# Winters Flat Primary School
No. 652

## School Strategic Plan
2007 - 2010

| Endorsement by School Principal | SIGNED: Kevin Brown  
DATE: December 18th 2006 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Endorsement by School Council   | SIGNED: Garth Doolan  
DATE: December 18th 2006  
School Council President signs indicating that the School Strategic Plan has been endorsed by School Council |
| Endorsement by Regional Director (or nominee) | SIGNED:  
NAME:  
DATE: |
School Profile

Purpose and values

At Winters Flat Primary School we aim to provide a caring and dynamic learning environment that engages in students, parents and teachers working together to achieve the student’s full potential in the areas of Social, Physical, Academic, Creative and Emotional development.

Winters Flat Primary School has always believed strongly in forming effective partnerships with all members of the school community. We celebrate diversity, encouraging the utilisation of skills shown by students, parents and teachers as well as those in the wider community. We seek to embrace these ideals further; to meet more fully the educational needs of our community, and to ensure that our educational partnerships are working effectively. This is emphasised through the school’s commitment to “Achieving Success Together”.

It is our school’s belief that each child must be treated as an individual and encouraged to develop their highest personal level of achievement in all areas of learning. We believe that it is the responsibility of all involved with the child to help develop their full potential as a thinking, responsible caring person. Our school is a ‘SPACE’ school, meaning that we cater for each child’s Social, Physical, Academic, Creative and Emotional wellbeing. We believe that all areas are equally important, and we strive to put in place structures and programs to address this. In particular, we are working on the assessment by students and their teachers on the development of each student’s social and emotional wellbeing. Our students will develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to understand and contribute to society. We believe that children should be encouraged to respond to high expectations and develop high expectations of themselves. We further believe they should be able to work effectively with others. To this end, each child is seen as a social individual and is encouraged to grow in confidence and self-worth, taking more responsibility for their own learning.

Environmental Context

Winters Flat Primary School, Castlemaine, established in 1860, opened on its present site in 1964. The school is located on the western side of Castlemaine on an attractively landscaped site. The spacious grounds - including an arbour of Spanish Oaks (National Trust listing), an oval, a variety of well-equipped play areas and several asphalted/paved courts and rest areas - are within sight of the natural features surrounding Forest Creek. The school provides a natural, traffic free environment in what remains an urban area, and both parents and students are encouraged to become involved in developing the grounds.

As well as general classrooms, our school has a purpose built Library, Art/Craft room, and a converted multi-purpose gymnasium which has space for performing arts, physical education and kitchen (Oak View). For the past three years the school in partnership with the wider community has strived to address sustainability, health and nutrition. Energy use has dropped by 20% and the recently installed tanks should reduce water use by 80%. The state award-winning ECOgarden and the Garden Harvest Cooking program have been very effective in developing the children’s nutritional knowledge and skills in the areas of growing, harvesting and cooking.

A genuine partnership between teachers, pupils, parents and the wider community is seen as an integral aspect of effective education. For the past three years, our school has reversed the local trend of declining enrolments. For instance in 2007 the expected enrolment is 250, which is 50% above the figure predicted for Winters Flat based on local demographic data. For many years the school has worked on rejigging the teaching structures to meet the needs of children. In 2003, as an alternative to the more traditional class structures, our Community Class of 21 children was established in a portable building. The class is multi-aged, has family groupings, and the parent body of the class is heavily involved in all aspects of their children’s education. The class has steadily grown in numbers, and for 2006, in recognition of the innovative school/parent structure, the region organised a new Mod5 building. In 2007, because of rapid growth, the school has capped the numbers in this class to allow for consolidation of programs. Enrolments have already been received for the next three years.
## Strategic Intent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Key Improvement Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To improve student learning in all areas of Winters Flat primary School's SPACE (Social, Physical, Academic, Creative, Emotional) curriculum.</td>
<td>At least 85% of all students to be at or above the expected level at each reporting time in all areas of the school's curriculum from the end of 2007 to the end of 2009. At least 15% of students to be well above or above the expected level at each reporting time in all areas of the school's curriculum from the end of 2007 to the end of 2009. Improvement in all variables of the Teachers and Teaching section of the Attitudes to School survey each year to 2009, from the 2006 school benchmarks. In Maths 25% of students in Stanine 4 and below (Yr 2 data) to move forward at least one stanine by the end of Yr 3. <strong>In Maths</strong> the gain from Yr 3 to Yr 5 to be at least 0.9. <strong>In English</strong> to maintain the data results of the P-2 Benchmark Reading Test so that 100% of Yr 2 students are reading 90% or above accuracy at Level 20. <strong>In English</strong> the gain from Yr 3 to Yr 5 to be at least 0.9. Reading Recovery children to achieve, by Yr Six, reading at stanine 4 and above on the Torch test.</td>
<td>1. To implement the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and new student reporting framework in conjunction with our SPACE curriculum. 2. To investigate and implement different methods of measuring the progress of individuals and groups of students, to best inform planning and program development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Student Engagement and Wellbeing

To enhance a safe, attractive, positive and stimulating environment, for all members of our school community, that promotes pride, self-esteem and respect for others.

- Average number of absent days per student at each year level to be equal to, or below, the State primary benchmarks each year to the end of 2009.
- To increase the positive response of Year 5 and 6 students in all variables of ‘Feelings about yourself and school’ section of the Student Attitudes to School survey for each year between 2007 and 2009.
- Improvement in positive responses recorded on the Winters Flat PS Safety Survey

1. To implement the DE&T’s program ‘It’s Not OK To Be Away’.
2. To continuously review and implement the relevant sections of the VELS and our SPACE curriculum.

### Student Pathways and Transitions

To support and provide opportunities for all students in their transitions to, from and within Winters Flat Primary School.

- Improvement each year in the responses from students and parents undertaking transitions in a Transition Survey by 2009 from the 2006 benchmark.

1. To build links between learning hubs attended by our students – home/school, childcare/school, kinder/school, Year 6 - 7, home-schooling/school, school/school, grade/grade.
2. To develop pathways that value diversity and choice. In providing opportunities, we will promote ideas for self-growth within programs that encourage sustainability and social cohesion.