

## **What is team teaching?**

Team teaching is an approach to program delivery where two or more educators share teaching responsibilities within a classroom setting. Both teachers interact with all children at different times. Team teaching benefits your child by creating a sense of belonging to a larger group whilst still maintaining individuality, enables greater development of friendships, provides more peer models, allows teachers to work more independently with your child. This provides your child with two teachers who have complimentary styles and expertise to benefit from and enables teachers to plan a more rigorous curriculum program for your child. The challenges teachers face with team teaching may include building trust and commitment between each other and a greater need to plan co-operatively and collaboratively. It also can be difficult to implement successfully if administrative support and scheduling has not been carefully considered. This year we have provided professional learning for staff, scheduled common planning time during the day, provided additional teacher support in the classroom, had time to set student expectations at the beginning of the year and evaluated the model by using a PMI with the teachers, students and parents. Adjustments have been made to best meet the needs of the children in the class.

## **Why are we team teaching?**

Individual student needs can be catered for more easily and effectively with two adults in the room working with the diverse needs of children. Teachers observe, discuss and devise a best fit program for your child. It also lowers the student/ teacher ratio and expands your teachers' professional expertise. Team teaching also lowers the disparity between curriculum expectations. This ultimately benefits your child's developmental progress. Having more children to choose to work with also allows them to feel more connected to their peers, develop deeper friendship networks and study with others of similar ability.

There is no one size fits all model of team teaching. What works at one school may not be relevant for your child's needs. Whilst we can visit other schools, read and observe best practice of team teaching, teachers really need to work with yourself and your child to develop best practice that benefits all of us. This model will provide better outcomes for your child through being actively engaged in their learning and feeling connected to each other.

## **How does team teaching work?**

There are a few different models of team teaching and more than one model may be carried out within the one day. These are:

- One teacher giving whole class instructions whilst the other working with one child, or working with a small focus group. Small focus groups could be enrichment, pre teaching, re teaching, interest groups, special projects, extra support or assessment.
- One teacher working with a small focus group, the other roving and providing 1: 1 conferences with children.
- The class divided in half with both teachers teaching the same lesson simultaneously.
- Both teachers delivering same instruction at the same time to both groups.
- Teachers divide instructional content into several segments and present the content in two or more separate stations around the classroom. Teachers work with one group of children and then switch groups.

### *Will the class be noisy?*

Teachers will not work in an environment that is not conducive to learning. Your child should always be actively engaged in their cognitive, emotional and social learning. Teachers always instruct students to learn within an acceptable working level of noise. This changes depending upon the activity and objective of the task. For example during literacy activities, where we encourage your child to practice their oral language development this would have a 'noisier' element than an independent writing activity. Teachers also use a variety of tools and strategies to train children to work collaboratively within an acceptable noise level.

### *Will my child get 'lost' in the classroom?*

As with any new classroom, individual children may take more transitional time than others. If your child is feeling overwhelmed, you need to communicate with your teacher immediately, so we can identify ways to

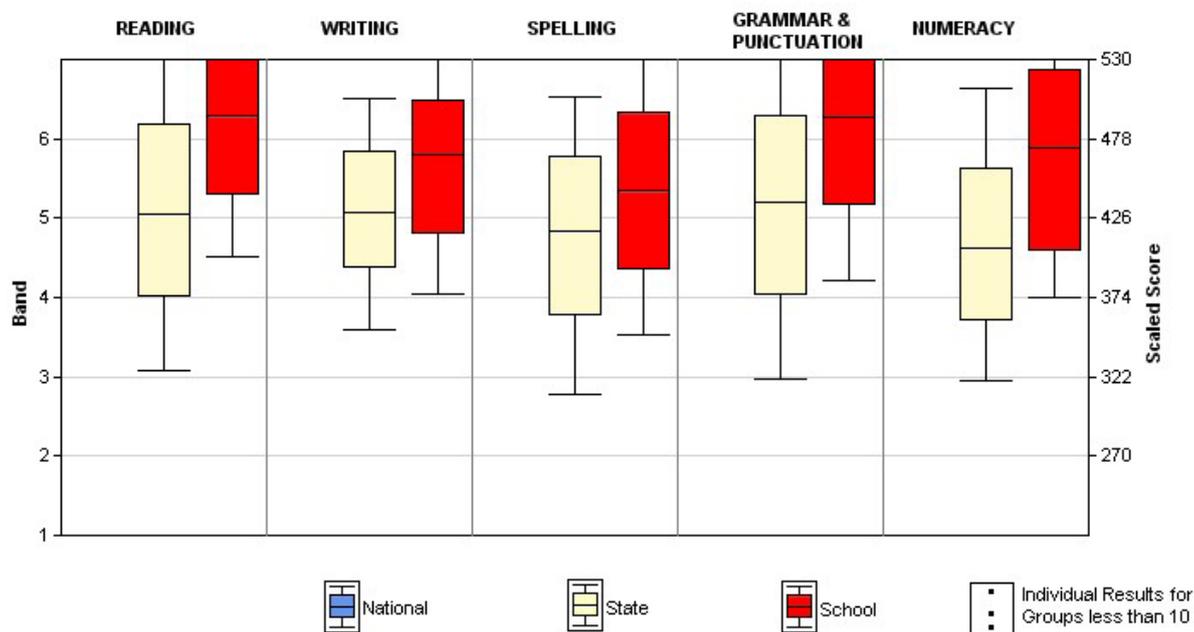
help your child. This year generally, we found that children were initially very excited by the classroom design, but soon adapted quickly to the organisational set up of the room and allocated resources.

*What have the parents, teachers and students said about working in these environments?*

<p><b>Students</b></p>	<p>People say nice things to others and work co-operatively I like the size of the room because it's easy to move around and we can put up lots of work If you need help there are lots of different people to ask Having two separate classroom areas is good for show and tell</p>
<p><b>Parents</b></p>	<p>Looks busy but seems purposeful More parents on duty during literacy rotations Closely match students in skill groups Number of students could be overwhelming for some students The choice of various activities Two teachers who have different styles and perspectives More students to make friends with</p>
<p><b>Teachers</b></p>	<p>It is great to learn from each other, we are constantly reflecting on our practice. We are more able to deal with issues on the spot such as; lunchtime/friendship issues, without disrupting the rest of the class. Students engaged in their learning and helping each other to learn We are modelling team work to our students</p>

*What does the data say?*

2010 NAPLAN results indicate that children at Ashburton have excelled in all areas of the curriculum.



**THIS REPORT USES THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM SCALE**

NATIONAL DATA WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN AVAILABLE

National Minimum Standard – Band 2

State Average – varies for each curriculum area, band 4 /5

For further reading go to: <http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/2493/Team-Teaching.html>

The following schools have adopted a team teaching approach and are willing for parents to visit: Hartwell Primary School, Bentleigh West PS, Laverton PS and St Francis De Salle.

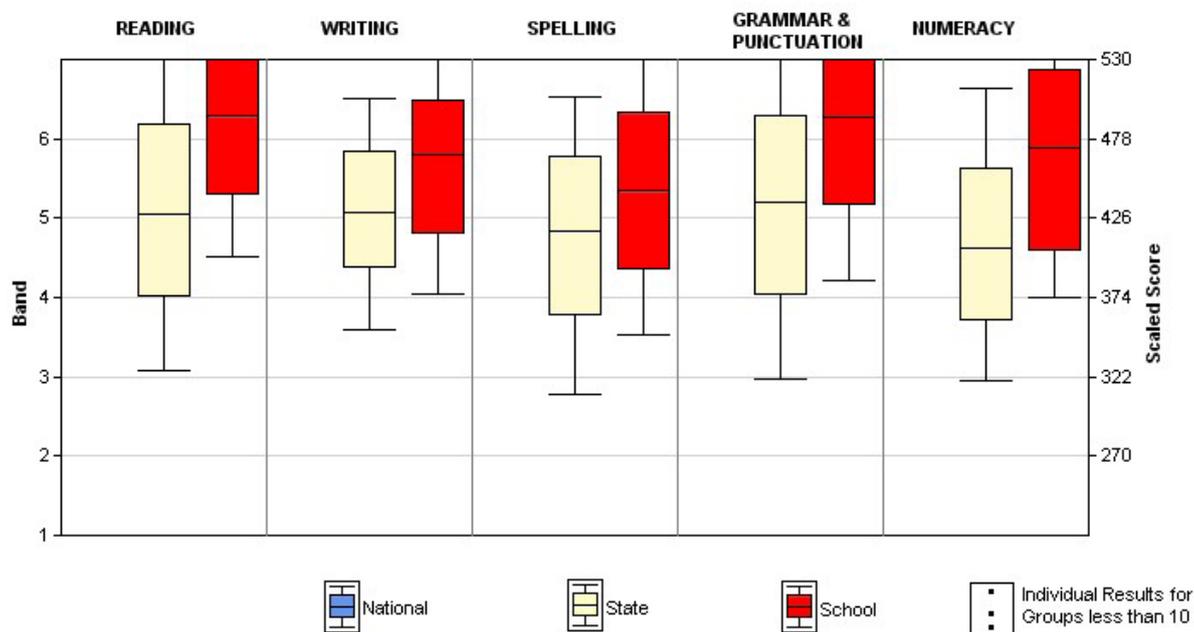
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