

External School Review

Pipalyatjara Anangu School

Across our education system, we seek growth for every student, in every class, and in every school. The external school review value-adds and supports schools to raise student achievement and sustain high performance by providing an expert external perspective on school performance by verifying or challenging:

- a school's improvement planning and processes and its impact on student learning
- the impact of previous external school directions
- the rigour of a school's improvement practices
- the school's capacity to achieve or sustain learning improvement over time.

The external school review lines of inquiry focus on:

- quality school improvement planning
- expert teaching
- quality leadership
- conditions for optimal learning.

The overarching question in every external school review is: How well does the school improve achievement, growth, challenge, engagement, and equity?

Reported impact of directions from the previous External School Review in June 2018.

The school has engaged with a focus in science, with a strong emphasis on providing Learning on Country experiences. Anangu Educators are taking increased responsibility for planning and researching these experiences through brainstorming sessions that consider what local flora and fauna will be accessible. This stronger connection with the Anangu Educators is helping to build stronger community engagement in teaching and learning. A Pitjantjatjara specific phonics programme has commenced which will help strengthen reading in both English and Pitjantjatjara, with the Anangu Educators leading this and teachers supporting. This is empowering Anangu Educators and developing their confidence. Anangu Educators are using this programme towards gaining a certificate three in classroom support with tertiary providers.

School improvement planning has been deliberately tailored to ensure a narrow and deep focus in reading in both English and Pitjantjatjara. A systematic phonics programme is being used to teach synthetic phonics and staff are working collaboratively to build their knowledge and apply this programme with consistency and fidelity in the classroom. The staff are currently working on what common assessments will be used going forward, so there is consistent data collection across the school.

The school has invested heavily in four key resources to improve student learning outcomes in reading, maths, science and Pitjantjatjara phonics. Capability of staff is developing in using these resources through collaboration with a partnership professional learning community, in order to learn alongside other schools. More stable leadership in neighbouring sites will help to strengthen this learning hub. The school has appointed two additional coordinators in first language and culture, in conjunction with a bilingual coordinator, which will enhance the leadership team and support Anangu Educators and teachers in their work.

Outcomes from the External School Review held in November 2023.

The principal will work with the education director to implement the following directions:

- Direction 1** Strengthen collective ownership of student data through the co-construction of student learning goals, empowering Anangu Educators, teachers and students to monitor progress and inform next steps in learning.
- Direction 2** Establish and implement agreed and documented feedback processes, including observations and the provision of timely and targeted feedback, affirming strong practice and identifying future challenges.
- Direction 3** Build and strengthen connections with the broader school community to share, celebrate and participate in learning by actively promoting new school initiatives and creating authentic community partnerships.

These directions are published on the school improvement plan and will support the school's ongoing improvement work. **Based on the school's current performance, Pipalyatjara Anangu School will be externally reviewed again in 2026.**



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