Successful transitions

Today’s children can look forward to a fundamentally different world, with advances in technology changing both their life and employment opportunities. Each of our regions play a vital role in preparing children for the twenty first century.

In the Advancing Education: An action plan for education in Queensland, the department has identified the importance of children becoming global citizens. Schools are supporting children to develop relationships that are based on tolerance and fairness. They are also preparing children to be culturally competent and to be able to connect both locally and globally.

Each region has its own unique attributes contributing to the diversity of our communities, schools, children and their families. In the South East region nearly 70 per cent of schools are now participating in Early Years Neighbourhood Networks alongside local early childhood services and community partners. These networks are taking on the shared responsibility of ensuring all children within their neighbourhood, are safe, healthy and engaged in quality learning experiences.

I believe that we must work together to gain insight into our local communities and the pressures that our families face. In addition to developing crucial partnerships with parents, this involves engaging with local community representatives and groups, and working cooperatively with them in collaborative decision-making on matters pertaining to their children’s education.

I encourage educational leaders to ensure the young person remains firmly at the centre of all you aspire to, and all that you do. For us in the South East region this means equal access to learning, regardless of geographic, socio-economic, or linguistic background, and ensuring all our young people, regardless of circumstance can experience a trajectory of success.

Sharyn Donald
South East Regional Director, Department of Education and Training
Supporting successful transitions:
School decision-making tool

The principles and action areas identified in the Supporting successful transitions: School decision-making tool complement the areas for action identified in the Advancing education: An action plan for education in Queensland. The tool also details the intended outcomes to be achieved for students and families as a result of engagement with the principles and action areas.

Action area: Respect for diversity

The Supporting successful transitions: School decision-making tool is a framework for both action and reflection. Each action area described in the tool has a number of reflective questions and descriptors (page 6 – 7). These further explain the intent and scope of the action areas, supporting school decision-making.

Below are the reflective questions and descriptors found on page 6 of the tool for the action area – respect for diversity. Principals can keep these reflective questions and descriptors in mind as respect for diversity is explored throughout this newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflective questions</th>
<th>Descriptors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do I know about the children and families in my community?</td>
<td>Every student has the opportunity to learn and succeed in a supportive and inclusive environment</td>
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<td>Do we have the skills, knowledge and understandings to respond to the cultural and contextual needs of children, families and the community?</td>
<td>A whole-school approach to student learning provides a continuum of support directed to different levels of student need</td>
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<tr>
<td>How can the school respond to the needs of children and families from diverse backgrounds?</td>
<td>Families have differing values and beliefs about schooling</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do we ensure equitable access to learning for all children?</td>
<td>The languages, cultures, histories and identity of families are valued and respected, and are the basis for decision-making</td>
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<td>What services already exist in the community?</td>
<td>Assumptions can lead to misunderstandings</td>
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<tr>
<td>How can I access or develop knowledge of the community?</td>
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Upcoming events

The next Better Together Forum will be held in the Central Queensland region at Hurrup Park, Mackay on Monday 17 October 2016. The Forum will bring together schools, early childhood services and local communities who support children’s early learning, development and transition to school. To learn more about this Forum and register visit: https://www.ivvy.com/event/BTCQ

Get in touch

For questions about this newsletter contact the Early Learning Pathways team: Transitions@det.qld.gov.au

More support

Regional Transition and Partnerships and Innovation officers are available to support schools with their transition planning. Find the contact details for appointed officers in your region via this page on OnePortal: https://oneportal.deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/forschools/Pages/Transitiontoschoolsupportcontacts.aspx

For more information and resources on supporting successful transitions visit: www.qld.gov.au/transitiontoschool