

Dear Principal and Board Chair **Context**

Our Lady Star of the Sea School has been involved in a review with ERO to support school progress and development. The review has included several meetings to determine agreed priorities. The development priorities are focusing on building school community relationships, strengthening governance, curriculum development and use of learning information, and developing evaluation practices. Several areas of non-compliance required addressing. ERO evaluations of progress have involved meetings with the principal, the board of trustees, parents, teachers and a representative from the Ministry of Education. ERO's most recent evaluation of progress on the 17 and 18 March 2021 focused on evaluation for improvement, use of learning information and the progress with curriculum development. ERO also visited classrooms, spoke with some students and attended whole-school and special character events.

Areas of progress and development

The following areas of progress and development are evident:

- the students are learning in a more settled environment which is supported by the collegial relationships within the school staff
- positive community relationships have been restored, parents told ERO they feel welcome to come into the school and talk with their children's teachers
- the principal is building effective communication processes, he is available to speak with parents and whānau
- teachers are using more comprehensive school-wide assessment practices, these are providing more reliable achievement and progress data
- achievement levels at the end of 2020 show that most students were achieving at or above their expected levels in reading, writing and mathematics
- the school has identified the need to lift the achievement levels in writing and mathematics by accelerating the progress of those students achieving below their expected levels
- targeted teaching and relevant professional learning and development (PLD) are well in place to support students make accelerated progress in writing and mathematics
- the principal and teachers use the analysed achievement data well to plan for the diverse needs within the classrooms and school development needs
- all teaching staff are working collaboratively to develop a curriculum that is underpinned by the context of the community, and the strengths and needs of the students
- a comprehensive plan and tailored PLD is giving considered direction to the curriculum development
- the board of trustees has undertaken governance training which has given trustees a greater working understanding of their roles and responsibilities
- the board and school leadership are working cohesively to achieve better outcomes for all students

- the board regularly receives useful achievement reports to inform resourcing decisions in priority areas
- the principal is beginning to use an effective evaluation framework to support improvement and development
- the areas of non-compliance identified in the 2019 ERO report regarding cybersafety, education outside the classroom and community consultation have been addressed.

Areas of continued focus

Key areas remain for the school to improve outcomes for students.

The principal and teachers continue to:

- develop the school's curriculum to give effective guidance to give coherence and consistency to learning programmes across the school
- build sound pedagogical practices through evaluation, appraisal and PLD
- develop their capabilities in using effective evaluation for improvement practices.

The next phase of the review

ERO is planning its next evaluation of progress in term 2, 2021. This visit will focus on effective evaluation for improvement practices. We will also look at the progress made in developing the school curriculum, including the documentation regarding teaching expectations, and discuss the Board Assurance Statement that the BOT will have completed prior to the visit.

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