



School Improvement Framework Update – College Newsletter

Since my last update in June, the School Improvement Framework, more affectionately known as SIF, has travelled an intense yet rewarding journey. **School Improvement** should be both a process of looking forward to a new way of operating for the school and of developing the means of planning a journey to get there. Thus, the framework serves two purposes:-

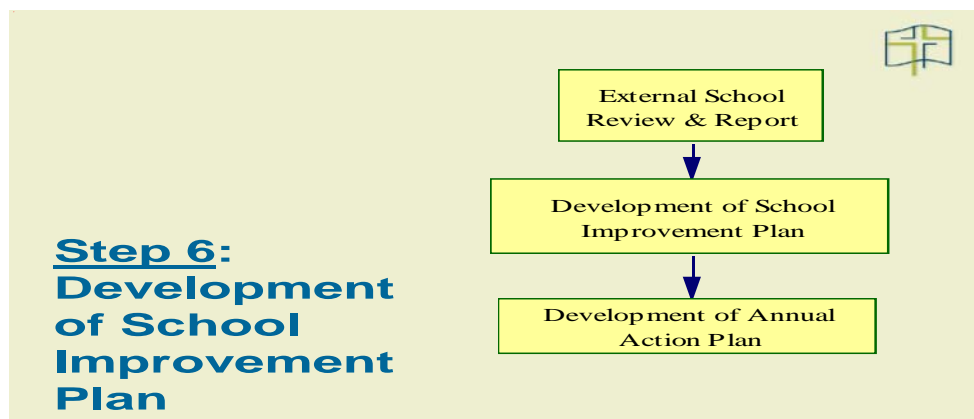
1. To satisfy legitimate expectations of the government and sector authorities about accountability for the outcomes of schooling, and
2. to assist schools and teachers to improve student learning outcomes

Throughout Term III staff worked closely together in one of the five spheres – Education in Faith, School Community, Teaching and Learning, Student Wellbeing and Leadership and Management – collecting, perusing, analysing and discussing various forms of quantitative, qualitative and anecdotal data to ascertain where the strengths, challenges and opportunities exist within the organisational health of the College. These findings were written up in an official document called a Self-Reflection Report.

On August 14th, our External School Reviewers, Ms Pam Burton and Mr Geoff McPherson, who have both been trained & accredited by CEOM, visited the College. The External Reviewers audited the VRQA Minimum Standards Checklist and audited the performance data, evidence and any additional information gathered by our College that was relevant to our School Self-Reflection Report.

On Monday, 24th August, the Review continued. Further information and evidence was sought through a series of focus groups including meetings with the Principal, Executive, various other staff leadership teams, and representatives of the student, staff and parent communities.

On Wednesday, August 26th, The External Reviewers returned to provide a critique of the College's Self-Reflection Report and External Review to the Principal; Executive; Sphere Facilitators; our CEO Representative, Mr Claude Ferrarese; Mr Mark Murphy (Principal at Marcellin College) and Chairman of the College Council, Mr Bernie Shinnars, commenting on the extent to which evidence demonstrated the school's achievement and recommending refinements to be considered in the formation of the ensuing School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Annual Action Plan. A summary of these findings are available on the SIF page of the College Website. You will find this under the left side tab "Assumption College".



Once developed the SIP will be a concise document that aligns with the Strategy Plan for Catholic Education within the Melbourne Archdiocese, and gives clarity about what the school is aiming to achieve in the next 4 years and about how the school intends to address these goals.

The SIP process recognises:-

- the school as the centre of change
- the need for a thorough context analysis of the school prior to improvement planning; Plan should be *unique* to the school itself
- Focuses more closely on *outcomes* rather than *process* factors
- Use of multiple data sources – quantitative & qualitative
- The importance of balance between growing demand for greater transparency in both private and public sectors for more rigorous accountability processes and structures. *top down and bottom up*

I look forward to keeping you involved as we continue to travel on our journey but in the meantime please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have

Mel Bratovic

SIF Coordinator ☺