

Exemplar Nomination

Category: The Dr Alan Druery OAM Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching
Nominee: Miss Honey
School: Crunchem Hall State School

Question 1: What contributions has the nominee made to student learning and the school community as a classroom teacher?

Provide at least two specific and measurable examples, pedagogical practice, supportive learning environments for students, or professional engagement with parents/carers and colleagues.

Miss Honey has made outstanding contributions to student learning and the broader school community through her innovative pedagogy, inclusive practices, and professional collaboration. A passionate advocate for differentiated instruction, she implemented a targeted literacy program in her Year 4 classroom that focused on guided reading groups, phonics-based intervention, and comprehension strategy workshops. Within 12 months, reading outcomes improved by 18%, as evidenced by both NAPLAN results and school-based assessments.

In mathematics, Miss Honey introduced an inquiry-based approach, embedding real-world problem-solving tasks that promoted critical thinking and collaboration. Her use of formative assessment tools like exit tickets and student reflection journals enabled her to tailor lessons to meet individual needs. As a result, student confidence in mathematics rose significantly, as shown by an internal survey where 92% of students reported feeling “more capable” and “engaged” in maths learning.

Miss Honey fosters a supportive and inclusive classroom environment by promoting student voice, respect, and emotional wellbeing. She utilises restorative practices to build a positive classroom culture and prioritises the social-emotional learning of all students. Her classroom is often described as “a second home” by both students and parents.

Her professional engagement is equally impactful. She initiated termly “Learning Partnership” conferences with parents/carers to co-construct student goals, improving home-school collaboration. Parent feedback forms consistently rate her communication and commitment as “excellent.” With colleagues, she leads collaborative planning sessions, sharing resources and strategies that have been adopted school wide.

Miss Honey's classroom is a hub of innovation, care, and academic excellence—transforming not only student outcomes but also shaping a collaborative, reflective school culture that prioritises growth and equity.

Question 2: Describe any other projects, programmes, or initiatives this teacher has led or contributed to that have had a meaningful impact on students, colleagues, or the school community.

Miss Honey has spearheaded several key initiatives at Crunchem Hall State School that have had wide-reaching impacts. One of her most influential contributions has been her leadership in developing and implementing the **Student Voice and Agency Framework**.

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She collaborated with staff and students to create platforms where student feedback informs teaching practices, school rules, and community projects. This initiative included monthly student forums and classroom-based action teams. A post-implementation survey showed a 35% increase in students feeling their opinions were “valued and acted upon” by staff.

Another significant project was the **Culturally Responsive Classrooms Initiative**, where Miss Honey partnered with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders to enrich the curriculum with Indigenous perspectives. She coordinated professional development for staff and embedded cultural competencies into units of work, particularly in English and HASS. Students’ understanding and appreciation of Indigenous histories and cultures markedly improved, as reflected in classroom projects and community feedback.

Miss Honey also led the **Wellbeing Week Program**, now a permanent fixture on the school calendar. This initiative includes mindfulness workshops, peer mentoring, and activities that promote positive mental health. It was instrumental in reducing anxiety-related absenteeism by 22% over two years, according to attendance records.

Her contributions extend into curriculum innovation as well. She piloted a cross-curricular STEM and sustainability unit in partnership with a local environmental group, leading students through a real-world problem: designing waste-reduction systems for the school. The success of this unit has led to it being adopted across multiple year levels.

Through these initiatives, Miss Honey has demonstrated not only pedagogical expertise but also visionary leadership that promotes equity, wellbeing, and student empowerment—leaving a lasting impact on the school community.

Question 3: What significant contributions has this teacher made beyond the classroom, such as mentoring, community engagement, or engaging in professional development initiatives?

Beyond her classroom duties, Miss Honey has made a profound contribution to the profession through mentoring, community partnerships, and continuous professional learning. She serves as a mentor for both early career and pre-service teachers, guiding them through lesson planning, classroom management, and reflective practice. Her mentees consistently report feeling “well-supported” and “professionally inspired” by her guidance.

Miss Honey is a founding member of the school’s **Professional Learning Community (PLC)**, which meets fortnightly to analyse student data and co-develop instructional strategies. Under her leadership, the PLC introduced “Instructional Rounds,” where teachers observe each other’s classrooms and reflect on practice—a model that has significantly improved professional dialogue and collaboration among staff.

Her engagement with the broader community is also noteworthy. Miss Honey established a **Community Classroom Partnership Program**, inviting local businesses, parents, and civic leaders into the classroom to share expertise, mentor students, and support real-world learning projects. This initiative has forged lasting relationships and elevated the relevance of classroom learning.

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Additionally, she represents the school at district professional development forums and recently presented at a regional conference on the topic “Trauma-Informed Teaching: Building Resilient Classrooms.” Her presentation was highly praised for its practical, evidence-based strategies and has since inspired similar programs in neighbouring schools.

Miss Honey is deeply committed to her own professional growth. She has completed multiple courses, including trauma-informed education, inclusive practices, and leadership training. She is currently undertaking a postgraduate qualification in Educational Leadership, further solidifying her role as a future school leader.

These contributions reflect Miss Honey’s belief that teaching extends beyond classroom walls—into the profession, the community, and the future of public education.

Question 4: Overall, describe what makes this classroom teacher an exemplary member of the profession, considering:

- *their contribution to the teaching profession*
- *their years of service and schools they have taught in*
- *any prior or present recognition of their teaching practice*

Miss Honey exemplifies the highest standards of the teaching profession through her dedication, innovation, and lasting impact on students, colleagues, and the community. With over 12 years of teaching experience across both metropolitan and regional schools, she has consistently demonstrated a commitment to inclusive, evidence-based teaching that meets the needs of every learner.

Throughout her career, Miss Honey has worked at three schools, with the last five years spent at Crunchem Hall State School. Her classroom is consistently recognised for its high engagement levels, inclusive culture, and excellent academic results. In 2023, she was acknowledged with the school’s “Inspirational Educator Award,” nominated by both staff and families. Her contributions have also been recognised at the district level, where she received commendation for outstanding contributions to curriculum development.

Miss Honey is not only a skilled practitioner but also a reflective leader. She embodies lifelong learning, engaging in professional development and regularly contributing to professional networks. Her expertise spans literacy intervention, culturally responsive pedagogy, student wellbeing, and teacher mentoring. She leads with integrity and humility, empowering others to grow and succeed.

What sets Miss Honey apart is her holistic view of education. She understands that teaching is not just about delivering content – it’s about shaping futures, building relationships, and uplifting communities. Whether she’s guiding a nervous student through a maths problem, mentoring a new teacher, or co-designing a school-wide initiative, Miss Honey approaches each task with care, intelligence, and purpose.

In every respect, Miss Honey is an exemplary educator whose passion and professionalism uplift the entire school community. Her work is a powerful reminder of the profound impact that skilled, compassionate teachers can have – not just on student learning, but on the future of education itself.