Aberfeldie Primary School

Location: Aberfeldie, Victoria.
Year levels: F-6.
Type: Victorian Government school.

Aberfeldie Primary School in the northwestern region of Victoria, has a diverse group of students from varied socio-economic backgrounds, including many who speak English as a second language.

Why did Aberfeldie Primary School choose LiteracyPlanet?

Lachlan Ferguson, teacher for Years 5 and 6, says: “We chose LiteracyPlanet as a way to easily expand our literacy learning and teaching areas, especially to assist with homework throughout the grade levels. It is a varied program that is usable by all year levels and it is great for differentiation of homework and classwork”.

The school uses e-learning and digital technologies for all areas of the curriculum and as an important part of its integrated learning approach. Program used include Edmodo, Evernote, LiteracyPlanet, Mathletics, Scratch and Sphero robotics. The school provides iPads and laptops for the junior school students, and has a 1:1 iPad program for 3-6.

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Zara, Year 2

Case Study

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LiteracyPlanet usage: F-6
Key uses: reading, grammar, spelling, homework, differentiation.

Why LiteracyPlanet?
A varied program suitable for all year levels, and excellent for differentiation and homework.

Flexible resource suitable for all abilities

LiteracyPlanet is great for differentiation as students can be split into groups related to their point of need. I can monitor each student and change their direction if required. Another useful aspect of LiteracyPlanet is that it’s accessible on iPads, so students don’t need to get laptops out to do their work.

Lachlan Ferguson, Teacher.
How the school uses LiteracyPlanet

LiteracyPlanet is used across the whole school, explicitly to teach specific skill areas in the lower years, and more for homework in the upper years.

In Year 2 it is a key resource for reading groups. Each group is given a different text on LiteracyPlanet, to read through and complete activities related to their text.

In Years 3 and 4 the focus shifts to the grammar content. Teachers are able to assign homework related to the weekly set learning goal, and linked to the program’s grammar exercises.

In Years 5 and 6 teachers use the program to improve literacy outcomes with homework, and as a resource for questioning, inference, reorganisation and evaluation. The program’s texts allow students to choose what they want to read and learn about, whilst also having explicit focus on these strategies.

In cases of students challenging to engage in learning, teachers use LiteracyPlanet as a reward for completing certain goals in different work sessions.

Mr Ferguson says: “LiteracyPlanet assists our learning outcomes through giving students more choice in the direction they would like to follow in their learning, thereby allowing them to choose areas they are not as strong in and focus on these.

“It also assists our literacy outcomes through our lower years reading groups. The students are split into groups related to their learning needs which can be monitored by the teachers.

“Teachers also really enjoy the leaderboard as they can use this to help give students an extra incentive on beating other students as well as other grades.”

I love being able to do fun activities with different words and readings. It makes work more fun when I can pretend I’m playing a game even though I’m learning about spelling.

Tim, Year 4.