

Immersion opportunities

One way to improve the quality of a professional experience placement is to immerse the pre-service teacher (PST) into the school culture and community before and after their professional experience (PEx) placement .

Who implements this strategy

Professional Experience Coordinator (PEXC) supported by the Supervising Teacher (ST), school executive and University placement office.

How is it implemented?

- PSTs are invited to participate in whole school events before or after their professional experience placement. For example, they are invited to attend a whole school staff development day, an athletics carnival, an excursion, beginning teacher induction meetings or the Easter hat parade.

Variations:

- Schools can liaise with a University and offer an entire day immersion experience for one/some of their initial teacher education cohorts.
- Employ the PST as an SLSO or Educational Paraprofessional.

What are the benefits of implementing this strategy?

- It allows the PST to meet and interact with other members of staff whom they may not otherwise have the chance to meet in the rush of beginning a placement.
- It provides further opportunities for the PST to develop their professional identity and professional confidence.
- The school/s and University form an industry link that promotes collaboration and a shared responsibility to developing system ready future teachers.

Outcomes

- PSTs report they are far more relaxed when entering the placement.
- PSTs have a chance to see how the school operates and feel the school culture prior to placement.
- Industries are working together towards improving system ready beginning teachers.
- The school has explicit systems for collaboration and feedback to sustain quality teaching practice.

Success indicators

- An indicator that the strategy is working as intended: happier, more relaxed and confident PSTs coming through since attending the immersion days/opportunities. Feedback from the PST confirms that the opportunity to attend these days expedites entry into their formal PEx placement at the school.
- An indicator that the strategy is not working as intended: PSTs seem reluctant to add days onto their already busy schedules. The school executive does not see the benefit of supporting this industry link.

Resource - Email template inviting PST to attend upcoming event/s on school calendar

Hi xxxx (PST teacher)

Thank you for choosing our school and our students to work with. We love having new colleagues and offer all pre-service teachers immersion opportunities prior to their first day of placement. We would like to invite you to any of the following upcoming events on our school calendar (link school website upcoming events). Please let me which one(s) you would like to join us for. I would also highly recommend our fortnightly beginning teacher induction sessions every second Wednesday afternoon. Our next one is on (date) starting at 3.35pm.

We use Sentral as our administrative software. If you haven't used it before, I suggest you have a look at this [pre-recorded platform walk-through](#).

I have copied your supervising/mentor teacher into this email and attached the [supervising teacher evidence guide](#) that they will be using to support your professional development during your placement.

Please let us know which school event you would like to come to as we will need to make sure you have completed all the mandatory checks prior to joining us.

Warm regards

Professional Experience Coordinator