

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT



School number: 0459

School name: Wallaroo Primary School

## 1. General information

Updated: 27/5/2020

### Part A

School name : Wallaroo Primary School  
School No. : 0459  
Principal : Dominica Thomson  
Student Wellbeing : Damian McCarthy  
Postal Address : Hughes Street, Wallaroo  
Location Address : Hughes Street, Wallaroo  
Partnership : Northern Yorke  
Distance from GPO : 160 km  
CPC attached : No

Courier : Kadina  
Phone No. : 88232190  
Fax No. : 88233244

February FTE Enrolment		2016	2017	2019	2020
Primary	Special NAP, upgraded etc	0	0	0	0
	Reception	33	13	14	12
	Year 1	21	24	16	12
	Year 2	21	21	8	13
	Year 3	14	27	15	6
	Year 4	15	11	17	14
	Year 5	24	18	18	16
	Year 6	11	21	6	15
	Year 7	13	7	12	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>94</b>
School Card Percentage		<b>50%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>76%</b>
NESB Enrolment		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Aboriginal Enrolment		<b>8.5%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>22%</b>

### Part B

- School website address:  
[www.wallaroops.sa.edu.au](http://www.wallaroops.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address:  
[DL.0459.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:DL.0459.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Staffing numbers:
  - Principal
  - Student Wellbeing Leader
  - teaching staff: 9.1
  - SSOs: 8
- OSHC/Vacation Care  
We have an OSHC facility from 6am – 8.30am and then 3.00 – 6.00pm Monday-Friday

A Vacation Care programme also operates each school holidays

- Enrolment trends:

Enrolments are impacted on by a highly transient population resulting in annual fluctuations between approximately 100 and 130 students

- Year of opening:

1878

- Public transport access:

:There is no public transport access for students attending Wallaroo Primary School

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics:

Wallaroo Primary School is an R-7 school situated in a beautiful bay in a rural region. Wallaroo Primary School is proud of its 142 year history and its close links to the local community. The school is a Category 2 Index of Disadvantage with approximately 76% School Card. Its student cohort describes as being mostly mono-cultural (22% Aboriginal), with the majority of students having Anglo-Celtic backgrounds. Student enrolments are affected by a high rate of transience, caused by issues relating to employment and housing availability, although there is a sizable population of children who are 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> generation at the school.

- Student management:

Policies and procedures for both the yard and all classrooms are in place and are implemented consistently and continually monitored. These are based on the school's values of Respect, Pride, Care and Persistence.

A comprehensive Behaviour Development Policy is implemented and is underpinned by restorative practices.

Additionally, the following expectations, which make up Wallaroo Primary School "Golden Rules", are enforced:

- *We follow instructions immediately*
- *We keep hands, objects and hurtful comments to ourselves*
- *We are a one-voice-school*
- *Eyes on the learning*

- Student governance:

Student Representative Council has been operating for many years with a strong class meeting procedure in place. SRC is viewed as an important decision-making group in our school, and is facilitated by the Student Wellbeing Leader. The SRC comprises of 10 representatives from Years 3 – 7 and two School Captains from year 6/7.

- Special programmes:

Intervention and support programs are provided for students who are identified as being at risk (emotionally, socially, and academically). These are determined on a needs basis as a result of regular monitoring of student

achievement and behaviour. In other instances, some students participate in special programs which are part of negotiated or modified education plans. The Student Wellbeing Leader is available to provide additional support to those that require it.

### **3. Key School Policies**

- Vision Statement

Our vision for Wallaroo Primary School is for it to be *A School of Excellence*. Its mission is to create resilient and independent learners and that every child reaches his or her potential, which is underlined by two beliefs:

- *Every child matters, every day.*
- *Every child can be a high achiever.*

Central to the schools vision are the Three Imperatives for Student Engagement, the Four Pillars for Outstanding Student Outcomes and the Six Givens for every teacher:

#### **3 Imperatives for Student Engagement**

- All students trust and respect their teacher.
- Work is provide at the student's level.
- All children have friends at school.

#### **4 Pillars for Outstanding Student Outcomes**

- Teacher accountable learning.
- Explicit Instrucion.
- Moving students' learning from short-term to long term memory.
- Positive relationships exist between students and teachers.

#### **6 Givens for Every Teacher**

- High Expectations
- Quality Relationships
- Excellent Presentation and Handwriting
- High Quality Display
- Correction and Feedback
- Positive and Productive Classroom Tone

## 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings are prescribed by the Australian Curriculum and include:
  - English
  - Maths
  - The Arts
  - Health/Physical Education
  - Technology
  - LOTE – Narungga & the Aboriginal Culture
  - Science
  - History
  - Geography
- Programs include specialist teaching in The ARTS-Music, Health and PE, Technology: STEM including, Digital and Food & Technology.
- Special needs:

Site Leaders co-ordinate support programs for students with learning needs. Students are identified for intervention from regular monitoring of achievement data and through teacher referrals. Additional support is provided through:

  - In-class SSO support;
  - Targeted intervention programs
- Special curriculum features:

A number of programs operate which support the deliver of English and Mathematics including: Spelling Mastery, Jolly Phonics, Jolly Grammar, Cars and Stars (Reading & Comprehension), Junior Elementary Maths Mastery, New Wave Mental Maths, Sign Post Maths and Quicksmart.
- Teaching methodology:

Explicit instruction is the signature pedagogy at Wallaroo Primary School, and is implemented across all learning areas. Central to this method is the gradual release of responsibility approach characterised by three steps: *I Do, We Do, and You Do*. This model also includes a variety of other researched-based high yield strategies such as: stating the learning intentions, activating prior knowledge and making the success criteria clear. Additionally, daily consolidation and revision activities, delivered through a practice called 'Warm-Ups' is mandated in Reading, Spelling, Writing and Mathematics. Science, Technology, History and Geography are inquiry based subjects where literacy and numeracy skills are reinforced and applied.

- Assessment procedures and reporting:

The site has in place an assessment schedule which mandates frequent testing and data collection across key aspects of literacy and numeracy. These include:

- Running Records R-2
- SPA (phonological Awareness)
- Magic Words (high frequency words) for reading and spelling R-2
- South Australian Spelling Test
- PAT-R & PAT-M
- Mental Computation

Reporting to parents

- NAPLAN (Years 3, 5 and 7)
- Acquaintance Night (Term 1)
- Parent Teacher Interviews (Term 1 & Term 3)
- Written reports in term 2 and term 4

## **5. Sporting Activities**

- We have a Gymnasium, built as part of the Building the Education Revolution in 2010.
- We are affiliated with the Northern Yorke Peninsula SAPSASA which offers football, netball, softball, cricket, tennis, hockey, swimming, and athletics.
- We hold an annual tabloid Sports Day and Cross Country.
- We are involved in the Districts Cross Country and Districts Athletics Day.
- Our students participate in local clubs in the sports of football, cricket, tennis, hockey, basketball, softball and athletics.
- We hold regular coaching clinics with guest facilitators from the community.
- All classes participate in swimming lessons at our local beach and year 6/7's participate in a biannual aquatics camp at Port Vincent.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Special:
  - Awards are presented at fortnightly student-run assemblies and at the end of year Twilight Assembly to acknowledge academic achievement, effort and citizenship.
  - Performing Arts: Choir, Festival of Music involvement, annual music collaboration with Heathfield High, biannual participation in the Kernewek Festival.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile:
  - The majority reside in the Copper Triangle.
  - Range in experience from early careers to long term staff.
  - Seven permanent staff and three contract teachers with three being Step 9 teachers.
- Leadership structure:

Principal, Student Wellbeing Coordinator & SSO 3 (Finance Officer).
- Staff support systems:

All staff are part of teams that focus on site improvement priorities.
- Performance Management:

The Wallaroo Primary School Performance Development Program aims to establish and maintain a performance and development culture within the school. Key features of this process include:

  - Formal classroom observations
  - Regular informal classroom observations
  - Peer observations
  - Annual review/development of Performance Development Plans (PDP) for all staff
  - Student surveys (twice a year)
  - Regular formal performance conversations between staff and school leaders (at least 3 per year)
- Staff utilisation policies:

PAC meets to support the Principal in matters associated with staff deployment prior to whole staff and Governing Council discussion.

Current deployment is Principal (1.0), Student Wellbeing Coordinator (1.0) Classroom teachers (6) NIT teacher (0.9) AET (0.2)
- Access to special staff:

DECD support personnel are based at either Kadina or Pt Pirie and include Speech, Psychology, Hearing, Behaviour Coach, Special Ed, and Attendance Personnel.

## **8. School Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds:  
Large grounds; stone building circa 1878 has been extensively renovated due to a major fire in January 2006; several transportable buildings (SAMCON); large playground; small oval.
- Cooling:  
All classrooms have r/c air conditioners.
- Specialist facilities:  
Sports Hall  
ICT Centre with 30 desktops  
Laptop bank of 30  
IPads  
Large Activity Room.
- Student facilities:  
Excellent playground with shade and a variety of equipment.
- Staff facilities:  
Access to Admin and curriculum computers; comfortable staff room.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities:  
Good ramps to all buildings, disabled toilet and shower.
- Access to bus transport:  
Buses available at Wallaroo and Kadina.
- Other:  
Access to preschool short walk within walking distance; dental clinic in Kadina.

## **10. School Operations**

- Decision making structures:  
Governing Council, Year Level Teams, SRC, Staff Meetings, PAC, special sub-committees formed on an 'as required' basis.
- Regular publications:  
Fortnightly newsletter, daily internal staff bulletin, Annual Report, Staff Meeting Minutes, Parent Handbook, Facebook Page updates and Class Dojo items.

## **11. Local Community**

- General characteristics:  
The school is located in a low socio-economic community with relatively affordable housing being a particular feature. Most of the school's community are employed in the service, clerical, agriculture and fishing industries. English is the common language in virtually every home.

- Parent and community involvement:  
There is a small, yet highly dedicated and committed number of parents and community members who support the school and are involved in a range of ways such as Governing Council, helping in classrooms, working bees and supporting whole school events.
- Feeder schools:  
Wallaroo Pre-school.
- Other local care and educational facilities:  
Wallaroo Pre-school, St Mary MacKillop Catholic School (R-7).  
Child care, Kadina Memorial School (combined Secondary/Primary) and TAFE in Kadina (9 km).
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:  
Business centre for community is complemented by many regional offices and shopping centre in Kadina.
- Other local facilities:  
Numerous sporting, historical and Art clubs. Several medical clinics operate in the area.
- Availability of staff housing:  
Predominantly private/ rental; limited Government Housing is available in Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.
- Accessibility:  
One school bus provides access from North Beach (5km); other students travel by car, bicycle or walk.
- Local Government body:  
Copper Coast District Council is located in Kadina, with Office/ library in Wallaroo Railway Station building.

## **12. Further Comments**

- Wallaroo is now a 'tourist town', with the population almost doubling during summer months. A large marina has been developed and has provided optimism for the community's future.
- Wallaroo is seen as a desirable 'retirement location' meaning its community has an aged population. As employment is often seasonal, there are limited work opportunities available to encourage an increase in young families.
- Wallaroo Primary School has a strong sense of identity in the community. When we enrol the child we enrol the family, "every child matters, everyday".
- Our vision is to be a school of excellence underpinned by our values of care, respect, pride and persistence.
- We hold a strong belief that all children can be high achievers irrespective of their background.