

2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient

Sarah Rain

Geelong East Primary School
Geelong, Victoria

A caring, compassionate teacher, with an understanding of the requirements of special needs students, Sarah works to build an encouraging classroom environment in which all students can thrive, and which focuses not only on academic learning, but also social growth.

As a Prep teacher, she is aware of the impact she has on 20 very young children whose brains are “like little sponges” and aims to get to know each student individually, so as to tailor her classes to engage every student in learning.

Sarah aims to make her classroom child-centred, believing differentiated tasks are essential to building self-esteem and capability. She uses iPads to cater for different learning styles and has created a personalised timetable on iPads for students to swipe once they have finished their tasks. With the young age of her students in mind, she also utilises reward charts and learning goals are visible throughout the classroom, as a means of instilling in students ownership of their own learning.

Sarah regularly meets informally with parents, in addition to formal meetings and reports, and believes this helps with children’s progress. She believes the enthusiasm her students have to simply be at school is an achievement in itself.

| Position | Other responsibilities | Category | Subjects/level taught | Years teaching |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Teacher | | Primary | Prep | 5 |
| Years at this school/centre | School type | Nominated by | Town/suburb | State and postcode |
| 4 | Public | Parent | Geelong | VIC, 3219 |

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