6.1. School Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School name</th>
<th>Dara School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades (e.g. K-6)</td>
<td>1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifted provisions (e.g. gifted program, acceleration options)</td>
<td>Gifted School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/State</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.daraschool.sa.edu.au">http://www.daraschool.sa.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report prepared by</td>
<td>Lynda Simons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.2. Mandatory and recommended activities for this school year

Double-click and select “checked” to check boxes.

- Received Australian Mensa’s bi-monthly magazine, TableAus.  
  - Yes
  - No

- Created conditions for the education of gifted children.  
  - Yes
  - No

- Put a link to mensa.org.au on the school website.  
  - Yes
  - No

- Promoted Australian Mensa.  
  - Yes
  - No

- Established and ran a Gifted children’s Club or a Board Game Club.  
  - Yes
  - No

- Identified and supported gifted children.  
  - Yes
  - No

- Educated teachers about gifted children.  
  - Yes
  - No
6.3. What went well this school year?

The school opened on the 30th January 2017 with 15 students and 4 staff members. Dara staff attended the 22nd Biennial World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children in Sydney. We knew that the process to set up a school was complex, however the determination and passion of the teachers was evident in the programs we had designed. We found that grouping students at their readiness level and supporting student’s individual areas of need maximised learning progression and minimised repetition that was unnecessary. The effectiveness of this approach was further reinforced when our students decided to produce a small video about their learning experiences at Dara for the purposes of sharing the students’ perspectives at the conference. Local and global people were moved with the anecdotal experiences Dara students shared. Furthermore, people were captivated by the fact that a few individuals could make such a difference to the lives of children. The numbers of students applying to Dara school continues to grow, with a doubling of numbers for the start of 2018.

6.4. Any other comments for this school year?

This year we are focused on finding a larger premise, and building an Information Technology infrastructure, whilst building on our robotics program. We plan to form more partnerships with the community at a local level.

6.5. Plans for next school year

Is your school already aligned with the new requirements for 2018?

1. The school must have at least one current staff member with a gifted postgraduate qualification from a university (Certificate, Masters, or PhD). Additionally, the school should have a commitment to ongoing gifted professional development for other teachers.

2. The school must offer grade-advancement (“grade-skipping”) where appropriate, and this must be in place for at least one current student attending the school. Additionally, the school should have an understanding of radical grade-advancement (three or more years ahead).

3. The school must be providing acceleration of more than one type (including grade-advancement and one other, e.g. curriculum compacting, subject acceleration, or any of the
20 acceleration options), and both types of acceleration must be in place for at least one current student attending the school. Additionally, the school should offer access to after school gifted extracurricular programs.