



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2018

School number: 0677

School name: Nicolson Avenue Primary



1. General information

- School Principal: Pam Peters
- Deputy Principal: Ben Harris-Jones
- Senior Leaders: Sally Rowe, Jess Bennett.
- School Counsellor: Cynthia Spangenberg
- AET: Jeanette Cowan 0.6
- ACEO: 44 hrs / week Peta Sutton, Anita Cselko
- Visible Learning Impact Coaches: Sally Rowe, Jess Bennett 0.2
- Intervention Teacher: Treann Clarke
- 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: Whyalla
- Distance from GPO (km): 380 km.
- Telephone number: (08) 86458685
- Fax Number: (08) 86453327
- 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	2017	2018
Special	12.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	17.0	20.0
Reception	79.0	44.0	56.0	49.0	49.0	48.0
Yr1	60.0	69.0	46.0	56.0	51.0	50.0
Yr2	66.0	58.0	67.0	44.0	59.0	42.0
Yr3	63.0	63.0	54.0	68.0	39.0	64.0
Yr4	80.0	64.0	64.0	55.0	63.0	48.0
Yr5	59.0	74.0	58.0	69.0	66.0	70.0
Yr6	72.0	55.0	71.0	57.0	66.0	64.0
Yr7	50.0	68.0	56.0	72.0	60.0	68.0
TOTAL FTE	541.0	507.0	483.0	482.0	470.0	474.0
Male FTE	268.0	246.0	242.0	247.0	238.0	244
Female FTE	273.0	261.0	241.0	249.0	232.0	230
School Card %	30	32	29	44	48	49
NESB TOTAL	0	0	0	10	2	2
Aboriginal FTE	26.0	28.0	32.0	51.0	66.0	75.0

- Student enrolment trends: School numbers have remained relatively stable over the last two years since losing a large cohort of Year 7's to secondary school in 2017. 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 44 hrs/wk
- Class Teachers 20.0
- Non Class Teachers 5.0
- Ancillary Hours per week 560
- 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 49% of the student population.
 - 15% of our students are Aboriginal.
- **Student well-being programs**
 - Nicolson Avenue Primary School has a full time Student Wellbeing Leader, a 0.6 AET and two AECOs.
 - A Wellbeing Practitioner and a School Chaplain service the school.
 - 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.
 - Social skills are taught to all students 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**

- Intervention teacher 0.6 co-ordinates and liases with Support Services for students with identified disabilities.
- The school has “buy in” services of a Speech Pathologist.
- Identified students receive intervention through the PreLit, MiniLit, MultiLit and Quicksmart programs. The school utilises SSO’s to implement these programs as well as our Intervention teacher.

- **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 Wellbeing Leader, 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

- Our core values of Respect, Teamwork, Resilience, Responsibility and Integrity are used to inform staff, classroom and community Codes of Conduct.
- A 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 have undertaken professional learning in the implementation of evidence informed, high yielding classroom strategies and pedagogies.
- An Instrumental music Program is offered Year 5 – 7 with students learning guitar and a range of wind instruments.
- A Choir Program is conducted each year with students performing to the Whyalla community each year with students from other Whyalla schools.
- A range of assessment strategies (including PAT R, PAT M, PASM, NAPLAN, Running Records, Phonic Screener) are employed throughout the school to inform planning at individual, classroom and whole site levels. Data from these assessments is stored on EDSAS, Scorelink and Student Record folders that are maintained and passed on at the end of the school year by teachers.
- Parents receive two formal written reports each year (Term 2 & 4) and are invited to attend parent/teacher/student meetings to discuss these.

- Staff undertake collaborative moderation of student work samples within our school and at a Partnership level twice/year.

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.
- Support for students with additional learning needs is provided through Negotiated Education Plans including adjustments to learning environments, curriculum access and reporting procedures. This may include small group work, individualised instruction or additional support from an SSO.
- Intervention Programs used include:
 - Reading Doctor
 - PreLit, MiniLit, MultiLit
 - Speech programs
 - Speech Clinics
 - QuickSmart Maths

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.
- Throughout the year a range of sports clinics are held. Outside providers and students from the secondary schools facilitate these.

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.
- Our R- 6 students participate in a Swimming Program each year to develop safety skills in and around water.
- Our Year 7 students participate in an Aquatics program that includes a camp.

- National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence – each year our school participates in this initiative and raises awareness throughout our school community.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff Profile**
 - Nicolson has had a relatively small turn over 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 Student Wellbeing Leader.
- **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 in year level teams.
 - Ancillary staff who support student learning are trained to use various programs that are used.
- **Performance Management**
 - Regular Performance Meetings are held leaders and each staff member. It is a two way process with both people contributing to discussion topics.
 - Staff develop Professional Development Plans that are reviewed biannually.
 - T & D priorities are negotiated with line managers.

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 that will be further developed as a part of the 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 out of hours hire 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.
- The school has two newly refurbished STEM spaces that all classes are able to access.

- **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 that meets twice per term.
 - All school policies are presented to the Governing Council for endorsement prior to their adoption.
 - 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.
 - TRT's receive an abbreviated version of this.
 - Parents receive an enrolment package that includes a detailed Parent Handbook that outline school processes and procedures.
- **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.
 - Whyalla has a significant Aboriginal population and a commitment to Reconciliation.
 - The steel industry 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 childcare 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.
 - Both TAFE and the University of South Australia service the Whyalla community. 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**
 - The Whyalla Hospital and a full range of other medical and dental facilities service Whyalla.
 - A wide variety of health and fitness facilities is 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.
 - A number of Real Estate agencies services Whyalla.

- **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.