



## Westmead Public School, NSW

### About us

We are a large, metropolitan, co-educational, K-6 public primary school located in Sydney, NSW. Approximately 98% of our students have a language background other than English (LBOTE) and our students tend to find the language of Mathematics challenging.

### Our approach

To ensure the success of our numeracy programs, we developed, some years ago, a whole-school programming framework and K-6 scope and sequence that have helped our teachers deliver syllabus content responsive to students' learning needs. The framework includes sequenced learning experiences, flexibility, assessments, resources and feedback suggestions.

In 2017 we identified multi-step questions and early arithmetic strategies as areas needing special focus. We saw a gap in teacher understanding of how to differentiate Mathematics and whole school professional learning was put in place for support. We used the *Targeted Early Numeracy* program and our own *Westmead Public School Problem Solving Steps* to impact mathematical learning in a positive way.

The *Westmead Public School Problem Solving Steps* are specifically designed for our students based on research into English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) pedagogy and skills needed to solve mathematical problems. We use a five-phase explicit problem-solving process whereby different mathematical skills and cognitive abilities are broken down into small parts, simple language and supported by visual aids.

The *Targeted Early Numeracy* (TEN) program provides in-class support for teachers to help students with early arithmetic strategies. Key members of staff became TEN facilitators and they now support K-2 teachers through training and implementation. The targeted, explicit and differentiated numeracy sessions allow teachers to target individual student needs.

*Westmead Intensive Numeracy Groups* (WING) were developed by Westmead teachers based on the TEN model to support students in years 3-6. Students with the highest needs are supported each week in small, intensive withdrawal groups over a five-week period, to help them become facile with early arithmetic strategies.

Our ongoing, whole-school professional learning has an intensive focus on numeracy and we invest in teachers' knowledge of data to improve student outcomes.

Parent workshops are also conducted to support learning at home in hands-on and engaging ways to foster a love of mathematical learning.

### Our profile

ENROLMENTS **1,638** LBOTE **98%** INDIGENOUS **0%** ICSEA **1137**