

Beverley District High School
will operate as an
Independent Public School
from 2017

**BECOMING AN
INDEPENDENT
PUBLIC SCHOOL**

What is an Independent Public School?

An Independent Public School is a public school where the principal has been given increased flexibility and responsibility to make local decisions across a range of school operations to enhance education outcomes for students. Principals of Independent Public Schools have more freedom to make decisions about important matters that impact students' education such as student support, staff recruitment, financial management, governance and accountability.

An Independent Public School caters to the specific needs of its students by determining the curriculum and specialist teachers required that best support them. Like all public schools, principals of Independent Public Schools must comply with relevant legislation, industrial agreements and whole of government policies and initiatives including the School Education Act 1999, School Education Regulations 2000, School Curriculum and Standards Authority Act 1997, Public Sector Management Act 1994 and Financial Management Act 2006.

Applying to become an Independent Public School is a decision made by each school, in consultation with the school council and local community. The school community must consider its capacity to take on the additional accountabilities of being an Independent Public School, the local community's support for change and the school's operational performance. The Independent Public Schools selection process is rigorous. This ensures that selected schools are well placed to implement and benefit from the Independent Public School model.

**A DISTINCTIVE
EDUCATION
EXPERIENCE**



**EACH COMMUNITY IS UNIQUE...SO IT MAKES
SENSE THAT EACH SCHOOL IS TOO.**

Boards of Independent Public Schools

Principals of Independent Public Schools can establish school boards whose elected members work with them and their communities to achieve the best outcomes for students. While members of a school council may be re-elected to a new board, establishing a board of an Independent Public School is an opportunity to attract a broader cross-section of people with a range of experiences and expertise. Strong community and business representation ensures the board can make an even more significant contribution to the development of the school.

The board establishes a vision for the school that reflects the aspirations and needs of the community. The board can have an important influence on the direction of the school, with members bringing ideas and lending their expertise to strategic planning and community partnerships. Professional skills in areas such as management, finance, procurement, marketing and cultural knowledge support the principal and strengthen the school's capacity to meet the needs of its students.

Elected members include parents, staff and members of the community. Students 15 years and over can be members. The principal is a member of the board. A comprehensive induction is provided for all board members.

Benefits of being an Independent Public School

Independent Public Schools combine a powerful combination of local autonomy and central support to deliver high quality, tailored and distinctive education experiences for staff, students and parents. It takes committed and proactive school communities to become Independent Public Schools.

Independent Public School communities take a greater leadership role in all aspects of education, with the ultimate goal of delivering high quality education to students. Independent Public School principals have a direct line relationship with, and are accountable to, the Director General of the Department of Education.

Independent Public Schools:

- have greater independence for local decision making which directly reflects the needs of their students and communities
- establish more dynamic and open governance relationships with the people in their communities
- have access to additional sources of funding to assist them make a difference and to respond to higher levels of accountability
- employ greater flexibility in areas such as staff recruitment, budgeting, procurement, school development days, travel approvals and student support
- take part in regular external performance reviews to provide their school communities with independent assessment of the differences they are making over time
- have access to targeted leadership development programs to build principal capacity in getting the most impact in classrooms from autonomy
- participate in highly specialised board training covering all aspects of effective governance.