



Case Study

- **Project :** Switch4Schools
- **School :** Samford SS



Context & Objectives

Overview

In 2021, Samford State School in Queensland partnered with Switch4Schools, a research backed, emotion focused wellbeing platform. The goal was to improve student behaviour, boost staff morale, and raise academic achievement through daily emotional check ins, predictive analytics, and embedded social emotional learning (SEL) tools.

Within just 12 months, the school experienced dramatic and measurable improvements across behavioural, academic, and wellbeing domains.

Samford State School, a government primary school in Brisbane, sought to address:

- Rising incidents of student behavioural issues
- Low staff morale and satisfaction
- A need for improved academic engagement and equity, particularly among NCCD and First Nations students

The objective was to implement a whole school wellbeing solution that was proactive rather than reactive, data driven, and easy for teachers to integrate into daily practice without increasing workload.



Transforming Behaviour and Academic Outcomes through Emotion-Focused Learning at Samford State School



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Solution: Switch4Schools

Switch4Schools is a digital platform co-designed with students, built on leading psychological research. It includes:

- 30 second daily emotion check ins
- Predictive algorithms to identify at risk students
- Dashboards and visual “emotion weather maps” for teachers
- Hundreds of evidence based regulation activities and SEL resources
- Parent and community tools and events to promote a shared language of wellbeing

Implementation

The program was introduced school wide in 2021 with:

- Daily use by students for emotional check ins
- Regular teacher engagement with dashboards and class mood maps
- Leadership integration of wellbeing data into school decision making
- Ongoing staff PD and coaching in emotional intelligence practices

Outcomes

66%
decrease

in major behavioural incidents

63%
reduction

in minor behavioural issues

75%
reduction

in suspension rates

50%
reduction

in physical misconduct





Outcomes

Behavioural Impact

Over a 12 month period from 2021–2022:

- 66% decrease in major behavioural incidents
- 50% reduction in minor behavioural issues
- 75% reduction in suspension rates
- 50% reduction in physical misconduct

This behavioural shift also correlated with a doubling in parent perception that behaviour was well managed (from 45% to 90%).

Staff Wellbeing

- Staff satisfaction rose from 29% to 97% (2022 School Opinion Survey)
- Staff morale jumped from 34% to 97%
- 95% of staff agreed Samford SS was a great place to work
- Despite high cognitive and emotional demands, 98% felt supported by colleagues, and 97% by leadership (PAW survey)

Academic Improvement

Significant academic gains were recorded, especially in English:

- Year 3: 94% A–C (↑14% from 2021)
- Year 4: 100% A–C (↑8%)
- Year 6: 14% more students in the A–B range
- Years 3–6:
 - 10% increase in students achieving A–B
 - 10% increase in A grades overall

Equity gains were also notable:

- 100% of First Nations students achieved a C or better
- 71% of First Nations students earned an A or B in Semester 2
- 83% of NCCD students achieved a C or better
- 37% of NCCD students achieved an A or B

Discussion ○○○

The integration of Switch4Schools helped Samford State School foster a proactive wellbeing culture grounded in emotional literacy, regular data use, and staff empowerment. The results suggest that emotional regulation and wellbeing are not side issues, but central pillars of academic and behavioural success.

The gains seen were not only rapid but sustained, highlighting the effectiveness of embedding emotional intelligence practices in daily school routines.

Conclusion ○○○

Samford State School's results show that emotion focused learning is not just good practice, it delivers measurable impact. By adopting Switch4Schools, they improved student outcomes, increased staff satisfaction, and built a more resilient and inclusive school community.

This case supports the broader argument that wellbeing and academic success are fundamentally intertwined, and that systematic, data driven wellbeing tools can be transformative when implemented thoughtfully.



Does Switch4Schools emotion focused learning work?

Comparing the 10 months pre and post the introduction of Switch4Schools in a Brisbane school

Drawing on self report, survey and One School data. All data shown was reported by the school. Switch4Schools was not involved in the collection and analysis of any data.



Samford State School
INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL
Strive with Honour

TEACHERS



On demand student data
100's of **lesson plans, video, tips and resources**

Staff satisfaction

lifted from 29% to 97%
(2022 SOS data)

Staff morale increased
from 34% to 97% in 10 months

95%

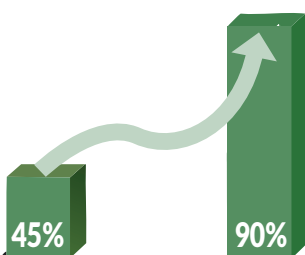
95% of staff believed the school was a **great place to work**

Even though work was considered by teachers as having high cognitive and emotional demands, 98% felt **well supported by colleagues**, and 97% felt **well supported by line managers** (PAW survey)

PARENTS



Free tools and resources



Parent satisfaction

"Is behaviour well managed at this school"

STUDENTS



Daily **check-in**, activities, videos, strategies, memes and resources.

AI & **Predictive algorithms**

BEHAVIOURS

Behavioural Incidents



DOWN

64%

From 684 to 245

Suspensions



DOWN

80%

From 19 to 4

Daily Incident Average



DOWN

36%

From 5.3 to 1.9

ACADEMICS

YEAR 4

↑08%

all students achieved an A,B, or C in English

YEAR 6

↑14%

students sitting in the A-B range

YEAR 3

↑14%

94% of students sitting in the A-C range for English

YEAR 3-6

↑10%

students achieved an A or B in English

21%

increase in NCCD students achieving a C or better

27%

increase in NCCD students achieving a A or B in semester 2

