

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: 16/05/2017

School number: 0677

School name: Nicolson Avenue Primary

1. General information

- School Principal: Pam Peters
- Deputy Principal: Justin Smitheram
- Senior Leaders: Craig Fewster, Sue Duffield.
- School Counsellor: Cynthia Spangenberg
- AET: Jeanette Cowan 0.6
- ACEO: 32 hrs / week Peta Sutton
- Visible Learning Impact Coach: Sally Rowe 0.2
- Site Disabilities Co-ordinator: Ben Harris-Jones 0.2
- Year of opening: 2013 (Amalgamation of Nicolson Avenue Primary School est. 1954 & Nicolson Avenue Junior Primary School est. 1961)
- Postal Address: 93 Nicolson Avenue, Whyalla Norrie, SA 5608
- Location Address: 93 Nicolson Avenue, Whyalla Norrie, SA 5608
- DECD Region: Eyre and Western
- Distance from GPO (km): 380 km.
- Telephone number: (08) 86458685
- Fax Number: (08) 86452237
- School website address: www.nicolsonr7.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0677.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Accessed at Memorial Oval Primary School.

February FTE student enrolment:

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Special	12.0	12.0	11.0	12.0
Reception	79.0	44.0	56.0	49.0
Yr1	60.0	69.0	46.0	60.0
Yr2	66.0	58.0	67.0	45.0
Yr3	63.0	63.0	54.0	70.0
Yr4	80.0	64.0	64.0	60.0
Yr5	59.0	74.0	58.0	72.0
Yr6	72.0	55.0	71.0	61.0
Yr7	50.0	68.0	56.0	79.0
TOTAL FTE	541.0	507.0	483.0	508.0
Male FTE	268.0	246.0	242.0	247.0
Female FTE	273.0	261.0	241.0	249.0
School Card %	30	32	29	44
NESB TOTAL	0	0	0	10
Aboriginal FTE	26.0	28.0	32.0	51.0

Student Enrolment Trends

School numbers have remained relatively stable over the last three years. The school is located centrally in the city of Whyalla and draws students from across the city, not just the immediate area.

Staffing Numbers (as at February census)

- Principal 1.0
- Deputy Principal 1.0
- 2 Senior Leaders 1.0
- School Counsellor 1.0
- AET 0.6
- ACEO 32 hrs/wk.
- Class Teachers 20.0
- Non Class Teachers 5.0
- Ancillary Hours per week 314.7
- Grounds Person hours per week 15.0
- Public transport access: The Whyalla City Bus Service services the school.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General Characteristics**
 - Students at Nicolson Avenue Primary School come from predominantly low to middle socioeconomic backgrounds (ICSEA Value 930).
 - School Card holders make up approximately 44% of the student population.
 - 14% of our students are Aboriginal.
- **Student Well-being Programs**
 - Nicolson Avenue Primary School has a full time student Counsellor, a 0.6 AET and a full time AECO.
 - The school is serviced by both a Wellbeing Practitioner and a School Chaplain. We also have a close association with the Smith Family who co-ordinate a weekly, after hours Learning Centre.
 - Site wellbeing is a priority for our current and ongoing SIP.
 - All students are explicitly taught our core values and associated observable behaviours.
 - All students are taught prosocial skills through the Second Step program and protective behaviours through the Child Protection Curriculum.
 - A free breakfast program is available to all students five mornings per week.

- **Student Support Offered**
 - We currently release a staff member (0.2) to co-ordinate and liaise with support services for students with identified disabilities.
 - The school has “buy in” services of a Speech Pathologist.
 - Identified students receive intervention through the MiniLit and MultiLit programs. The school utilises SSO’s to implement these programs as well as a qualified teacher employed at 0.5
 - **Student Management**
 - Our school’s Student Behaviour Management policy has been developed in line with the DECD School Discipline policy with a focus on acknowledging appropriate behaviours and explicit teaching linked to our core values.
 - We implement and train students in restorative practices – enabling them to understand the effect of their actions and assisting them to repair relationships.
 - Our site has access to the services of our Partnership Behaviour Coach.
 - **Student Governance**
 - Under the guidance of our Counsellor, students initiate and operate a variety of Action Teams which focus on issues and the organisation of events relevant to student needs and interests.
3. Key School Policies
- During 2016, the staff, students and school community representatives worked collaboratively to select and define our core values of Respect, Teamwork, Resilience, Responsibility and Integrity. These values are used to inform staff, classroom and community Codes of Conduct.
 - A new Site Improvement Plan was developed (2017 - 2018) with the key priorities of English (reading & writing), Mathematics and Site Wellbeing.

4. Curriculum

- All staff provide teaching and learning programs informed by the Australian Curriculum.
- Physical Education and STEM are provided as NIT, specialist subjects.
- Students access learning in Spanish via video-link.
- A number of our Junior Primary classes implement a Walker Learning approach to early years' education.
- As part of our involvement in the Visible Learning program, staff will undertake professional learning in the implementation of evidence informed, high yielding classroom strategies and pedagogies.
- Special needs: The school hosts 2 Special Options classes. The year 3-7 class caters for 12 students and the Junior Primary class has a capacity of 8 students.
- A range of assessment strategies are employed throughout the school to inform planning at individual, classroom and whole site levels.
- Staff at the school will undertake ongoing professional learning in moderation over the coming years.
- Parents receive two formal written reports each year (term 2 & 4) and are invited to attend parent/teacher/student meetings to discuss these.

5. Sporting Activities

- Students have the opportunity to participate in a number of interschool carnivals over the course of the year covering a range of sports.
- Senior students have the opportunity to represent Whyalla at SAPSASA level.
- Sports Day is held annually in term 3.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Students have the opportunity to participate in an annual performance of the Whyalla Combined Schools Choir and have access to musical instrument tuition.
- Students R-6 access yearly swimming lessons and our Year 7 students access the Aquatics program at Port Augusta.
- Students are involved in Bike Ed, attend the local Road Safety Centre and the Footsteps Dance program.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff Profile**

Nicolson avenue Primary School has had a relatively small turnover of staff in recent years and retains a good mix of very experienced and beginning educators.

- **Leadership Structure**

Nicolson Avenue Primary currently operates with a Leadership Team comprising of a Principal, Deputy Principal, two Senior Leaders and a School Counsellor.

- **Staff Support Systems**

- Each member of our teaching staff works collaboratively with peers as part of one of three Strategic Teams (Maths, English, Wellbeing) to drive school change and to develop their leadership capacity.
- Staff are provided with opportunities to undertake and facilitate professional development in personal, site and Partnership priorities. This involves current involvement in the Visible Learning Project (for which the site has funded a 0.2 coaching role) and Moderation.
- Dedicated opportunities are provided for staff throughout the year to collaboratively plan, implement and assess student learning.
- **Performance Management**
- Recently developed processes and procedures (in line with DECD guidelines) for performance development will be implemented over the course of 2017 – 2018.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Complexity placement points

- Isolation placement points
 - Shorter terms
- Housing assistance
 - : Upon application by staff member. (Teaching staff only)
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
 - : Upon application by staff member.
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
 - : Assistance via application process – refer to 2016 EB.
- Locality allowances
 - : \$26 per annum
- Relocation assistance
 - : Normal removal expenses for contract and permanent teachers.

9. School Facilities

Buildings and Grounds

- The site has undergone extensive development and refurbishment of buildings and facilities over the past 5 years. This will continue in the coming year with the development of 2 new STEM spaces.
- We have a purpose built gymnasium, an expansive grassed oval area, two undercover COLA's, three newly developed playgrounds and large hard play surfaces
- The school also has a small undercover garden area which will be further developed under our STEM Works program.

Heating and Cooling

- All buildings are serviced by reverse cycle refrigerated air conditioning.

Specialist Facilities and Equipment

- All classrooms are equipped with smart board/interactive projector technology.
- * The school has a gymnasium that is used for the delivery of a specialised Physical Education program and as a venue for whole school assemblies and
- * performances. It is available for supervised lunchtime activities and for hire out of hours to local sporting groups.
- * Nicolson Avenue Primary School has a dedicated Library that is used as a teaching space and as a supervised area for students during recess and lunch breaks.
- * We have two dedicated computer suites, each housing 30 desktop computers, with the ongoing purchase and roll out of more mobile technology – laptops, tablets etc.
- * Work will begin in 2017 on the construction of 2 purpose built STEM work spaces.

Student Facilities

- Our canteen operates five days per week. Students may order lunches and purchase food and drinks at recess and lunch breaks.

Staff Facilities

- Staff have access to a recently refurbished staff room with cooking facilities.
- A meeting room is available on booking.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

- All buildings and facilities are accessible to staff and students with disabilities.

Access to bus transport

- A local bus service is available to students with pick up and drop off points close to the school

10. School Operations

Decision Making Structures

- Staff, parents and students are involved in decision making based on a consultative model.
- Nicolson Avenue Primary School has an active Governing Council which meets twice per term.
- Each member of the teaching staff sits on a strategic team with decision making responsibilities in line with our Site Improvement Plan.

Regular Publications

- The school publishes, both online and in hard copy, a fortnightly newsletter.
- The staff handbook is updated annually and is introduced to staff at the beginning of each year.

Other Communication

- The school has a Facebook page.
- SMS messages are sent daily to families of students with unexplained absences.
- SMS messages are sent weekly to parents informing them when their child is to receive a class award.

School Financial Position

- Nicolson Avenue Primary has a fulltime Business Manager and associated Finance Committee.
- Budget managers and committees are responsible for spending in key areas.

Special Funding

- The school is funded in line with the DECD Student Centred Funding Model.

11. Local Community

General Characteristics

- Whyalla is a diverse community – multi cultural population, mostly European. Arrium is the major employer within the city.
- Whyalla has a large retail industry and education provides employment for many.

Parent and Community Involvement

- Parents are involved in a range of capacities, from Governing Council and a range of volunteer roles.
- Parent involvement is supported and encouraged.

Feeder or Destination Schools

- The majority of our new enrolments are from our local preschool centre, Win Newby Kindergarten. However, enrolments come from all Whyalla preschools.
- The vast majority of our Year 7 students transition to one of two local DECD High Schools with a small number enrolling in our local Catholic College, Samaritan.
- Transition programs are in place for all families and students transitioning to and from Nicolson Avenue Primary School.

Other Local Care and Educational Facilities

- There are a range of child care and family day care facilities in Whyalla as well as other DECD schools, Catholic Education schools and a Christian faith based school in the city.
- The Whyalla community is serviced by both TAFE and the University of South Australia. Both campuses are in close proximity to our site.

Commercial/Industrial and Shopping Facilities

- A major shopping complex is located nearby to our site.

Other Local Facilities

- Whyalla is serviced by the Whyalla Hospital and a full range of other medical and dental facilities.
- A wide variety of health and fitness facilities are also available to the community.
- Our city hosts a variety of arts and cultural celebrations and festivals over the course of the year.
- All major sports are catered for at a range of levels.

Availability of Staff Housing

- Housing assistance is available upon application.
- Whyalla is serviced by a number of Real Estate agencies.

Accessibility

- Public transport and taxi services are available.
- There are daily bus and air flights to and from Adelaide.

Local Government Body

- Whyalla City Council is the local governing body.