

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

**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. The school has a rich historical background and celebrated its centenary in 1998. It was originally located at the current Chandlers Hill Kindergarten adjacent to the school. It moved to its present site in 1980 and grew rapidly but in recent years our student numbers have stabilised.

Happy Valley Primary has specialist teacher programs in Health, P.E., Japanese, Performing Arts and Digital Technologies. We have a strong ecological focus ingrained in our ethos. Our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program allows students to grow food in our expansive gardens and then use the produce to cook during kitchen classes. Students have the opportunity to look after our resident chickens and sell surplus produce in our Garden Market.

At our school, student agency is important to us, and students' voices are heard and leadership opportunities are provided through our Student Representatives, Eco-leader, Tech Cadet and Choir Leader programs. Students are supported by a range of intervention programs and are challenged to meet their potential through specialised programs and differentiated teaching practices.

We focus on working together as a Professional Learning Community, which enables us to work collaboratively in staff teams in the best interests of student learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

## 1. General Information:

- School Principal: Paul Taylor
- Deputy Principal: Anthea Bartlett
- 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](http://www.happyvalley.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [dl.0171.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0171.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC): No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC): Yes. The school has a thriving OSHC program that provides before and after school care. It also has a vacation care program.

- **Student enrolment:**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reception	31	45	34	38	39
Year 1	38	33	38	31	38
Year 2	40	43	32	37	32
Year 3	40	35	38	23	36
Year 4	39	41	33	34	21
Year 5	26	33	37	34	35
Year 6	42	27	30	34	34
Year 7	33	38	32	26	33
<b>Total</b>	289	295	264	257	268

- **Student enrolment:**

We are an unzoned school, offering student places for families across the local southern area.

- **Staffing numbers:**

Teaching staff – 18.00

School Support Officer (SSO) hours per week – 120hrs

Co-ordinator – Teaching & Learning

Student Wellbeing Leader – 0.2 FTE (part of Deputy Principal role)

- **Public transport access:**

Public transport is available to the south and north of Happy Valley Primary 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 Primary School is a member of the South Valley Precinct (Partnership) which includes;

Aberfoyle Park Campus Preschool, Chandlers 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 Primary School, Thiele Primary School and Aberfoyle Park High School. Leaders and teachers across this Precinct work collaboratively to improve teaching and learning for all of our students.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics:**

Happy Valley Primary School has families from a range of cultures and socio economic backgrounds. The student population is predominately of English speaking background with 4% NESB and 2% Indigenous students. A large number of students are from two income families while 17% are on school card, 8% of students are on a *One Child One Plan*.

- **Support offered:**  
The leadership team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal and Co-ordinator, working collaboratively to maximise learning opportunities and support students in any way they can. Our Pastoral Care worker provides social and emotional support to students and their families. Kindergarten to Reception and Year 7 to Year 8 transition and induction programs are in place.
- **Student management:**  
The school has reviewed all practices to support student behaviour and learning. The school's new Code of Conduct and procedures to support behaviour education have been implemented across the school. Students are clear about the processes that occur for both appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. Staff work to reinforce positive behaviours that make the environment safe and harassment free.
- **Student governance:**  
The Student Representatives group represents students across all year levels and aims to discuss issues related to the students in the school. The older students undertake a range of school community services including school crossing patrol and support in the Canteen. Student agency is important and leadership opportunities are also provided through our Eco-leader, Tech Cadet and Choir Leader programs.
- **Special programmes:**  
The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Program (SAKG) is available to students from years 3 to year 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, Eco-leader and Tech Cadets are offered for students from years 4 – 7.

### 3. Key School Policies

Our core values are Respect, Responsibility and Integrity. We offer learning programs that acknowledge the individual skills and abilities of students, encourage them to take risks and be challenged in a safe and caring environment.

The Site Improvement Plan outlines the school's key directions as a Professional Learning Community (PLC). The three key literacy priorities are: increasing student achievement in phonics (Rec to Year 3), increasing student achievement in reading and deepening student knowledge of vocabulary.

Whole site agreements in literacy and numeracy guide teacher's work and focus around student learning.

### 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 Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Music) and Digital Technologies.
- **Special needs:**  
Individual student learning needs are carefully documented in learning plans (One Plans). These One Plans are written by teachers in collaboration with families, SSOs and the leadership team. These One Plans can be used to apply for support funding through the Department should the school and families see the need.

- **Teaching methodology:**  
Our school motto is Respect, Responsibility and Integrity. 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. Teachers make use of technology to enable frequent and timely communication between home and school.
- **Joint programmes:**  
The orientation and transition process for pre-school to school occurs throughout the year preceding entry to school with Chandlers Hill Kindergarten. The kindy students visit the primary school two or three times a term for playful learning and special occasions such as Sports Day and Book Week.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Students participate in a wide range of sporting activities including Water Safety and Aquatics, Sports Day, SAPSASA Carnivals, Pedal Prix and Bike Education. Daily fitness is conducted across all year levels and a fit and healthy lifestyle is encouraged across the school. The school is highly regarded for its competitive out of school hours sports program and district representation in SAPSASA 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**

Happy Valley Primary School is well known for having a strong community spirit where students and their families feel welcomed and celebrated.

- Instrumental Music programs are offered onsite, within school time by private music providers.
- The Year 7 students take part in an annual trip to Canberra to witness the civics and citizenship curriculum in action.
- Pedal Prix is offered to students in Years 5, 6 and 7.
- Water Safety (Rec to Year 5) and Aquatics (Year 6/7) are an annual event
- The annual school sports' day is a major event on the calendar. Student leaders help with the organisation and running of the day and community participation is encouraged.
- The year 6/7 choir participates in 'The Festival of Music'
- Year 3-7 students participate in International Competitions and the University of NSW tests and assessments in Maths, English, Writing, Spelling, Science and Computer Skills. • The school participates in a range of annual special weeks and programs, including Harmony Day, Reconciliation Week, Book Week, Literacy and Numeracy Week, PE Week Celebration and Open Nights, and school discos.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

The teaching staff represent a range of ages and teaching experience.

### ***Staff support systems:***

Leadership Team: The Leadership, Junior, Middle and Upper School Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) meet regularly to share and plan. We have a Curriculum Coordinator who assists in literacy intervention. 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. Personal growth and continual professional development is encouraged.

### ***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 the Department for Education and Private providers.

## 8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

### ***Building and grounds:***

Our site consists of mainly solid construction buildings and three transportable buildings. The solid construction buildings provide general classrooms, resource centre and computing suite, withdrawal rooms and computing pods, wet areas and teacher preparation areas. The transportable buildings house Garden and instrumental music 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 two hectares of grassed area at rear of the school for cricket, football and soccer. We have two playground areas, a small wetlands area, two asphalt areas which also cater for netball and basketball, and a large asphalt area all under cover.

The school has a well maintained produce garden and fully operational kitchen as part of our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program.

### ***Heating and cooling:***

All classrooms, teaching spaces and administration areas are fully air-conditioned for both heating and cooling. The Activity Hall is also 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, OSHC 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 two days a week and the manager is 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 which we are currently phasing out with new Interactive TV's. All staff have a laptop with email and internet access and an iPad. Teacher wellbeing is prioritised and professional development is embraced.

***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

***Communication:***

Strong communication between home and school is fundamentally important. Our school has many forms of communicating to our community. We use the communication app, ***School Stream***, and we ask that you please download this onto your phone or suitable device as soon as possible. ***School Stream*** offers many facilities and tools. Please explore the app and please sign up to the appropriate class groups for your children. You can use the Absentee form if your child is off school and follow the links for our school blog and Facebook sites.

The school blog ([www.happyvalleyprimary.edublogs.org/](http://www.happyvalleyprimary.edublogs.org/)) allows students and classes to share their learning to the outside world. Each class teacher uses either Seesaw or Class Dojo to share specific class information and news with parents. Our school and OSHC have Facebook pages and families are encouraged to use email, phone calls and face to face meetings to keep strong communication channels with class teachers.

***Other Communication:***

Staff use Microsoft Teams for weekly bulletins and information sharing. Leadership also uses Microsoft Teams to collaborate with other leadership colleagues across the South Valley partnership.

***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. As a result of the proximity to Happy Valley reservoir and a reserve, we have a lovely rural aspect with lots of wildlife.

***Parent and community involvement:***

Our families are very supportive and have an active voice in the school through Governing Council and other committees. Our community are fundamental to support teaching programs within our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program. Regular volunteering is also actively encouraged within the school library, class activities, sports, camps, excursions and canteen facility. We value and appreciate our volunteers.

***Feeder or destination schools:***

Chandlers Hill Kindergarten is directly opposite the school with three other kindergartens close by that feed into our 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 two kilometres from the Hub Shopping Centre, two kilometres from a local Happy Valley shopping precinct 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 gym, a swimming centre and the local CFS.

***Local Government body:***

Onkaparinga Council.

## **12. Further Comments**

Happy Valley Primary 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.

Revised: February 2021

