

St Joseph's Primary School South Grafton
Professional Learning Community
Professional Learning



The processes of ongoing school Improvement are reliant on many components with arguably the most important being the *Enhancement of Teacher Capacity*.

This capacity is enhanced through collaborative practices, which identify specific strengths and areas for improvement. Furthermore, through the provision of internal and external coaching and evaluation, teacher capacity is enhanced.

PLCs value job-embedded professional learning supported by external opportunities for lateral and vertical learning. Teachers develop instructional practices through “learning by doing” in the classroom, with processes established to reflect, share and collaborate.

This booklet outlines the professional learning direction of the Diocese and the school and outlines several practices aimed at providing Professional Learning.

WHAT IS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING?

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IS the ongoing process of learning and development. It involves structured and unstructured opportunities, interactions and experiences which enhance knowledge, practice and engagement.

For teachers, the Australian Institute of Teaching and Learning and the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers provides a valuable framework and language to describe teacher's stages of professional development.

Why do we engage in Professional Learning?

Improving teacher effectiveness outweighs the impact of any other school education program or policy in improving student performance. Teachers have the greatest impact on student outcomes.

The best professional development teachers can receive is to directly help them teach their students. This is one of the crucial roles that our instructional leaders play in the development of our teachers.

What is my student's learning needs, hence what are my learning needs?

How do I measure the impact of my professional learning on student outcomes?

Professional Learning can be a mile wide and an inch deep.....

In order to deepen their learning about their vocation, their roles and responsibilities, all employees deserve professional learning opportunities that are relevant, well prepared and professionally delivered.

Seven Principles for effective Professional Learning

The role of all school leaders is critical in the school's professional learning plan. Strong leaders set high expectations that focus on process as well as on results. These leaders must nurture the capacity of the community of adult learners through the development of shared goals and aspirations.

Aligned to school and system vision, goals and strategic plans

Directed to improving student learning outcomes

3. Supports the teachers practice and aligns with teacher standards, Catholic Church, systems and school documents

4. Based on current research and best practice models

5. Collaborative, interactive, challenging, reflective professional learning, which enables participants to become architects of change

6. Sustained over time and supported by School Leadership and CSO

7. Evaluated for its impact on Student Peer Achievement, engagement and wellbeing

