



Building a culture of learning for students *and* teachers

A respectful, learning-centred school culture is key to creating an environment where teachers feel appreciated and students value their learning. However, schools are complex places with many competing demands that detract from a focus on learning.

Quality Teaching Rounds is a powerful mechanism for nurturing a school culture of learning and respect. It supports teachers to collaborate effectively across subjects and year levels, regardless of their background or years of experience.¹ As a form of professional development, QTR improves the quality of teaching² and develops a culture of collegiality, both of which contribute to increased student achievement.

Key points

Quality Teaching Rounds:

- breaks down barriers across grades and faculties
- creates opportunities for collaboration
- enhances collegiality by building stronger relationships
- increases awareness and valuing of what others have to offer
- develops a shared understanding of quality teaching.

How does QTR impact on school culture?

Teachers who participate report enhanced collegiality.

“Before QTR I didn’t know other teachers at my school because we didn’t have an opportunity to work together. Relationships that used to be out of reach became possible through being part of a professional learning community.”

**Maggie,
secondary teacher**

QTR helps strengthen and rejuvenate school culture because it builds professional and social capital that lasts well beyond the time spent during Rounds in deep analytical conversations with colleagues.

Teachers often engage in ongoing collaboration across grades and subjects which works to improve the quality of teaching.

“As far as the impact on the school, I see that as being a cultural change... teachers seeing themselves as learners and [part of] a professional learning community.”

**John,
primary principal**

Creating a positive shift in school culture takes time. It often requires a change in attitudes and how teachers engage intellectually with their work and each other. The QTR process involves setting aside time within the school day for teachers to participate in rigorous, sustained discussion about refining their practice. The QT Model provides a structured, non-judgemental way to build capacity for quality teaching.

With a relatively small investment of time and funds, QTR is a strong mechanism for enhancing school culture, providing teachers with the opportunity to focus on teaching and learning.

A shared commitment to ensuring Intellectual Quality, Quality Learning Environment and Significance for every student, every day, enhances the learning culture of the school and improves student outcomes.

In short, QTR creates the dynamic conditions necessary to revitalise teachers,³ engage students and enhance learning culture.

REFERENCES

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²Gore, J., Miller, A., Fray, L., Harris, J., & Prieto, E. (2021). Improving student achievement through professional development: Results from a randomised controlled trial of Quality Teaching Rounds. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 101, Article 103297. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2021.103297>

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