels across the whole school community are being used as effectively as possible.
- Develop a professional learning plan which maps the Individual Development Portfolios of staff members to capture the aspirations and professional learning identified by them to deliver the school's priorities. Ensure the associated budget is in place to resource the imperatives.

## Further Details

Information about the ACER Committed to Excellence (c2e) program and the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT) is available at: <http://www.acer.edu.au/nsit>

Further enquiries about the NSIT School Review process and school improvement service may be directed to:

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