

## What our clients are saying about Brightpath

*Differentiating learning is hard – Brightpath really helps teachers differentiate their programs.*

Rod Wood,  
Associate Principal, Primary School,  
Peter Moyes Anglican Community School

*Brightpath helps teachers share learning goals with their students.*

Tracey Gray,  
Head of Primary, St Stephen's School,  
Duncraig Campus

*I have observed the invigoration of staff who feel the use of Brightpath has empowered their judgements.*

Cheryl Parkin,  
Principal, Piara Waters Primary School

Further information about Brightpath is available at:

[www.brightpath.com.au](http://www.brightpath.com.au)

Contact Brightpath:

Dr Sandy Heldsinger

Email: [brightpath@brightpath.com.au](mailto:brightpath@brightpath.com.au)

Phone: +61 8 9322 7429

Mobile: +61 409 341 557



## A turning point in educational assessment



- Track student growth over time
- Compare year level performance
- Compare school performance

## Brightpath is a great innovation in educational assessment

Teachers compare their students' work with calibrated exemplars to arrive at a scaled score. This process promotes reliability of teacher judgements. The judgements are therefore comparable across teachers, schools, and over time.

### Brightpath provides a scaled score from teachers' judgements

For the first time, school leaders can use their teachers' judgements with confidence to evaluate student performance. Leaders can review student growth in learning, compare performances across year levels and evaluate the impact of a learning initiative on student performance.

*Brightpath improves teacher judgement; it does not replace it.*

Mathilda Joubert,  
Swan Christian Education Association



## What is Brightpath?

Brightpath is assessment and reporting software that allows teachers to make highly reliable assessments of student achievements in a range of curriculum areas based on classroom tasks.

It facilitates the efficient and systematic collection of school-wide data to support rigorous evaluation both of teaching and learning. The software records the results of assessments and reports a range of formative and summative information to teachers and principals. This provides an informed basis for developing teaching programs targeting the needs of individual students.

The Brightpath software is easy to use. The reports are compiled as teachers make their judgements. These judgements can be used to:

- track student growth over time
- compare performances across year levels
- provide comparative information of performance with other schools.

Brightpath is based on over a decade of pioneering research at the University of Western Australia. Detailed information about our research, as well as links to peer-reviewed articles are available at [brightpath.com.au](http://brightpath.com.au).

## Overview of methodology

Teachers compare their students' work with a set of calibrated exemplars. They judge which exemplar each performance is closest to, or which two exemplars the performance falls between. Watch the short demonstration video of the judgement process on [brightpath.com.au](http://brightpath.com.au).

The following assessments are currently available for primary schools:

1. Early childhood oral narrative
2. Early childhood recount
3. Information report writing
4. Narrative writing
5. Persuasive writing
6. Science investigation

We are currently developing scales to assess critical thinking, history and social sciences, and extended performance mathematics tasks.

## Brightpath benefits

Brightpath facilitates the collection of school-wide data to support rigorous evaluation both of teaching and learning. This data can be used to support assessment *for, of, and as* learning.

### Brightpath uses typical classroom tasks

The assessment tasks used to collect student performances are typical classroom tasks and include tasks such as asking students to retell a story using a wordless picture book, or to write a recount of a shared class experience, or to discuss their findings after a science investigation. The assessments therefore have high validity and will feel familiar for students.

### Brightpath develops teachers' assessment skills

Research studies have shown that those teachers who are able to analyse student work closely and identify the next steps for learning make a greater contribution to student learning than those teachers who struggle with this. A central benefit of Brightpath is that it requires teachers to assess their students, and in doing so teachers further develop their assessment skills. At the same time the teachers gain insights into student development in learning.

### Brightpath helps teachers differentiate learning

All teachers in the school place their students on the same scale. Teachers can then view the spread of ability in their class and the overlap of ability across year levels.

Numerous research studies show the positive impact of differentiation and challenge on student performance but it is often difficult for teachers

to obtain data to inform the extent to which they need to differentiate their teaching. Brightpath addresses this issue in a very tangible way.

### Brightpath provides teachers with teaching points based on how they have assessed their students

As soon as teachers have assessed their students they can view their students' performances in relation to the calibrated exemplars, performance descriptors and teaching points.

The image below shows the teaching points reporting display. Each year level is displayed in a different colour, year 2 in pink, year 3 in green and so on. The teaching points display helps teachers use the data to inform their teaching.

- It highlights the breadth of skills that need to be taught at the different points of the scale.
- It shows the development of skills and how learning builds on the products of prior learning.

- It further helps teachers differentiate their teaching to teach to students' various points of need.

### Teachers' judgements can be used to evaluate student growth in learning

Teachers can assess their students at various points in the school year and from year to year. As students are always being placed on the same scale, it is possible to track student growth in learning and to look at the impact of school programs on student learning.

### Teacher judgements can be used to evaluate school programs

Schools can now more easily collect consistent teacher judgements, which means that teacher judgements can be used for rigorous evaluation of school programs.

### Parents can be given detailed reports

Teachers can easily generate reports for parents. These reports list the skills demonstrated in the child's performance and show how that performance compares with the school average.

### Teachers are provided with grades

We are able to provide grades for students. These grades are derived from the empirical data on student performance, which is a significant step for primary education in Australia.

*Data are comprised of assessment of classroom activities, which means the teachers understand and own the data. It's not imposed upon them.*

Lynda Fisher,

Head of Carmel Primary and President of IPSHA WA

