



Parent Learning Walks and Talks

Why are we doing it?

To create another opportunity to build, improve and strengthen home/school partnerships by obtaining a 'snapshot' of the learning at our school.

What it is:

This is an invitation to parents to come to our school during a literacy block or a maths block (or both) and participate in a structured learning walk with student leaders and a member of the school leadership team. It is an opportunity for you as parents to witness what a "real" lesson looks like. Each learning walk is focused on an element of learning as identified in the pre-walk meeting. This focus guides the discussion and reflection. The aim of learning walks is to foster conversation about teaching and learning in order to develop a shared understanding of high quality teaching that impacts on student learning.

Learning walks are deliberately short visits, following particular protocols, ending with reflective discussions.

| What it is | What it is not |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Purposeful● Planned● 5 - 7 minutes● Data collection● Support for students/teachers● Student voice (5 questions)● Aligned to AIP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Judgemental● Interruption to learning● Discussion with teacher● Note taking |

The Process:

Prior to the learning walk:

BOOK IN - Respond to the shared booking form to be included in the walking team.

On the day:

PRE WALK DISCUSSION - This should take place just prior to the classroom visits. All walkers involved should have a clear understanding of:

- Protocols and purpose
- Timetable
- Focus of the walk- brainstorming possible observations to link to focus
- Names of the walkers
- Classrooms to be visited
- Date and time of whole school reflection

LEARNING WALK- The walkers visit each classroom for 5-10 minutes. They 'look & listen' to the learning and pay attention to any evidence that links to the focus. Walkers may speak to students and teachers only if the learning allows for such interactions. We don't interrupt the instruction - we don't greet the teacher or students and we don't talk to each other. It's a time to observe what we are seeing in the classroom. If there isn't direct teaching occurring, we may ask a student the 5 questions about their learning. Any discussion should be brief and unobtrusive.

REFLECTION - When walkers leave each classroom, they meet for 5 minutes outside of the classroom to share observations. The evidence that is cited must be specific to the focus. This is not a time for open discussion or judgements.

POST WALK DISCUSSION - At the end of the classroom visits, all walkers convene for a debriefing session. They share the observations collected and identify any patterns which may have emerged. Wonderings may then be formulated based on the evidence. Conclusions are not formed. All evidence and wonderings are collated by the walk leaders.

After the day:

WHOLE STAFF REFLECTION - Within one week of the Learning Walk, the collated evidence and wonderings are shared with the whole staff to identify trends and direct future development.