Background:
Esk SS is located in the Brisbane Valley approximately 100 kilometres north-west of Brisbane in the Darling Downs South West education region. The P – 7 school has a current enrolment of approximately 177 students. The Principal, Brian Crichton, was appointed to the position in 2008.

Commendations:
- The school has a current and community endorsed Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students (RBPS). The expectations are simple, consistent and embedded in practice for a clear and common understanding by all. All staff members and students were able to articulate the school’s values: Safety, Respect and Learning.
- The Principal and Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Committee are driving a positive approach to managing student behaviour and have developed a range of resources and documents to support the agenda which are based on research.
- Data on minor incidents are effectively used. This includes short cycle, weekly data examination to inform whole school explicit teaching of school expectations for student behaviours, as well as, monthly, term and yearly reviews of data to inform decisions about future actionable steps to improve the learning environment.
- Positive behaviours are recorded in OneSchool and used to reinforce expected behaviours on a weekly basis.
- The induction program for new staff members includes the school based processes and practices in SWPBS. This program is appreciated by new staff members to the school.
- The Principal is in contact with local secondary schools to develop a Junior Secondary transition program to assist senior primary students in the transition to Junior Secondary in 2015.

Affirmations:
- The RBPS includes a matrix to describe expected student behaviours for each of the school rules and is widely used to explicitly teach expected behaviours.
- The expected behaviour of, Being a Learner, is enhanced by a school wide adoption of a gradual release model of teaching and is in evidence in all classrooms.
- Teaching staff are engaging parents more frequently with positive stories about their children’s learning and behaviour by the use of phone calls, happy notes, email and personal discussions.
- The use of Gotchas Awards as positive behaviour reinforcements is in evidence throughout the school and is well understood in the school community. Local businesses in the community support this initiative.

Recommendations:
- Continue to progress the engagement of parents with the school, to maximise understanding and support for the school’s development of a supportive learning environment.
- Develop staff members’ knowledge and usage of Class Dashboard in relation to data analysis of major, minor and positive behaviours of students.
- Continue to embed and extend the SWPBS practices of the school by the re-development of the SWPBS Action Plan.
- Explore further the use of school based matrices as a guide to making judgments about the Behaviour and Effort ratings that are used on the school report cards.
- Explore the use of the OneSchool database as an enhancement to recording minor behaviour incidents currently recorded on school based spreadsheets.