

Proposed Laidlaw Scholar work programme

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Topic area 1: Achieving effective home school relationships

Subtopic 1: home schooling

- *Year 1 question:* What does it take to make home schooling effective?
- *Year 1 or Year 2 question:* What support is required to help families engage in home learning effectively?
- *Year 2 question:* Which strategies are most effective at enlisting parents to support literacy

Subtopic 2: connecting with hard to reach parents

- *Year 1 question:* What are hard to reach parent's views on school and schooling?
- *Year 2 question:* How can we engage more effectively with hard to reach parents (including the role of peers/peer groups and communities)?
- *Year 2 question:* what are the social networks of hard to reach parents – who are the opinion formers?

Subtopic 3: building effective networks that can aid learning

- *Year 1 question:* What are the cultural and social capital networks of children and parents in disadvantaged households?
- *Year 2 question:* What are the barriers and enablers to building broader cultural and social capital networks that can lead to improved family and student outcomes?

Subtopic 4: transition

- *Year 1 question:* How can parents help with effective primary to secondary transition?

Topic area 2: MATs and the wider community

Subtopic 1: Area-based (and multi-service) approaches to enhancing children's outcomes

- *Year 1 question:* What are the needs of the wider communities (being served by Laidlaw Foundation MATs)? Which agencies do or might potentially address these needs?
- *Year 1 question:* How can the MAT catalyse wider community service providers to support children improve their educational outcomes (barriers and enablers to working together effectively)?
- *Year 2 question:* What is the role of other service-provider leaders in ensuring area based approaches can operate, sustain and deliver change?
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Topic area 3: MAT networks, leadership and approaches to improvement

Subtopic 1: Network based approaches to school improvement

- *Year 1 question:* How might Professional Learning Networks (PLNs) be used to improve teaching and learning across MAT schools?
- *Year 1 question:* What is the role of school leadership in ensuring PLNS can operate, sustain and deliver change?
- *Year 2 question:* What is the role of teachers as change agents in their schools?
- *Year 2 question:* How do social networks operate within schools and which teachers are most influential?

Subtopic 2: Evidence-informed school improvement

- *Year 1 question:* What is the view of MAT leaders and teachers on using research and data to improve teaching and learning? What are the barriers and what are the enablers?
- *Year 1 question:* To what extent should MAT's embrace a consistent approach to T&L and a standardised curriculum through their schools?
- *Year 2 question:* How might approaches such as lesson study and joint practice development be used to generate continuous and evidence-informed approaches improvements in teaching and learning?
- *Year 2 question:* How can we ascertain impact most effectively and use impact tools to ensure MAT schools are employing the most effective practices?

Topic area: 4: Digital Learning

Subtopic 1: Learning from home

- *Year 1 question:* What are the digital lives of students? How might we use social media, and video games as a way of enhancing teaching and learning?
- *Year 1 question:* How do we create a seamless blend of in-class and at-home learning?
- *Year 1 question:* The relative merits of synchronous and asynchronous teaching

Subtopic 2: Digital Pedagogy

- *Year 1 question:* How can the gamification of learning produce behaviour change?
- *Year 1 question:* What is the impact of AI on learning acquisition, differentiation and retention?
- *Year 1 question:* Whose content delivers the best results? How do schools choose from third party content providers and teacher produced lessons?

Other topic areas for students to propose research on:

- Mental health and well-being
- Aspiration and careers
- Values based assessment
- Sport and nutrition