



*Birdwood Primary School*  
**SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT**

Updated: 02/18

**School Name: Birdwood Primary School**

**School Number: 0547**

## 1. General Information

### Part A

School Name	- BIRDWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No.	- 0547
Courier	- Verdun
Principal	- Cassie Ackland
Postal Address	- Shannon Street, Birdwood 5234
Location Address	- Shannon Street, Birdwood 5234
District	- Adelaide Hills
Distance from GPO	- 53 kms
Phone No.	- 85 685 329
Fax No.	- 85 685 284
CPC attached	- No

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
February FTE Enrolment					
Primary					
Reception	25	28	25	31	22
Year 1	30	27	30	27	29
Year 2	35	33	28	30	25
Year 3	30	43	38	30	28
Year 4	29	35	49	38	32
Year 5	38	32	41	50	40
Year 6	32	42	35	36	53
Year 7	37	37	42	38	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>262</b>

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site

## Part B

Deputy Principal's name, if applicable

Bianca Laister

School e-mail address

[dl.0547\\_info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0547_info@schools.sa.edu.au)

Staffing numbers

14.6

OSHC

Yes, began in 2005 with Vacation Care commencing 2007/2008.

Enrolment trends

Student numbers have remained relatively stable over the last few years. Our student numbers remain steady at 264 students.

Special arrangements

We work closely with the local cluster schools and are developing some closer links with Birdwood High School. Birdwood Primary and High Schools are co-located on the same site but operate as two separate sites.

Year of opening

1886

Public transport access

There is a local bus service between Adelaide and Birdwood but the hours do not coincide with school hours. School buses service both High School and Primary School children in the local area. Eligibility criteria applies.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

We began this year with 264 students, approximately 30% of our students are on School Card and there are 22 students on NEP's.

Most students, who attend the school, live in Birdwood, some travel from neighbouring communities. A small percentage of our student's live on properties outside of Birdwood. There is some employment in Birdwood but most people travel to Adelaide, the Barossa Valley or other Hills communities for employment

Aboriginal Students

Number of students, less than 3%

(Pastoral) care programs

We have ten classes at our school. We have an increasing number of parents volunteering to support classroom programmes e.g. SAKG, Kids Hope mentors and listen to reading.

Support offered

We are well supported by DECD personnel e.g. Students with Disabilities, Speech Pathologist, Psychologist etc.

Student management

Our Student Behaviour Management Policy was recently revised. The policy is based on our values and restorative practices. We believe our new policy is responsive to the

needs of students, staff and parents and fits with current educational theory. Our policies link to the National Safe Schools strategy. We support students to better understand themselves and others by implementing the 'What's the Buzz' and 'You Can Do It!' programmes.

#### Student government

Weekly class meetings are held, with the Student Voice committee meeting fortnightly. All Year 7 students have a leadership role. Student Voice is a priority for 2017

#### Special programmes

Birdwood has prided itself on an excellent music programme over the years. This programme continues with the support of private instructors. Currently students have access to piano, keyboard and guitar, junior and senior choir.

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

#### Site Improvement Plan

See attached plan on our website

### **4. Curriculum**

#### Subject offerings – Australian Curriculum

English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and PE and Languages (German).

#### Open Access

N/A

#### Special needs

22 students on NEP's

#### Special curriculum features

The school has specialist teachers in the Arts, PE and German. The school has the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

#### Teaching methodology

All staff use the Australian Curriculum to plan, program and assess student learning. Our focus is Literacy and Numeracy and to stretch and challenge all students, ensuring they reach their full potential. Our core values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Challenge underpin all that we do.

#### Assessment procedures and reporting

We hold an Acquaintance Night early in term one and conduct Parent/Teacher interviews later in the term. In terms 2 and 4 we send home written reports. Optional interviews are available at the end of term 3 and parents can request interviews as required. We use the one plan document to individualise student plans for students with learning difficulties.

#### Joint programmes

N/A

## 5. Sporting Activities

All classes are involved in daily fitness as well as regular PE lessons. We are involved in and support SAPSASA sporting activities for our older students. The school holds an annual sports day in term 1.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

### General

Private Instrumental Music Instruction is available at the school. The school also has Pedal Prix, Wakakirri, Junior and Senior Choir. (Dependant on staffing availability)

### Special

We hold 3 assemblies per term. Assemblies are well supported by parents. At the end of each year we have a whole school concert, both music and drama.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

### Staff profile

We have 31 full time and part time staff; this includes a Co-ordinator, a Deputy Principal, the Principal and a Pastoral Care Worker.

### Leadership structure

Currently consists of the Coordinator, Deputy Principal and the Principal in leadership positions.

### Staff support systems

The staff are a cohesive group and very supportive of each other. Other support for staff is offered through the Torrens Valley Partnership and the District Office.

### Performance Management

Performance Management is an important aspect of our work and all staff are involved in at least two meetings during the year. All staff are involved in writing their own Performance Development Plan. This is connected to the Professional Standards for Teachers.

### Staffing

All classes are mixed year levels. We have a LOTE (German) teacher who teaches across the school – 0.4 LOTE. The Arts/Drama teacher is 0.8. Our Librarian is appointed at 0.6 time plus 0.2 classroom teacher; she manages the Resource Centre plus provides lessons and support for all classes. There is also a 0.8 teacher who teaches P.E.

### Access to special staff

Private providers offer piano and guitar lessons. Pastoral Care Worker on site 2 days each week.

### Other

As part of our SAKG programme we employ specialist SSO's in cooking and gardening.

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

Complexity placement points

- 1.5

Isolation placement points

- N/A

Shorter terms

- N/A

Travelling time

- N/A

Housing assistance

- N/A

Cooling for school buildings

- All classrooms are air-conditioned

Cash in lieu of removal allowance

- N/A

Additional increment allowance

- N/A

Designated schools benefits

- N/A

Aboriginal/Anangu schools

-N/A

Medical and dental treatment expenses

- N/A

Locality allowances

- N/A

Relocation assistance

- N/A

Principal's telephone costs

N/A

## **9. School Facilities**

Buildings and grounds

The grounds and buildings are very attractive. There are five transportable buildings and the other classes are in a solid brick structure. Classes are divided by large folding doors. This gives teachers the option of working in teams or as separate classes. The Administration section is housed in Pflaum House. There is a Computer Room in the school, which houses approximately 30 student computers. Each class has access to electronic devices such as I-pads and laptops and brand new electronic whiteboards. There are many large, shady trees in the grounds, a large lawn area, playground, oval and synthetic court for students. We have a library, gym, kitchen, art room and large

vegetable garden. Blumberg Unit opened in 2015 containing two classrooms and two office areas and Talunga classrooms 1 & 2 opened in 2017.

#### Cooling

All classes are air-conditioned

#### Specialist facilities

Music/choir lessons held in the Gym; Technology/computing room; Kitchen; SSO preparation room and a small room for students to work with SSO's on specialist programmes.

#### Student facilities

Standard

#### Staff facilities

A new kitchen and staff room area was developed in 2016/2017

#### Access for students and staff with disabilities

Most areas accessible to disabled personnel through the use of ramps

#### Access to bus transport

There are a range of buses managed by Birdwood High School which transport students to Birdwood Primary School. Eligibility criteria applies.

## 10. School Operations

#### Decision making structures

Classes hold weekly class meetings and the Student Voice committee meet fortnightly. The Personnel Advisory Committee meets regularly to discuss staffing issues. The Finance Committee meets approximately twice a term just before Governing Council meetings. Governing Council meets twice a term. There is a Farm Day Sub-Committee, which is mainly made-up of parents. This very energetic group manages Farm Day, which traditionally is the only fundraiser the school has during the year. The Pedal Prix Committee, OSHC Committee, and SAKG Committee meet regularly to help promote our school.

#### Regular publications

Newsletters are published once every 3 weeks in weeks 3, 6 & 9 of each term..

#### Other communication

Website, Skoolbag App, Facebook Page, MGM messages, Class communication and Flyers as needed.

#### School financial position

Farm Day supports our financial position and allows us to purchase a range of equipment for our school. The school is in a financially sound position.

#### Special funding

N/A

## 11. Local Community

### General characteristics

There is a high percentage of community members who commute to work in other Hills towns, Adelaide or the Barossa Valley. The other members of our community are involved in a variety of farm types, vineyards or working in local services. The National Motor Museum and Foodland employs several local people.

### Parent and community involvement

Families are supportive of the school and there are a number of parents who support the school through Governing Council, OSHC Advisory Committee, helping in classrooms and most families take on some responsibility for Farm Day. We have an end of year concert and also hold a separate Music concert.

### Feeder schools

Most of our students attend Mt Pleasant, Lobethal or Torrens Valley Pre-schools.

### Other local care and educational facilities

Open Arms Childcare Centre

### Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

There is a Supermarket, Real Estate Agencies, Post Office, National Motor Museum, Hotel and a few shops in Birdwood.

### Other local facilities

Birdwood High School, Sporting Club facilities/oval

### Availability of staff housing

None

### Accessibility

Adelaide is approximately 53 Km's from Birdwood, travelling down the Freeway.

### Local Government body

Adelaide Hills Council

## 12. Further Comments

Farm Day is a highlight of our year. This function has a long history and is well supported by our community and the wider Hills community. This activity takes a year to prepare for and many families and school members spend the weekend at Mount Crawford preparing for the event. Farm Day is a uniting activity for our school and the funds are used to provide a very rich curriculum for our students.

Student learning is our core business we have a whole school approach to Literacy and Numeracy development. We have Literacy block, school wide data collection strategies, use short term learning plans and offer a range of additional programs such as Multi-Lit, Read Up and Quicksmart Maths.

Music tuition is offered at the school and we encourage as many students as possible to be involved in this curriculum area.