

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

updated July 2017

School number: 0171

School name: Happy Valley Primary School

Context

The school is situated in Happy Valley, 20kms south of Adelaide, in the City of Onkaparinga and celebrated its centenary in 1998. The school therefore has a rich historical background and was originally located at the current Chandlers Hill Kindergarten adjacent the school. It moved to its present site in 1980 and grew rapidly. For almost a decade numbers were slowly declining due to the ageing population within the district but in recent several years our enrolments have stabilised with a gradual increase in student numbers.

Families come from a range of socio economic backgrounds. The student population is predominantly of English speaking background with 4.5% NESB and 0.3% Indigenous students although we are noticing an increase in migrant families into our school from a variety of both English and non-English speaking backgrounds. A large number of students are from two income families while approximately 13.5% are on school card, 7% of students are on a Negotiated Education Plan.

We are however seeing a marked change in our community with a number of families experiencing trauma and complexities which has had an impact on their children.

1. General Information:

- School Principal: Deborah Hemming
- Deputy Principal: Sue Schmidt
- Year of opening: 1898 (1980 – on present site)
- Postal address: 18 Education Road,
Happy Valley SA 5159
- DECS Region: Southern Adelaide
- Distance from GPO: 18km
- Telephone Number: 08 8381 7166
- Fax Number: 08 8381 6041
- School website address: www.happyvalley.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0171.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC): No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC): Yes. The school has an OSHC program that provides before and after school care. It also has a vacation care program.

- Student enrolment:

Year Level	2017	2017	2017
Year Level	Male	Female	Total
Reception	15	18	33
Year 1	17	20	37
Year 2	24	16	40
Year 3	24	16	40
Year 4	22	17	39
Year 5	11	15	26
Year 6	24	18	42
Year 7	16	16	32
Total	153	136	289

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Enrolment numbers have stabilised in the past few years. Our predicted Reception enrolments for 2018 are positive demonstrating strengthening confidence in the school.

- **Staffing numbers:**

Teaching staff – 17.00

SSO hours per week – 189.0

Co-ordinator – Teaching & Learning

Student Wellbeing Leader – 0.2

- **Public transport access:**

Public transport is available to the south and north of Happy Valley School. Services running north – Chandlers Hill Road via Blue Hills Road and South Road to the city or an alternative to the Marion Shopping Centre. Another service runs via Hub Shopping Centre, Valley Road and Main Road to the city or an alternative via Murrays Hill Road and Coromandel Parade. A service to the south is available via Fraser Avenue, Reynell Road with transfer at Reynella to Noarlunga Centre.

- **Special site arrangements:**

Happy Valley is a member of the South Valley Precinct (Partnership) which includes;

Aberfoyle Park Campus Preschool, Chandlers hill Kindergarten, Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten, Flagstaff Oval Kindergarten, Happy Valley Kindergarten, O'Halloran Hill Kindergarten, The Hub Preschool, Aberfoyle Hub R – 7

School, Braeview School R – 7, Craighburn Primary School, Flagstaff Hill PS,

Thiele Primary School and Aberfoyle Park High School.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics:**

Happy Valley School has families from a range of socio economic backgrounds. The student population is predominately of English speaking background with 4.5% NESB and 0% Indigenous students. A large number of students are from two income families while 13.5% are on school card, 7% of students are on a Negotiated Education Plan.

- **Support offered:**

The leadership team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal and Co-ordinator working collaboratively. Additional support is offered by the Reading Support teacher and curriculum SSOs. The Pastoral Care work provides social emotional support.

- **Student management:**

The school has reviewed all practices to support student behaviour learning. The Behaviour Education Code and Procedures to support Behaviour Education have been implemented across the school. Staff work to reinforce positive behaviours that make the environment safe and harassment free.

- **Student governance:**

The Future Leaders Forum represents students across all year levels and aims to discuss issues related to the students in the school. The year 7 students undertake a range of school community services.

- **Special programmes:**

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Program (SAKG) is available to students from years 3-7 with alternate weeks in the kitchen or the garden. Students harvest the food produced in the garden to use when cooking a diverse range of healthy foods.

The Choir program and Tech Cadets are offered for students from years 4 – 7.

3. Key School Policies

The Site Improvement Plan forms the basis for all decision making with a focus on four key priorities:

Numeracy

Digital technologies

Learning design Assessment and moderation – LDAM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths – STEM

Whole site agreements in Literacy and numeracy guide Teacher's work.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**

The Australian Curriculum is implemented in all year levels. There are strong links with the Early Years Framework through collaboration between the Reception Teachers and the Pre – school Teachers. Specialist subjects include Japanese, Physical Education, Health, The Arts (Dance, Drama, Music) and Digital Technologies.

- **Special needs:**

Individual student learning needs are documented in learning plans according to their needs (ie NEP, ILP or IEP). The learning plans are written by Teachers in collaboration with families and SSOs.

- **Teaching methodology:**

All students are given every opportunity to succeed academically, to develop their emotional intelligence and build positive social relationships. Students access a variety of learning technologies, incorporating modern ICT facilities to meet the needs of young people in a changing world. We work collaboratively in teams through our Professional Learning Communities where all staff are guided by a clear and shared purpose for student learning.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

The assessment and reporting cycle occurs throughout the year with written reports sent home at the end of term 2 and 4. Three way learning conversations are conducted at the end of term 1 and are optional at the end of term 3. Student run assemblies reflect their learning in year level groups each term.

- **Joint programmes:**

The orientation and transition process for pre-school to school occurs for the year preceding entry to school with Chandlers Hill Kindergarten visiting the school on a weekly basis participating in STEM activities.

The children from Stepping Stones Child Care Centre visit the school for library activities on a weekly basis.

5. Sporting Activities

Students participate in a wide range of sporting activities including Swimming and Aquatics, Sports Day, SAPSASSA Carnivals, Pedal Prix and Bike Education. Daily fitness is conducted across all year levels. The school is highly regarded for its competitive out of school hours sports program and district representation in SAPSASSA sports.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

General

Strong links are maintained between all pre-schools in our partnership school, and the local high schools.

Special Days and Functions

Examples of these are Sports Day, fundraising events, discos, assemblies, Year 7 graduation, visiting productions/bands, aquatics/swimming. Each year the year 7 students have their school camp in Canberra.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

The teaching staff represent a range of ages and experience with higher numbers of female than male members.

Staff support systems:

Leadership Team: The Leadership, Junior, Middle and Upper School PLC's meet weekly to share and plan. We have a coordinator in Literacy and Numeracy. We make the best use of our pupil free days for quality Professional Development which develops whole school common understandings.

Performance Management

All staff write Performance Development Plans articulating their work in relation to the Site Improvement Plan and their personal and professional goals. Staff meet on a formal basis twice per year and have access on an informal basis whenever required.

Staff utilisation policies

Special Education time is allocated to SSO hours to provide direct support for students with additional learning needs. SSO staff members are employed to implement the Early Intervention Programs using targeted funding and also the Early Years Literacy program.

Access to special staff

Student Support Services offer specialist advice and resources to support students. Other Government and Non – Government specialist staff are accessed according to need. Instrumental music tuition is provided by DECD and Private providers.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Building and grounds:

Our site consists of mainly solid construction buildings and 3 transportable buildings. The solid construction buildings provide general classrooms, resource centre and computing suite, withdrawal rooms and computing pods, wet areas and teacher preparation area. The transportable buildings house Garden and Outside School Hours Care programs. The staffroom and administration offices are located in one building with the canteen adjacent to this area.

We have substantial and attractive school grounds with some 2 hectares of grassed area at rear of the school for cricket, football and soccer. We have 2 playground areas, one with permanent shade protection, a small wetlands area, two asphalt areas which also cater for netball and basketball, and large asphalt area all under cover.

Heating and cooling:

All classrooms, teaching spaces and administration areas are fully air-conditioned for both heating and cooling. The Activity Hall is heated.

Specialist facilities and equipment:

The school has a well-equipped Resource Centre catering for students, staff and parents. The Resource Centre uses the Bookmark library system. The school computer network is connected to the internet.

The Activity Hall is used for a range of curriculum activities and external hire.

Netball and basketball courts are located in two hard play areas. A large grassed play area is used for soccer, football and cricket. Two separate adventure playgrounds cater for students in junior primary and primary age groups.

Student facilities:

The canteen is available to students and staff 3 days a week and the managers are assisted on a roster basis by volunteer parents and trained student assistants.

Staff facilities:

Staff have up to date and well maintained ICT facilities available on their desk, in teacher prep areas and in our computing hubs. All classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards. All staff have a lap top with email and internet access.

Access for students and staff with disabilities:

All buildings have wheelchair access and the campus has three disabled toilet areas.

Access to bus transport:

Bus access is very close to the school. Buses for excursions, etc are well managed out the front of the school.

10. School Operations

Regular publications:

Fortnightly Newsletters and a wide range of other school information are available through the school website. The school app, Flexi Biz, is used for communication including distributing notices and newsletters.

Other Communication:

Weekly staff bulletins, meetings, emails and a staff notice board ensure clear channels of written communication. Bulletin boards are located around the school for members of the school community. The website offers up to date information to families and our facebook page is available to the community.

School financial position:

The school is in a sound financial position.

11. Local Community

General characteristics:

Happy Valley is a highly sought after residential area. There are some local shops but the area is predominantly residential. Because of the proximity to Happy Valley reservoir, we have a lovely rural aspect.

Parent and community involvement:

Parents are very supportive and actively involved in the school through Governing Council and other committees. They support teaching programs in class and the SAKG program.

Feeder or destination schools:

Chandlers Hill Pre-school is directly opposite the school with three other kindergartens in close by that feed into this school.

Aberfoyle Park High School and Reynella East College are the most frequented destination secondary schools.

OSHC is provided for families before and after school and Vacation Care is provided during school holidays. Students from Chandlers Hill Kindergarten also use the OSHC service.

Commercial/Industrial and shopping facilities:

We are 2kms from the Hub Shopping Centre and about 15-20 minutes from Marion Shopping Centre.

Other local facilities:

The school is adjacent to Bethsalem Village and a short walk from a new gym, a swimming centre and the CFS.

Local Government body:

Onkaparinga Council

12. Further Comments

Happy Valley School is situated in an attractive hills environment. The school is well resourced and well supported by its community and the teaching environment is friendly and collaborative.