



Silvertown Primary School



Overview

Country or Region: Australia

Industry: Education

School Profile

Silvertown Primary School is located outside of Melbourne, Australia. It has a diverse cultural and socio-economic student demographic and is an accredited school for accepting international students.

Number of Students: 470

Gender: Mixed

Age Range: 5–12

School Leader: Tony Bryant

School Website: www.silvertown-ps.vic.edu.au

Silvertown Primary School has been selected to be part of the Microsoft Innovative Schools World Tour due to being a showcase example of the following Innovation Topics:

- 1. Personalized learning environments.** Use of systematic continuous assessment to change the course of student learning and for remediation.
- 2. Physical learning environments.** Focus on physical spaces, seating, and atmosphere to encourage collaboration, creativity, and learning.
- 3. Professional learning communities.** Technology and programs that support collaboration among teachers and their peer groups in other schools.





“We believe a school should be a place that maximizes student learning, a place of optimism, excitement, and challenge. Microsoft, through the Partners in Learning program, has enabled us to be closely connected to the rest of the world and allowed students and staff to be engaged in a global society. Without support from Microsoft, children in our community would be severely disadvantaged and disconnected from the real world. Thank you, Microsoft, for your amazing support.”

Tony Bryant, Principal, Silverton Primary School

Personalized learning environments

A strong emphasis is placed on personalizing the learning experience at Silverton Primary School so that students have a strong voice in their learning. For example, during “Discovery Time,” students aged 5–7 develop their own individual projects without any teacher influence. The process involves planning, completing projects, evaluating and presenting their work. Teachers support and monitor the learning. Students aged 8–12 develop their own research topics and use a vast range of technologies to support them. The school’s philosophy is based around the need to maximize the students’ potential and personalize their learning journeys.

A great deal of trust is displayed with students having a significant say in their education and being the creators of their learning path. Literacy and numeracy sessions are set up in workshop formats. Students are well aware of their own areas of growth and attend workshops relevant to their particular needs.

Students also get involved in global issues working with children around the world on projects such as Deforestation and “Kids Teaching Kids,” where many children from neighboring schools participate in workshops run by the students.

Key Technology

- Microsoft SharePoint, Ultraset, and SMART management systems and data portals.
- Portable devices used throughout the school.
- High-end technology for Radio Station, Sound Recording Studio, and TV Station
- Microsoft Surface RT tablets for research and content development
- Windows 8 tablet devices
- Microsoft OneNote to collaborate and assess learning goals

Physical learning environments

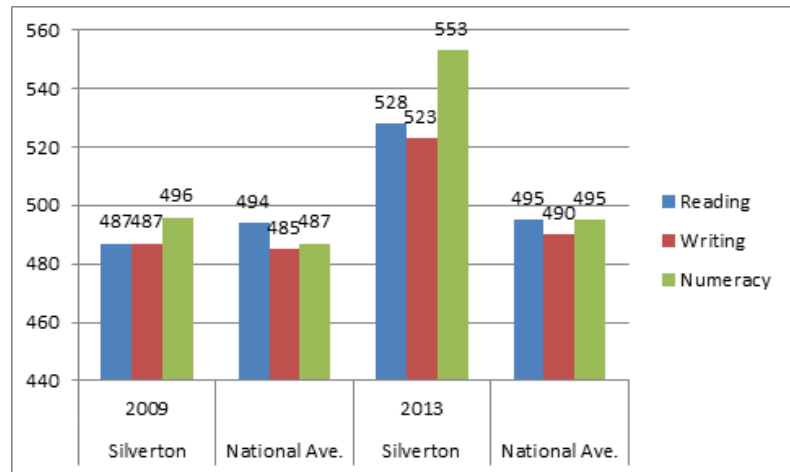
Silverton Primary School has been transformed into Open Flexible Learning Spaces where students of mixed ages are placed in groups ranging from 100–140 students and teachers in teams of 5–9 in each learning center. Teachers share, collaborate, team-teach, and take responsibility for all students.

The learning centers are set up with 23 various areas that cater to a variety of needs of both teachers and students. Furniture has been carefully chosen to support the needs and conditions of group learning, and a variety of Wi-Fi-enabled technologies are provided that allow for 1:1 learning with students choosing the device that best suits their needs.





Figure 1. National Testing Results from 2009–2013 for students in grade 5



Students spend about 60–70 percent of their time in the learning centers and the remaining time in other areas that support their learning. The atmosphere in the learning centers is of high level engagement; teachers act as facilitators and students have a strong voice in their learning.

Key Technology

- Tablets, PCs, netbooks, laptops, touchscreen TVs
- Multimedia devices, such as probes, cameras, and voice recorders

Professional learning communities

Professional learning communities are embedded across the whole school. Team-teaching, collaboration, and sharing student ownership are the norms. Teams of educators plan together, assess each other's students, and develop the curriculum.

A strong Coaching Program is evident across the whole school, in addition to teachers observing and filming one another and holding critical conversations regarding their observations. There is a

strong emphasis on developing teacher capacity and improving student learning outcomes. All Professional Learning Teams are involved in a teacher research project each year where findings and outcomes are presented to the whole staff.

Key Technology

- Video cameras for filming educators
- Laptops and other devices for completing learning journals
- A variety of technologies for teacher research projects

Improving student outcomes

Silverton is in a highly multi-cultural and low socio-economic area. The changes to practices and school environment has contributed to the high level of engagement, student voice, and personalized learning in flexible learning centers. According to the National Testing Results from 2009–2013 (Figure 1), the data indicates that Silverton is performing well above the National Average in all areas tested for in grade 5. The results indicate the school is performing in the top 10 percent nationally and outperforming the majority of schools coming from higher socio-economic areas. This is being





Microsoft Innovative Schools World Tour

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:

www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx

For more information about Silverton Primary School, visit:

www.silverton-ps.vic.edu.au

achieved in programs and practices that do not follow traditional modes of teaching.

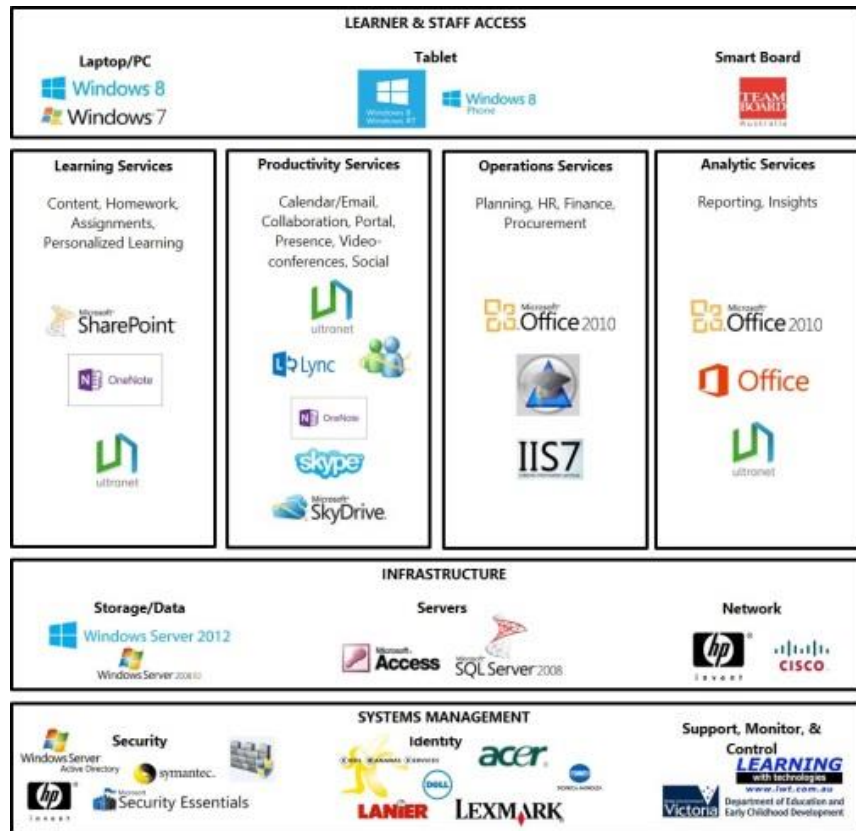
The school's attendance rate is also well above the state average with parent, staff, and student surveys placing the school at the ninety-eighth percentile of all schools in the system.

Driving leadership and a culture of innovation

Silverton Primary School has been on a journey of innovation and change for many years, and a strong culture of improvement

and innovation is embedded in the school. A distributive Leadership Model has been developed with teachers seeing themselves as leaders and innovators. High-level professional learning and leadership opportunities are available for all staff, including exchange programs, shadowing programs, and the visiting of other schools and systems both nationally and internationally.

Technology Infrastructure



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