

Junior Secondary Engagement Conceptual Framework

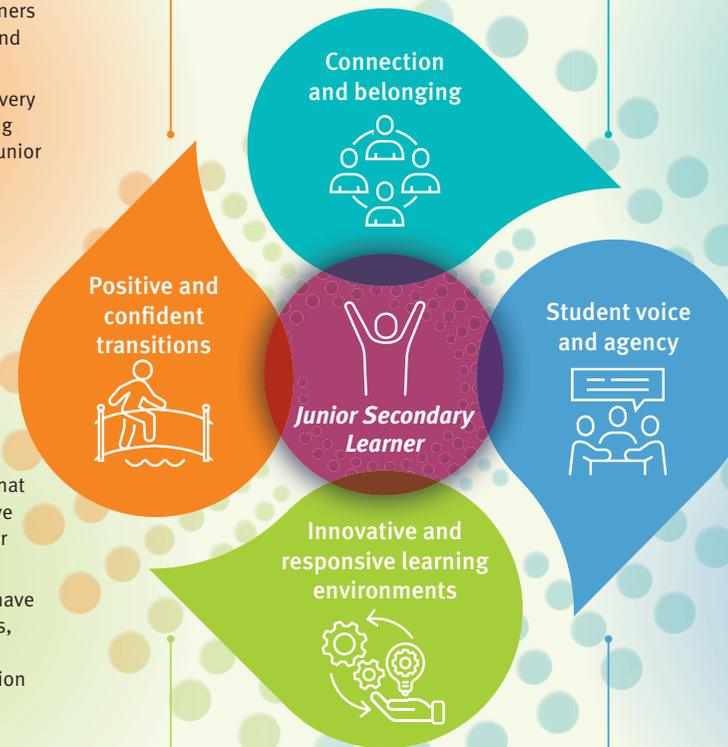
As an education system we have a moral imperative to respond to the changing needs of our young adolescent learners. This conceptual framework identifies key areas for prioritisation and action to engage contemporary Junior Secondary students and help them to achieve their potential. This work is a shared responsibility across the system.

The four guiding principles are derived from research, consultation and system priorities. They provide a strong foundation for developing age-appropriate and responsive strategies, processes and practices to ensure positive learning and wellbeing outcomes as they transition into and through Junior Secondary.

Guiding principles for engaging young adolescent students in their learning:

- Prioritise continuity of learning between primary and secondary schools.
- Engage parents and carers as partners in the transition of students into and through Junior Secondary.
- Implement processes to support every student to stay on track and moving forward in their learning through Junior Secondary.

- Establish learning environments that are innovative, safe and responsive to the needs and diversity of Junior Secondary learners.
- Build expert teaching teams that have a deep knowledge of the programs, strategies and practices to inform engaging curriculum implementation that is accessible, authentic and relevant.
- Prioritise high expectations and cognitive challenge in Junior Secondary classrooms.



- Build a whole school understanding to respond to the changing needs of contemporary Junior Secondary students informed by research in neuroscience, psychology and education.
- Foster a culture that prioritises connection and belonging and, cultural knowledge and perspectives within the community as foundational to engagement.
- Attend to the agentic, cognitive, emotional and behavioural engagement of Junior Secondary students and build self-regulation, resilience and positive mental health to ensure they are ready learn.
- Promote a culture of positive regard for Junior Secondary students that supports their identity as learners to evolve.
- Prioritise student voice and agency to engage Junior Secondary students in their learning.
- Provide a range of opportunities that respond to the developmental needs, skills and interests of Junior Secondary students.