

Sartorial Rigidity: Challenging Prevailing Culture
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Abstract

The learner’s journey especially in low socio schools is a unique process bordered by superficial glossing over complex social and emotional problems. Educators must be mindful to avoid reproducing inequity and create sustainable change. Artefacts -league tables, grading systems, etc. – create competition rather than complement broader education at the expense of homogeneity. At Beenleigh, our students face competing forces between competence and capability. Completing mandatory certification represents the skills, knowledge, and behaviours suitable for University entrance but lack recognition of attributes so critical to the world of work. Capabilities allow and align how our competencies are defined and form the basis of change in our learner profile.

Biography

Matt O’Hanlon has been Principal of Beenleigh SHS, located on the urban fringe in the major growth corridor between Brisbane and the Gold Coast since 2009. He has been a Principal since 2000 in rural, remote, provincial and urban schools. Beenleigh was a rural community that has since the early 80’s faced significant economic and social challenges. Matt has led the school through a transformational process that has culminated in the school becoming a robust, innovative, and very much maturing learning community with increasing enrolments. As a result Beenleigh SHS has been reinstated as a key player in the rebranding of the community. Productive relationships with teachers, parents, and the community, are collaborative and empowering but more importantly building improvement in student outcomes. Links to Melbourne University (UMNOS project) to use internationally recognised research to develop, inform and improve school performance has aided in this growth. The school has built a reputation for community events that both shape and engage the community and students into improving outcomes through a range of corporate support. In 2020 Matt was awarded the Showcase Award for Excellence in School Leadership by Education Queensland.

