

Murdoch College

Murdoch College provides a good example of an independent school that has embedded the *Blueprint* into its operation at a fundamental level. This is largely due to the efforts of the then principal and the promulgation of a whole-of-life learning culture that incorporates teachers, students, parents, industry/business and the wider community.

What did the college use the *Blueprint* to do?

The *Blueprint* is an important foundation stone of the whole school program at Murdoch College. It has supported the creation of an integrated learning system designed to develop the social, emotional and intellectual capacity of students so that they can succeed at school and move confidently to further education and work. It underpins the pastoral care activities of the school and the strategies that engage parents, students, teachers and other community (including industry) partners.

The *Blueprint* provided an underpinning for the career development activities of the College and has been used to embed career development into the curriculum and the Murdoch Integrated Learning Experience (MILE) Program.

Every student has educational, career and personal development goals based on *Blueprint* competencies and indicators, as they learn to manage their own learning.

Teacher Advisors are required to regularly report to their House Coordinators and/or their Learning Area Coordinator on the ways in which they are applying or adding to the performance indicators of the *Blueprint* in their learning areas. In turn, House Coordinators report on achievements to the Principal and parents on a regular basis.

Appendix C (the Career Competency Checklist) of the *Blueprint* has been modified to assist in career planning. As commencing students develop their career (life, work and education beyond school) plan, they assess their own skills, using a five point scale, against the *Blueprint* competencies, report on activities that helped to develop their skills, and reassess the final skill level that they have achieved.

How does the *Blueprint* help?

The Principal of Murdoch College believes that the competency framework helps staff to develop an appreciation of the 'big picture'/purpose of schooling and lifelong learning. All teaching staff are provided with regular professional development sessions to equip

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them to work with the totally infused career development model that is in operation at Murdoch. During these sessions they are assisted to map the competencies and indicators to their subject learning areas. While it is generally assumed that students will be working at Phase II or III of the competencies and indicators, the framework is applied flexibly.

The integrated systems approach to facilitating career development, in evidence at Murdoch, has been made possible through using the *Blueprint* framework, along with the passionate leadership of the school's executive team. The systems approach that has been adopted at Murdoch College has also been facilitated by the requirement that teaching staff, from their initial interview through to their ongoing performance review and professional development plans, make a commitment to the career development of students.

