

# Trust OUR school not *My School*

Dear Parent,

Nothing is more important than your child's education. So let's get the facts right.

Knowing how your child is progressing in their studies and how our school is sustaining their learning is important to you.

Presently, the information being provided by the Federal Government's *My School* website is painting an extremely limited, often inaccurate and misleading picture of schools.

While we support transparency in education, we believe that the *My School* website in its current form is damaging to education and not in the best interests of students and schools.

The website uses extremely narrow data from the NAPLAN tests to compare the performance of schools against each other, and fails to capture the whole learning experience being provided at our school.

Students at our school will be undertaking the NAPLAN test. However, our concern about the misuse of the data remains.

Because the *My School* website is such a crude measuring stick, it has been easy for the media and private companies to create simplistic and inaccurate league tables that rank schools. This is bad for student morale and creates a competitive culture that values a numeric ranking over a rounded and individualised education for your child.

Educators around Australia have been raising their concerns with the government, but our warnings remain unheard.

To date, Education Minister Julia Gillard has refused to engage in genuine consultation about the website with those who know the most about education – principals, teachers and education support staff, nor has she taken any steps to prevent the creation and publication of league tables.

If you really want to know about your child and our school's progress, we urge you to speak with us directly, rather than relying on the *My School* website.

Sincerely,

Teachers, Principals and Education Support Staff:  
Members of the Victorian Independent Education Union

