

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

School number: 0677

School name: Nicolson Avenue Primary School

School Profile:

Established in 1954, Nicolson Avenue Primary School is situated centrally in the regional city of Whyalla. All members of our community are assisted to develop the necessary skills and provided with meaningful opportunities to teach, learn and lead.

With site priorities of numeracy, literacy, STEM and wellbeing, students are focused on developing future-orientated skills and knowledge. Staff work collaboratively to plan and implement curriculum, methodology and pedagogy to continually improve student achievement.

Our values of respect, responsibility, resilience, integrity and teamwork guide our community's interactions and the development and maintenance of quality relationships.

We have purpose built STEM and sporting facilities as well as modern ICT resources catering for interactive learning. Students are successfully involved in a range of city and state-wide sporting and cultural events to support their development.

1. General information

- School Principal: Pam Peters
- Deputy Principal: Christel Koch
- 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
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 380km
- Telephone number: (08) 8645 8685
- Fax Number: (08) 8645 3327
- School website address: <https://nicolsonps.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:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Special	20.0	18.0	18.0	20.0	18.0
Reception	44.0	43.0	33.0	34.0	31.0
Yr1	43.0	44.0	40.0	36.0	33.0
Yr2	44.0	41.0	45.0	40.0	38.0
Yr3	39.0	41.0	39.0	46.0	40.0
Yr4	64.0	40.0	42.0	44.0	48.0
Yr5	44.0	54.0	39.0	47.0	46.0
Yr6	67.0	47.0	54.0	46.0	47.0
Yr7	69.0	65.0	43.0	-	-
TOTAL FTE	434.0	393.0	353.0	313.0	301.0
Male FTE	230.0	216	194	170	167

Female FTE	214.0	177	159	143	134
School Card %	51	55	Est.55	Est 55	Est 55
NESB TOTAL	1	2	3	2	2
Aboriginal FTE	66.0	57.0	50.0	61.0	60.0

- Student enrolment trends:

Enrolment numbers have slowly reduced over the last two years due to the Year 7s transitioning to high school across the state. Our Year 6 and 7 cohorts that transitioned to high school were large groups and we did not gain as many Receptions.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

- Principal 1.0
- Deputy Principal 1.0
- Senior Leader 1.0
- Student Wellbeing Leader 1.0
- AET 0.8
- ACEO 38.5 hrs/wk
- Class Teachers 16.0
- Non Class Teachers 4.0
- Ancillary Hours per week

- 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 915).
 - School Card holders make up approximately 52% of the student population.
 - 20.86% of our students are Aboriginal.
 - 18.87% of our students are Students With Disabilities
- Student well-being programs:
 - Nicolson Avenue Primary School has a full time Student Wellbeing Leader, a 0.8 AET and an ACEO.
 - A School Chaplain services the school two days a week.
 - We have a close association with the Smith Family who co-ordinates 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:
 - Leadership and staff liase 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 Student Behaviour Management Policy is in line with the DfE Positive Behaviours for Learning Policy. We focus on acknowledging appropriate behaviours and explicitly teaching 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 Support Coach.
- Student government:
 - Under the guidance of our Wellbeing Leader, students initiate and operate a variety of Action Teams, which focus on school related matters and the organisation of events relevant to student needs and interests.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
 - Our SIP was developed with the key priority of Literacy (reading and writing) skills in our students.

— Our core values of Respect, Teamwork, Resilience, Responsibility, and Integrity are used to inform our school community of our Code of Conduct.

- Recent key outcomes:

— https://nicolsonps.sa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Nicolson-Avenue-Primary-School-0677_siteannualreport2022.pdf

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings:

— All staff provide teaching and learning programs informed by the Australian Curriculum.
— Physical Education, STEM and HASS are provided as specialist subjects.

- 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

- Teaching methodology:

— As part of our Visible Learning approach, staff implement evidence informed, high yielding classroom strategies and pedagogies. We follow an explicit teaching model and use high impact teaching strategies.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting

— Parents receive two formal written reports each year (Term 2 & 4) and are invited to attend parent/teacher/student meetings to discuss these.
— 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.
— Staff undertake collaborative moderation of student work samples within our school.

- Joint programmes:
 - An Instrumental Music Program is offered to Year 5 – 6 students, learning guitar and a range of wind instruments.

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 at the end of 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

- A Choir Program is conducted each year with students performing to the Whyalla community with students from other Whyalla schools.
- Students attend the local Road Safety Centre.
- Our students participate in a Swimming Program each year to develop safety skills in and around water.
- Our Year 6 students participate in an Aquatics program that includes a camp.
- National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
- Other cultural celebrations include:
 - NAIDOC Week
 - Harmony Day
 - Sorry Day

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
 - Nicolson has a reasonable staff turn over as a regional school. We retain 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, Senior Leader 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 intervention programs.
- 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 are reviewed triannually.
 - T & D priorities are negotiated with line managers.
- Access to special staff
 - Instrumental Music teachers who are based the secondary school in town, attend our site to deliver lessons to our Year 5 – 6 students.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
:
- Isolation placement points
:
- Shorter terms
:
- Travelling time
 - 10 Minutes across town.
- Housing assistance
 - Upon application by staff member. (Teaching staff only)
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
 - Upon application by staff member.
- Additional increment allowance
 - Additional incentives for regional schools.
- 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 covered 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.
 - The school has a kitchen space within one of the STEM spaces to deliver targeted lessons.
- Student facilities
 - Our canteen operates three days per week, Wednesday to Friday. 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.
 - Staff have a school laptop to support their planning and teaching needs.
- 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 an electronic newsletter fortnightly.
 - 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
 - Our school 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. (COVID Restrictions allowing)
 - 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 6 students transition to the local DfE high school, Whyalla Secondary College. A small number enrol 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.