



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 12/9/2018

**School number:** 0210

**School name:** Aldgate Primary School

Aldgate Primary School is a medium sized school set in the picturesque Adelaide Hills. The school motto is *'Learning together for a sustainable future'* which reflects a strong history of environmental awareness that has been part significant part of the schools culture.

Aldgate Primary provides a safe learning environment in a calm and relaxed setting. The school places an emphasis on students being resilient learners who are able to work with others in a respectful manner while developing their confidence as individuals. The school has produced high academic results in recent years.

In the last few years the school has undergone significant growth, over doubling in size. This has resulted in many changes, and consequently the school is examining its vision statement, values and mission statement to ensure it is relevant to its current demographic. This will be a consultative process and involving students, staff and families.

The school has received a facilities upgrade through the State government STEM building works. This will support the teaching of STEM at Aldgate Primary, a key focus of the school in the coming years.

Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities. These include: Festival of Music Choir, Chess Club, ICAS, Australian Maths Competition, volleyball, instrumental music programs (drums, guitar and piano) and a variety of SAPSASA sports.

Aldgate Primary ensures student welfare through a range of programs and support mechanisms. A student social worker is employed by the school to help support the social and emotional well-being of the students. The Play Is the Way program is implemented throughout the school and is a practical methodology for teaching social and emotional learning.

External programs such as ones provided by the Life Education organisation and SAPOL are used in conjunction with The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum. All classes have a buddy class where older students work with younger students either individually or as a group. Student Representative Council and the Student Executive Committee provide students with a voice in addressing student welfare.

Communication comes via the school newsletter, class newsletters and email and text message bulletins. Parents, staff and students have an opportunity to provide feedback via the annual client opinion surveys. In recent years the feedback has been very positive. Survey results are able to be viewed in the annual report.

# 1. General information

- School acting principal name: Leah Kennewell
- Deputy principal name: Robyn Neale
- Year of opening: 1914 (1979 –present site)
- Postal address:3 Fairview Rd Aldgate
- Location address: 3 Fairview Rd Aldgate
- DECD partnership: Mount Lofty
- Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km): 23
- Telephone number: 08 83392377
- Fax Number: 08 83394308
- School website address: [www.aldgateps.sa.edu.au/](http://www.aldgateps.sa.edu.au/)
- School e-mail address: DI.0210.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Aldgate Primary OSHC and Vacation Care
- February FTE student enrolment: 292

## July FTE Enrolment

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Reception</b>	44	47	37	37	30
<b>Year 1</b>	41	44	47	37	34
<b>Year 2</b>	36	43	42	49	39
<b>Year 3</b>	29	34	44	43	49
<b>Year 4</b>	29	31	33	42	38

<b>Year 5</b>	32	30	33	32	43
<b>Year 6</b>	27	31	28	32	31
<b>Year 7</b>	18	22	27	24	30

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>July FTE Enrolment</b>	256	282	291	296	292
<b>Male</b>	127	143	143	142	136
<b>Female</b>	129	139	148	154	156

### Staffing Numbers (Feb 2018)

<b>Teaching Staff</b>	4.77 FTE
<b>Non-Teaching Staff</b>	
Business Manager	37.5 Hours
IT service	15 Hours
Student Welfare Leader	10 Hours
admin (including OSHC)	45 Hours
Resource Centre	18 Hours
classroom support	86 Hours
grounds	17 Hours

- Student enrolment trends:

Enrolments have increased over the last five years with the school population more than doubling in size.

- Public transport access:  
Hills Transit buses stop in Aldgate (~1km away).
- Special site arrangements:
  - Provision for physical disabilities and wheelchair access throughout.
  - Aldgate Kindergarten on site
  - Aldgate Primary OSHC and Vacation Care available

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics:  
Student body is relatively homogenous socio-cultural group with approx. 9% school card
- Student well-being programs  
Play is the Way  
Protective Behaviours Curriculum

- Student support offered
  - Student Social Worker
  - Quicksmart maths program (automaticity)
  - Funastics
  - Targeted intervention program (literacy)
  - Multilit
- Student management
  - The schools behaviour management policy is applied with consistency across the school. Other policies supporting student management include the anti-bullying policy and the behaviour support policy.
- Student leadership
  - The school has an active Student Representative Council as well as a Student Executive Committee.

### 3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
  - The Site Improvement Plan:**
  - The Aldgate Primary School Site Improvement Plan (SIP) maps the improvement focus of the school for 2015-2018.
  - The plan documents the key strategies and targets for improvement in four focus area;
    - Literacy
    - Numeracy
    - Staff Performance & Development
    - Developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners
      - STEM
  - The Aldgate Primary School Site Improvement Plan reflects key DE improvement imperatives will be monitored regularly during the year as part of an ongoing process.
- Recent key outcomes
  - -Assessment for learning practices and strategies are implemented across the school.
  - -The development of a whole school process that identifies students with learning difficulties.
  - -Professional Learning Teams working on identified areas of need as part of a targeted cycle of improvement.
  - -Mentor teachers providing support in areas of literacy and numeracy.

## 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

The school offers specialty subjects in the areas of French, PE and science and follows the Australian Curriculum.

The school has a strong focus on science and more recently STEM.

- Special needs:

Students are supported in classroom through modified programs under the guidance of One Plans

- Special curriculum features:

Aquatics camp

Swimming lessons

Tri Skills Gymnastics

Canberra camp

Nunyara Camp

Footsteps

Music is Fun

Instrumental music program

Life Education Organisation

SAPOL-Cyber Safety, Violence and Bullying, 000.

Bike Education program

- Teaching pedagogy

This is based on the Teaching for Effective Learning Framework and also includes attention to; Assessment for Learning

Balanced uses of ICT throughout the school. Students have access to laptops, tablets and interactive whiteboards.

Growth Mind-sets

STEM

- Student assessment procedures and reporting  
Parent teacher interview term 1  
Written report terms 2 and 4  
Teacher requested interview term 3 (mandatory for One Plan students)
- Joint programmes:  
Transition visits including all kindergardens, but in a more focussed and targeted way with Aldgate Kindergarden, which is co-located with the school.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Volleyball program – as part of Heathfeild Highs program

SAPSASA cricket, volleyball, athletics, soccer, netball, cross country,

Swimming

Tennis

Auskick

Annual Sports Day

A range of sports clinics offered externally

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Festival of Music

Stirling Christmas Pageant

Instrumental music programs; piano, drums and guitar

Premiers Reading Challenge

ICAS competitions

Chess club

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
  - Staff is an even mix of experienced teachers and those relatively new to the profession. There is an even mix of genders.
- Leadership structure
  - Principal
  - Deputy principal
- Staff support systems
  - Staff meetings
  - Staff work as part of Professional Learning Teams
  - Targeted professional development in areas identified in the Site improvement Plan.
- Performance Management
  - There is a shared responsibility by the principal and deputy principal. The DE Performance Development Plan is used as the template for all performance meetings.
- Staff utilisation policies
  - School support staff is involved in supporting students with learning difficulties, classroom support for teachers, support in the library, grounds and finance.
- Access to special staff
  - Instrumental music teachers

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

- Complexity placement points
  - N/A
- Isolation placement points
  - N/A
- Shorter terms
  - N/A
- Travelling time
  - N/A

- Housing assistance  
N/A
- 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
  - All brick buildings:
    - 3 teaching units
    - Gymnasium
    - Administration block
  - 2 pre-fabricated classrooms
    - Oval
    - Play equipment
    - Tennis and basketball courts
    - Resource centre
    - Native plant areas
    - OSHC facilities.

### Cooling

Air conditioning in administration building and in all classrooms



### Specialist facilities

Gymnasium

French room

Wireless Computer network

Out of School Hours Care room

Resource centre

Oval

Surrounded by native trees and shrubs both on the grounds (wide area of play space) and surrounding area

The grounds include a Wirra offering 2000m<sup>2</sup> of native vegetation and food trails

Outdoor amphitheatre for staged events, including community events involving all students

Solar power facilities

### Student facilities

3 teaching units [each with computer wireless network access].

STEM rooms in each of the 3 teaching units

French room

Gymnasium

Year 7 quiet area in the yard

### Staff facilities

Staff lounge and pergola attached

Workrooms

### Access for students and staff with disabilities

Full wheelchair access to all units

Disabled shower and toilet block

- Access to bus transport

Hills Transit buses stop in Aldgate (~1km away)

### Other

School facilities are utilised by clubs and community groups during evening and weekends.

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

Staff meetings, PAC, and committees

Students through class meetings and SRC

Parents and community through Governing Council & subcommittees

Governing Council meets twice per term, and encourages all

parents to attend. The Governing Council supports the principal

and staff in setting the broad direction of the school. Governing Council is also responsible for the management of the Aldgate Primary School OSHC and Vacation Care.

- Regular publications
  - Fortnightly newsletter
  - Weekly staff information
  - Class newsletters
- Other communication
  - Class diaries/communication books
  - Class newsletters and emails
  - Term overviews
  - Fortnightly assemblies
  - School website
  - SMS (bushfire alerts and other important information)
  - See-saw app
- School financial position
  - The school is audited annually and is a sound financial position.
- Special funding
  - Nil (Category 7 school)

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics
  - Students are generally from two income families.
- Parent and community involvement
  - Parents are involved in supporting a range of learning programs such as; reading support, fundraising and support on camps and excursions.
  - Membership on Governing Council
  - Fundraising committee
  - Class parent representatives
  - Grounds committee (currently being constituted)
- Feeder or destination schools
  - Many students attend Heathfield High for their secondary education. Some students also attend Glenunga International High School and some private schools.

- Other local care and educational facilities  
Aldgate, Bridgewater, Stirling East and Stirling preschools, Montessori school.  
  
There are many primary schools in the nearby region including Stirling East, Crafers, Bridgewater and Mylor Primary Schools.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
  
Excellent shopping facilities in Aldgate (1km), Bridgewater (1km), and Stirling (6kms).
- Other local facilities
- Availability of staff housing  
N/A
- Accessibility  
Access to Adelaide via the South Eastern Freeway (20mins to CDB)
- Local Government body  
Adelaide Hills Council