Having a dedicated 'Research Lead' in schools

- allocating protected time for the Research Lead. While a highly enthusiastic volunteer may get a new project off the ground, long-term sustainability requires investment of time and resources

- giving status and profile to the Research Lead. To help them gain commitment from other staff, they should be assigned a regular slot on meeting agendas, a role in staff professional learning and a position on the school leadership team.

The right choice of Research Lead is also important. As well as being an influencer and someone who people respect, they will need to be:

- enthusiastic and passionate about research and evidence-informed practice

- well-informed about the limits and dangers of poorly designed research, and aware of basic research methods, including quantitative and qualitative approaches

- prepared to campaign and advocate for research, while also listening to and addressing their colleagues concerns and questions

- willing to have a key role in shaping research-informed professional learning opportunities for teachers and leaders.

Find out more

For more information on the topic of Research Leads, including some fantastic examples in UK schools, three reports in a series on research awareness and research use are available on the Education Development Trust website www.educationdevelopmenttrust.com:

1. Tony McAleavy's *Teaching as a research-engaged profession: problems and possibilities*

2. Tom Bennett's *The school Research Lead*

3. Anna Riggall and Rachel Singer's *Research Leads: current practice, future possibilities*.

Next steps

1. Ask the school leadership team to read through the information above and schedule a meeting to discuss your learnings and reflections using the questions below as a guide.

2. During or before the meeting, watch the short videos of two staff members in Melbourne Catholic schools talking about their role as Research Leads.

For schools that already have a Research Lead, consider:

- What is working well in having a dedicated research role in your school? Why?