

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT



**Government of South Australia**

Department for Education and Child Development Updated: 2021

**School number:** 0677

**School name:** Nicolson Avenue Primary



# 1. General information

- School Principal: Pam Peters
- Deputy Principal: Ben Harris-Jones
- Senior Leaders: Sally Rowe, Kylie Benford
- Student Wellbeing Leader: Brendon Mullighan
- AET: Jane McLean 0.6
- ACEO: 38.5 hrs / week Peta Sutton
- 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](http://www.nicolsonr7.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [dl.0677.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto: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:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Special	12.0	17.0	20.0	20.0	18.0	18.0
Reception	49.0	49.0	48.0	44.0	43.0	33.0
Yr1	56.0	51.0	50.0	43.0	44.0	40.0
Yr2	44.0	59.0	42.0	44.0	41.0	45.0
Yr3	68.0	39.0	64.0	39.0	41.0	39.0
Yr4	55.0	63.0	48.0	64.0	40.0	42.0
Yr5	69.0	66.0	70.0	44.0	54.0	39.0
Yr6	57.0	66.0	64.0	67.0	47.0	54.0
Yr7	72.0	60.0	68.0	69.0	65.0	43.0
TOTAL FTE	482.0	470.0	474.0	434.0	393.0	353.0
Male FTE	247.0	238.0	244	230.0	216	194
Female FTE	249.0	232.0	230	214.0	177	159
School Card %	44	48	49	51	55	Est.55
NESB TOTAL	10	2	2	1	2	3
Aboriginal FTE	51.0	66.0	75.0	66.0	57.0	50.0

- Student enrolment trends:
  - School numbers have slowly reduced over the last two years as we have had larger cohorts of Year 7s moving to secondary school and have not gained as many Receptions.
- 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 0.5
- Student Wellbeing Leader 1.0
- AET 0.6
- ACEO 38.5 hrs/wk
- Class Teachers 18.0
- Non Class Teachers 6.0
- Ancillary Hours per week 561.5
- 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 55% of the student population.
- 14% of our students are Aboriginal.
- 20% of our students are Students With Disabilities

### • Student well-being programs

- Nicolson Avenue Primary School has a full time Student Wellbeing Leader, a 0.6 AET and an AECO.
- A School Chaplain services the school two days a week.
- We also have a close association with the Smith Family who co-ordinate a weekly, after hours Learning Centre.
- All students are explicitly taught our core values and associated observable behaviours.
- Social skills taught to all students through the Second Step and Program Achieve programs and protective behaviours through the Child Protection Curriculum.
- A free breakfast program is available to all students five mornings per week.
- A lunch program provided for those in need and a daily fruit basket.

- **Student support offered**

- Inclusion Leader 0.5 and liaises 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 SSOs to implement these programs.

- **Student Management**

- Our school’s Student Behaviour Management Policy is currently being redeveloped in line with the DfE Positive Behaviours for Learning 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 School Improvement Plan was developed (2019 - 2021) with the key priority of English (with a focus on reading & writing).

### **4. Curriculum**

- All staff provide teaching and learning programs informed by the Australian Curriculum.
- Physical Education, STEM and HASS are provided as NIT, specialist subjects.
- 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 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, InitialLit Screeners, NAPLAN, Running Records, Phonics Screener) are employed

throughout the school to inform planning at individual, classroom and whole site levels.

- Data from these assessments is stored on EDSAS and in 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.

#### **Special Needs:**

- The school hosts two 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 One 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
  - Toosmart 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 attend the local Road Safety Centre.
- 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.
- Other cultural celebrations include:
  - NAIDOC Week
  - Harmony Day
  - Sorry Day

## 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 early career 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 cohorts – Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary 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.
  - 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 Development Meetings are held between 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 triannually.
  - 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



- 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 has included the development of two new STEM spaces.
- We have a purpose built gymnasium, an expansive grassed oval area, two undercover COLA's, three newly developed playgrounds, a Nature Play space and large hard play surfaces.
- The school also has a small garden area that is part of the STEM Space.

### 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 tv technology.
- The school has a gymnasium, primarily 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 banks of mobile technology – laptops and sets of iPads that are available for borrowing.
- The school has two newly refurbished STEM spaces that all classes are able to access.

### • Student Facilities

- Our canteen operates three 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 for 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 works in an appropriate cohort with decision-making responsibilities in line with our School 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.
  - A weekly bulletin is emailed to all staff to keep them informed of school happenings and to clarify some staff learning.
  - Parents receive an enrolment package that includes a detailed Parent Handbook that outlines 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 prior to our school assembly to parents informing them when their child is to receive a class award.
  - Classroom teachers use a variety of digital platforms (Remind, Class Dojo, etc.) to maintain regular contact and communication with families.
- **School Financial Position**
  - Nicolson Avenue Primary has a fulltime Business Manager and associated Finance Committee.
  - Budget managers and cohorts are responsible for spending in key areas.
- **Special Funding**
  - The school is funded in line with the DfE 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 DfE 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 DfE 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 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.
  - 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.