Discussion on a school audit report: Mount Kilcoy SS, dated May 19, 2014

Background:
Mount Kilcoy SS is situated approximately 10 kilometres north of Kilcoy, in the North Coast education region and has a current enrolment of 108 students from Prep – Year 7. The Principal, Selina Barry, was appointed in 2012.

Commendations:
- The Principal and staff members have been ensuring there is a strong focus on improved attendance at the school. This is evident by the attendance rate rising from an average of 90 percent in 2013, to the current rate of 94.7 percent.
- The RACER RULES, focusing on Respect, Actions, Co-operation, Efforts and Responsibility, are well known, well understood and highly visible around the school.
- The school has a strong reputation in the local community and parents speak positively about the benefits of children attending a smaller school. Students speak fondly of a caring school and caring teachers.
- The school communicates well with parents and the Principal ensures that parents are regularly communicated with to celebrate positive behaviour.
- The Principal has restructured staffing models carefully to ensure that a consistent teacher is employed in the early phase of learning.

Affirmations:
- The school has developed a clear process for responding to inappropriate behaviour, which is understood by all staff members and applied consistently.
- Staff members ensure that inappropriate incidents of behaviour are recorded appropriately in OneSchool and are aware of the differences between minor and major incidents of behaviour.
- Significant professional learning opportunities exist for staff members and these are identified in the 2014 Professional Development Plan.
- Data is used to inform decision making about individual students. Appropriate behaviour plans are developed when necessary to shape the behaviour of individual students.
- Staff members monitor playtime behaviour closely and respond appropriately to ensure that systems are in place to encourage positive behaviour.
- Student data booklets have been implemented to monitor attendance and performance in spelling, reading and mathematics.
- The school has developed some positive partnerships with Queensland University of Technology to enhance student engagement across the curriculum.
- Worthwhile connections have been made with the local high school to ensure a smooth and successful transition for year 6 and 7 students to Junior Secondary in 2015.

Recommendations:
- Continue to rigorously monitor academic data to ensure that the safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment is leading to increased engagement and improved outcomes for all students, especially those in the early phase of learning.
- Provide significant opportunities for teachers to engage in professional development around the pedagogical framework.
- Ensure structures are in place to ensure teaching staff have the opportunity to discuss effective teaching practices which are aligned with the pedagogical framework and the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students (RBPS).
- Continue to make attendance a strong focus.
- Consider enhancing the school’s behaviour data set to include subjects. As a result of this, patterns of behaviour across the core curriculum subjects can be analysed and discussions around differentiation practices can be stimulated.