



## ***This Summary***

This summary provides an overview of the key points contained in the report about the consultation workshops.

A full copy of the report (including data from the workshops) is available on the school website - <https://rainworthss.eq.edu.au> (under Curriculum > Teaching & Learning > ICT)

**Parents are invited to the Vision Workshop at 6:30 – 9:00pm, Wednesday 8 November in the Hall to discuss & confirm a vision and principles to guide our use of ICTs in the classroom. Richenda Wagener will present “Using ICTs in the Curriculum – now and into the future”.**

### ***What are the next steps towards decision-making?***

Workshop participants identified steps that might assist them to make an informed decision about the use of technology in our school. They ranked these in order of priority as follows.

#### **1. Understand ICT infrastructure, capacity and support.**

We need to understand our current school technology infrastructure, capacity and support, and our future needs.

#### **2. Staff professional development and input into the planning and delivery of curriculum using ICT as an educational tool.**

We need to ensure that our teaching staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge to use ICT as an educational tool and that their skills and knowledge are continually enhanced (for example, through knowledge sharing between teachers and schools).

#### **3. Communicate what is happening with technology in classrooms – now and in the future**

We need to ensure that parents understand how technology is currently being used in the classroom, why changes are being proposed to the way technology will be used in the future and what those changes will mean for our children. One way of achieving this is through **parent information sessions** on topics such as teachers and students delivering a “classroom experience” for parents; hearing from other schools re their experiences; definitions of digital literacies; device ownership models; how different devices could be used; and rationale for the optimal time to introduce additional classroom technology.

#### **4. Curriculum and “the basics”**

We must maintain high achievement in the “basics” – literacy, numeracy, spelling, grammar and handwriting. We need to use tools that enhance high achievement in the “basics”, rather than detracting from it.

#### **5. Change Management**

We need a change management strategy to support the introduction of new technology. This includes a comprehensive plan, clear guidelines, documented processes and a policy for the review and measurement of outcomes (i.e. what is working / not working)

#### **6. Development of options for ICTs in classrooms**

We should develop options for the use of ICT in our classrooms and consult with parents and staff about those options.

## ***The Workshops***

70 parents and 35 staff attended the workshops (4 parent workshops and 1 staff workshop), which examined the following.

***What do we value in our children’s education at Rainworth State School that we want to protect; without limiting the opportunities technology offers to their teaching and learning?***

### ***What we value***

Parents and staff were in close alignment. We value:

- Explicit teaching (engaging and motivating students by actively involving them in their own learning, setting goals and high expectations, celebrating success and using the I do, we do, you do method).
- High achievement in “the basics” of literacy, numeracy, handwriting, spelling, grammar and mental arithmetic.
- A classroom environment that enhances social interaction, communication, working together, confidence, questioning and social norms.
- Encouraging creativity, critical thinking and problem solving.
- Ensuring our children’s mental and physical health at school.
- Active, engaged, focussed, hands-on learning that develops passionate, inquisitive life-long learners.
- Teaching strategies that address the needs of the “whole child” and manage the needs of individual children through differentiation.
- Good teaching is paramount. Technology may enhance this but is not a substitute for it.

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## **Progress to date**

There is consensus that planning, preparation and ongoing staff support are critical for successful change. The major “next step” priorities are already being addressed (with the assistance of parent volunteers):

1. **A presentation on the curriculum and use of ICTs as an educational tool will be made to parents attending the Visioning Workshop on 8 November 2017 (6.30pm – 9.00pm).** Written materials will be made available via the school website following the workshop.
2. An audit of current school technology infrastructure will commence in early November. This will build on work already done to examine current ICTs and other technology elements including hardware, software, and infrastructure such as wifi and network support. It will identify replacement, acquisition and upgrade costs facing the school into the future.
3. Staff have contributed valuable feedback and will continue to be actively engaged in all discussion, options and teaching and learning decisions. Professional development continues.
4. A draft Vision for guiding the use of ICTs at the school and a draft set of Principles that reflect the issues raised by parents and staff can be found below. These will form the basis of discussion at the Visioning Workshop on 8 November 2017 to which all parents and staff are invited.
5. A program of parent information sessions is being developed and parents will be asked to indicate their level of interest in attending the proposed sessions
6. The “Parents in Technology” (PET) Advisory Group has been established. It is a volunteer group drawn from a range of backgrounds and they are developing a strategy for effective parent engagement and communication, Membership is Attachment 2 on the website.

### ***Draft Vision***

**This is a rough first draft Vision developed for discussion and amendment at the Visioning Workshop to be held on Wednesday 8 November at 6.30pm in the Hall.**

*Our rich learning environments integrate information communication technologies to support our students become active and independent learners, creative and critical thinkers, confident communicators and responsible digital citizens.*

### ***Draft Principles – that underpin our classroom learning – for discussion at the Workshop***

1. Our teachers use explicit evidence-based pedagogies (ways of teaching).
2. Our school continues to excel in the basics and maintain quality educational outcomes.
3. Handwriting is a skill that is taught, practised and valued.
4. Our classrooms offer stimulating and collaborative environments where social interaction develops children’s oral and non-verbal communication skills and ability to work with others.
5. We value and develop creativity in all forms.
6. Through different ways of working, our students have diverse opportunities to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.
7. The physical and social environment of our classrooms supports and safeguard’s children’s physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing.
8. We believe that together, the school community has a duty of care to ensure that children understand how to be safe, responsible and critical users of digital technologies.
9. Our staff are actively supported and developed in using ICTs as an educational tool in the classroom.