

My School website

Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director-General of the NSW Department of Education and Training, explains how the MySchool website gives parents a snapshot of every school and its community; the numbers of students and teachers; student attendance rates; and the results of national tests in reading, writing and maths for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and how these results compare to some other schools.

To view You tube video click on link below

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/announcements/yr2010/jan/myschoolwebsite/index.php>

Or

Video transcript

Michael Coutts-Trotter – the Director-General of the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Hello, I'm Michael Coutts-Trotter - the Director-General of the NSW Department of Education and Training.

You may have heard about the Australian Government's new My School website, which provides information about every school in Australia.

I'd like to say a little about the *My School* site, and how it relates to the information NSW public schools already provide to parents about their children's progress and about the performance of schools.

Through student reports, annual school reports, parent teacher talks, school websites and our own departmental website, NSW public education provides parents and the community with information that goes well beyond what you'll find on the My School site.

Equally, My School, will provide information about Australian schools that you won't find anywhere else.

My School has a snapshot of each school - a short description of the school and its community; the numbers of students and teachers; student attendance rates, and more.

You'll find the results of new national tests in reading, writing and maths for Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. These took place last year and in 2008 - they're called the NAPLAN tests...

First and foremost NAPLAN is an assessment to provide crucial information about what students know and can do, and how best to take their learning further.

With this information, teachers can tailor their instruction to build on what a student already understands, parents can better support their school's efforts, and schools and schooling systems can more effectively direct professional development - support for their staff.

But over time, as we accumulate several years' of assessment results, we can confidently identify those schools doing a particularly good job of teaching children and those that need further support.

For some years now most NSW public schools have reported their results in statewide tests against the average results for all schools in NSW.

My School means that, for the first time, you can compare aspects of the performance of any NSW school with the average performance of all primary or secondary schools in Australia.

A great many NSW public schools already compare their NAPLAN test results with the results of similar public schools.

My School improves on this measure, by allowing comparisons involving all schools both government and non-government, drawn not just from NSW but from right across the country.

You can compare schools that are similar to yours - schools where students come from similar backgrounds and live in similar areas, whether it's a bush community or an inner city suburb.

This type of comparison continues to put proper pressure on me, and everyone else who serves school children, to make sure that every school constantly improves its performance, using the example and the experience of schools that consistently achieve great results.

Over time, more information will be added to *My School*.