

While many respondents thanked the School for its efforts and thought it was doing well, suggestions for improvement referred to the communication with parents, pedagogy, learning groups and support for second language learners.

For the next five years, respondents desired the School to focus on the teaching and learning of German, pedagogy, external communication to increase awareness of the school in the wider community and external certifications. Provision of classes leading to external certifications such as the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) and the deutsche Sprachdiplom (DSD) were rated as extremely important by the largest proportion of respondents (27%) followed by furthering the culture of the German-speaking people (24%) and strengthening of cultural relations between German-speaking peoples and Australia (16%).

What do you think the German School should improve?

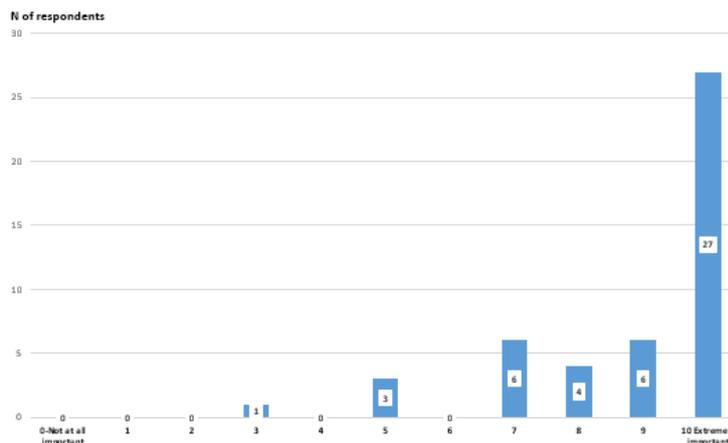
- Communication with parents 
- Teaching/pedagogy 
- Learning groups 
- Second language learners 
- Learning time 
- Other 
- Nothing to improve 

Conclusion

These results illustrate the importance of the German speaking community, events and the friendly environment of the School. They also show that the School caters for a range of language abilities from native speakers to second language learners and students from preschool to Year 12. In addition, they demonstrate the appreciation of the teaching and the importance of external certification.'

The School Management Committee considered these results in its discussions about strategy which resulted in a number of outcomes, including a revision of the School's vision and mission statements.

In your view, how important is it for the German School to offer classes which prepare students for external certifications, e.g. South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE), Deutsches Sprachdiplom (DSD)?



The revised mission and vision statements which will allow the School to continue to prosper in the future:

Mission

- To provide high quality education in the German language to children and adults of all backgrounds
- To offer nationally and internationally recognized qualifications in the German language
- To give exposure to the culture of the German speaking peoples
- To maintain a family-friendly community setting

Vision

To be recognized as the preferred provider of excellent German language education in an environment that nurtures the cultures of the German-speaking peoples.

In addition, the strategy meeting resolved to continue its efforts to provide a coherent curriculum and teaching which lead to external certifications like the SACE and the DSD.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide the School with their valuable input. Particular thanks also to Dr Petra Lietz who designed, conducted and analysed the survey. Please get in touch with Dr Petra Lietz or myself if you are interested in further details about the survey and its results.

Patrick Wille

President of the School for the German Language Inc.