

On Becoming a BPLA School Coach

School Coaching and Big Picture Learning Australia

Implementing the BPLA design for learning in schools, takes time. It involves deep change to thinking and practice for leaders, teachers and those who work with schools. These changes to thinking and practice need to be supported by changes to structure and culture. To assist each school with the implementation process, BPLA appoints an Accredited BPLA School Coach.

The skill development of those who undertake this role is taken seriously by BPLA. And, like all complex work, it takes time, patience, support and experience to create, nurture, and sustain. While considerable overlap exists with other leadership roles in schools and systems, the role of a BPLA School Coach is significantly and fundamentally different.

One student at a time...

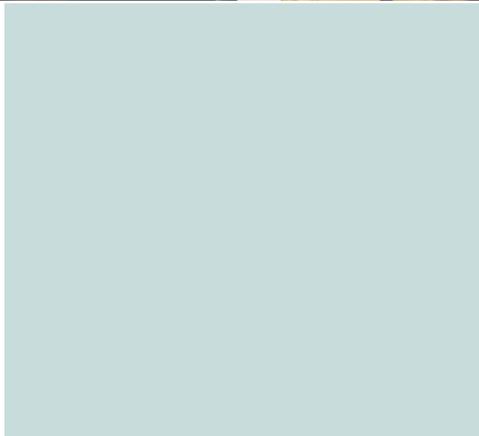
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The Role of the BPLA School Coach

The BPLA School Coach works as a ‘critical friend,’ facilitating reflection on new ideas as they are put into practice. A Coach helps draw connections with, and between, structure, new teaching practices and school culture. The Coach assists the school to develop processes for monitoring progress. Where appropriate, the Coach identifies other experts to work with the school around particular issues and ideas.

The Coach seeks to help the school build sustainability. Because school staff come and go, the design must be robust and integrated well enough into the school practice that new leaders and teachers, once inducted, are able to adapt with little difficulty. While fidelity with the BPL design is important, so is innovation. School Coaches enable the BPL design to be adapted to local constraints and assist schools to take advantage of local possibilities. They attend to emerging pressures and also identify and develop new breakthrough ideas. When encountering obstacles, rather than abandon or alter the BPL design, BPLA School Coaches assist and encourage innovation, maintaining the inherent flexibility of the BPL design by staying “in role”.



in a community of learners...

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The steps to becoming a BPLA School Coach

Prospective BPLA School Coaches bring with them a diverse range of prior experiences of BPL, teaching, and educational leadership. Each person's starting point and their steps towards accreditation will therefore vary accordingly. The timeline may range from six months to two years.

The required experiences can be completed in any order and will guide a personalised process of engagement towards achieving formal accreditation as a BPLA School Coach.

Required Experiences

Completion of the five-day BPL Foundation Program

Hold a licence to assess the International Big Picture Learning Credential (IBPLC)

Express interest in the role with BPLA

For your EOI to be accepted you will already know the Big Picture design for learning and for school. You will have significant experience working with the BPL design and the BPLA national network. Your EOI will begin through contact with the BPLA co-founders Viv White and John Hogan.

Closing date: Monday 8th April

Participate in, and complete all requirements of the BPLA School Coach Course

Refer to separate course outline/program. This will occur over four days in the school holidays between Terms 2 and 3. Begin to develop your own project that will be of benefit to the network and demonstrate your interest and capacity to work beyond your own context.

Connect with a designated existing Coach while developing into the role of a BPLA School Coach

Viv and/or John will negotiate with you and assign an existing BPLA School Coach as Mentor and a series of Shadow Days will be organised.

Complete a Coaching Accreditation Exhibition to a BPLA panel

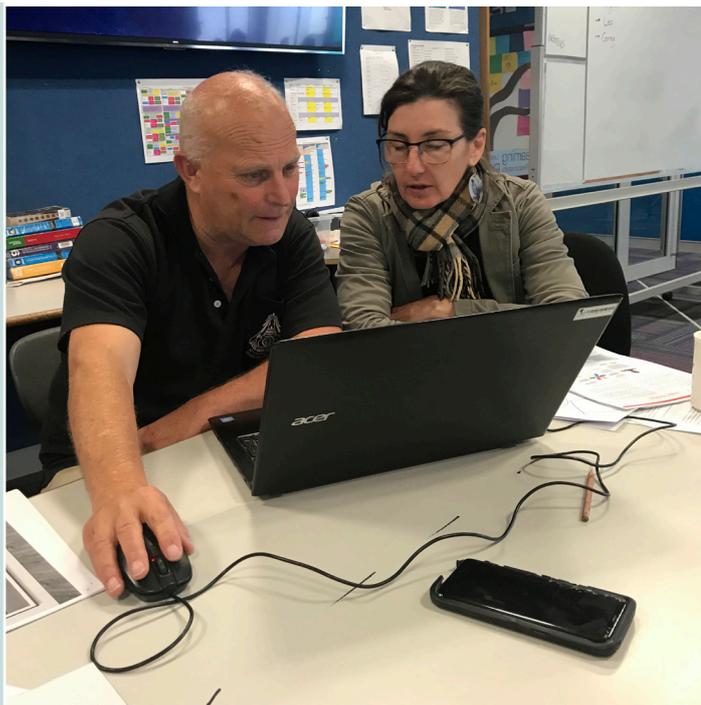
Present a Portfolio of your work as a Coach and the project/product you began to develop during the School Coach course. All relevant details about this work are provided during the BPLA School Coach Course.

Negotiate a BPLA School Coaching Contract

It will become necessary at some stage to negotiate a formal contract with the CEO of BPLA.

Become a Collaborative Coaching Partner to an existing BPLA School Coach in a BPL school/academy

Move from shadowing to sharing and then, eventually, to taking over or moving to your own school context.



The opportunity

Change work is exciting, energizing, exhilarating, rewarding and satisfying. It is also scary, hard, messy and complex. Working with a School Coach helps you both celebrate and keep your feet grounded when things are going well. Working with a Coach can help keep your spirits up when times are hard and it feels like your efforts are not working. A Coach can help you keep perspective and will keep you connected to your vision, purpose and principles.

John Hogan



Ring or email for more information.

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