



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 03/17

School number: 1063

School name: Highgate School

School Profile:

Our Vision: "A dynamic and inclusive learning community providing opportunities for all children to achieve to their full potential."

Our Mission: "To develop environmentally aware, independent and socially responsible life long learners who are active and optimistic participants in our diverse society."

Highgate School provides a rich, engaging curriculum and is well supported by its dedicated staff and supportive school community. Our students are given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities.

The core values of the school are Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Kindness.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Phil Johansen
- Assistant Principal's : Peter Pagonis, Emily Roberts
- Year of opening: 1923
- Postal Address: 4 Hampstead Avenue, Highgate SA 5063
- Location Address: 4 Hampstead Avenue, Highgate SA 5063
- DECD Region: East
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 5 km
- Telephone number: 82719622
- Fax Number: 83736075
- School website address: web.highgates.sa.edu.au

- School e-mail address: dl.1063_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: no
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes
- February FTE student enrolment: 643

2017

	2017
Reception	108
Year 1	98
Year 2	88
Year 3	76
Year 4	88
Year 5	70
Year 6	73
Year 7	42
TOTAL	643
NESB	225
School Card Approvals	38
Aboriginal FTE enrolment	

NESB	225
School Card Approvals (Persons)	38
NESB Total (Persons)	222
Overseas full fee paying students	

Student enrolment trends: There are approximately 643 students attending the school. The school is currently growing and will continue to grow.

Staffing numbers (as at February census): Teaching staff (as of February census) includes the full time equivalent of 32 teachers of which there are 25 FTE classroom teachers.

Specialist staff includes 0.6 Science, 1.0 The Arts, 1.0 Health and Physical Education, 1.6 Mandarin, 1.8 EALD, 1.0 teacher librarians, First Language Maintenance in Greek 0.2.

Administration ancillary staff (including IT technician, resource centre, sports coordinator, fundraising coordinator and grounds) comprises 6 part and fulltime staff. In addition hours are provided for intervention/support programs for students with learning disabilities and learning difficulties.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics: Home backgrounds are generally affluent, highly multicultural. School card is 4% of population. About 36% of students are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Student well-being programs: The wellbeing coordinator is available to support students and staff.

Student management: Whole school Behaviour management structures exist for class and yard behaviour. All classes have developed negotiated class rules. Support from the Leadership team in following up incidents and facilitating parent meetings in extreme cases. Parents are supportive of the schools' structures. School Uniform is a requirement.

Student government: Weekly class meetings and regular SRC meetings are held. A male and female representative from each class attends SRC. Staff support decisions taken at SRC. SRC members are trained in meeting procedures and group skills. 6 students are elected from year 7 to form the Student executive

Special programs: The specials Non Instruction Programs are Chinese R-7, Science R-2, The Arts, R-7 and Health and PE R-7.

3. Key School Policies

The schools Policies and agreements are found on the school website. Policies align with DECD policies.

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Highgate School is part of the Greenhill South Partnership. Curriculum leadership within the Greenhill South Partnership focuses on Numeracy / Mathematics improvement and retention of students in the higher two bands. Other key areas are transition points between levels of schooling.

Partnership priority areas include:

Implement a coherent approach to 21st Century Teaching and Learning in each partnership site

Improve learner achievement in Mathematics through effective teaching practices and whole site approaches.

A best practice approach to continuity of learning preschool > school > high school

Maximise opportunities for efficient delivery of services across and within partnership sites

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings

All teachers plan, program, assess and report using the Australian Curriculum in all learning areas LOTE (Chinese), The Arts, Science and Physical Education are non instruction subjects.

Special needs

Students with special needs are supported through individual learning plans with a range of interventions including literacy, numeracy and social skills. Bilingual SSO's used when the need arises. SSOs are used to support students with special needs (individually and small groups).

Special Curriculum Features

International Students program for long and short stay students with Intensive Primary English Course (IPEC) teaching methodology

French Bilingual Bi-national program.. A bilingual program will be established in 2017. The program will begin with a reception and a year 1 class.

5. Sporting Activities

Students participate in a wide range of physical activities at Highgate School. R-7 students have regular specialist PE lessons, regular class fitness activities, lunch time activities and sports clinics. After-hours sports include netball, softball, cricket, football, and soccer.

Students have the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA sports – swimming, athletics, cross country, badminton, cricket, netball, soccer and football. Teachers also organise clinics in lesson time, with an emphasis on skills development. Swimming occurs each year for a one-week block. Each year we have a Sports Day with a focus on skills and a variety of activities.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Instrumental music is offered to students from year 2 - Piano, flute, drums, guitar, strings, wind lessons are offered to students on a private provider basis. Students have the opportunity to participate in the School band and music ensembles. Students take part in choral activities through the year with choirs, Festival of Music. Oliphant Science Awards, Pedal Prix and Robotics are other activities during the year.

Acquaintance night, Harmony Day, participatory sports days, Book Week, Open Nights, Science & PE week, Studies of Asia celebrations and R-6 end of year concerts are some of the regular major events.

Camps occur in years 3-7.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile: Teachers are generally all permanent who usually choose to stay at Highgate for their working life.

Leadership structure: Currently consists of Principal, two Assistant Principals, Director of French and one coordinator (student wellbeing). PAC supports whole school decision making which is generally consultative.

Staff support systems: Staff work in collaborative teams. Teachers team teach in some curriculum areas. Staff plan together and share knowledge, expertise and skills. There is a weekly staff meeting.

The Resource Centre teacher, works in a collaborative mode with ICT assistant principal, library staff and with classroom teachers in resource based learning. After school ICT professional development continues to be held addressing individual staff needs.

All staff are represented on the various committees – equity of work load has been a priority for the PAC.

PAC meets regularly in weeks 3, 6 and 9 in each term and as needed.

Performance development: Staff is involved in formal Performance Development with reflective reports, written feedback and peer support. T&D and career planning is encouraged and supported at school.

Staff utilisation policies SSOs are used for Early Intervention programs and classroom support and specific 1:1 support for students with special needs, supporting the resource centre, IT technician, school reception, clerical and finance work.

Access to special staff: EALD teachers work across the Site, negotiating with teachers as to mode of operation for specific students.

NIT is provided concurrently to release teams to plan together.

Special Education is supported by a Guidance Officer, Speech Pathologist, and teachers from Vision Impaired Centre.

Private Special Education tutors and SPELD tutors support students with special learning needs.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Isolation placement points

: Nil

- Shorter terms

: No

- Travelling time

: 15 to 20 minutes from the city

- Housing assistance

: Nil

- Cooling for school buildings
:all classrooms are air-conditioned
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
: Nil
- Additional increment allowance
: Nil
- Designated schools benefits
: Working in a pleasant well resourced environment.
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
: Nil
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
: Mitcham Dental Clinic
- Locality allowances
: Nil
- Relocation assistance
: Nil
- Principal's telephone costs
: Nil

9. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds: The school community work hard to maintain and develop Highgate School. A new administration block was completed in 2013. A nature play area, garden beds and new play equipment have improved the aesthetics of the grounds.

Major building work has included a gymnasium, performing arts room, and a resource centre.

All classes and Resource Centre have Interactive Whiteboards. The school has 2 sets of wireless lap tops-enough for all students in a class .There is a computer room equipped with computers for all students in a class. Every classroom has a Smart board, along with the international room and Library. Year 5 -7 students have 1:1 touchscreen laptops.

Heating and Cooling: All buildings have heating and cooling.

Student facilities: Canteen, Resource Centre, computer room, Music room, Activity Hall

Staff facilities: There is a modern, well equipped staffroom, with coffee/tea making facilities in other areas. There are a variety of meeting rooms throughout the school.

Access for students and staff with disabilities: There are access ramps to main buildings and 4 toilets for students/staff with disabilities.

Access to bus transport: Private contractors or STA buses are used for excursions.

Other: Uniform shop.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures: All staff in the school have a shared participatory decision making policy. Management is collaborative. Staff structures include staff meetings, Personnel Advisory committee, staff meetings T&D, R-7 administration meetings, and curriculum committees.

Regular publications: An R-& newsletter is distributed 4 times a term in electronic form. Class teachers also send home regular class newsletters. Structures are in place for parents to receive electronic mail for school communication.

Other communication: Support documents include Teacher Information and Procedures, OHS&W, and Parent Information folders, Parent/School Communication Pathways. Notifications are regularly sent by Skoolbag app.

School financial position: The school is supported by parents through school fees (\$505/year) and tax deductible donations for library and building funds. Finances have been audited and found correct and the school is in a sound financial position.

The Highgate Schools Foundation is a parent initiative established in 1998. The Foundation's first project was the erection of a pavilion alongside the playing fields. Since then the Foundation has assisted with financing the opening up of classrooms on the southern side of the brick building, creating access to an outdoor activity area, interactive white board in the resource centre, play ground equipment, paving, seating and shade structures. Fund raising is an integral part of the school culture and monies raised supplement the school's resources.

Special funding: nil (Category 7 school)

11. Local Community

General characteristics: The school serves the residential areas of Highgate, Malvern, Urrbrae and Myrtle Bank.

Parent and community involvement: Parents support the school strongly in educational, social, fundraising and Working Bees. An informed and active Governing Council contributes to school management and oversees OSHC and the Canteen.

Feeder schools: Local Kindergartens are The Lady George and Netherby but enrolments come from a variety of early childhood settings in the Unley Council area.

Local high schools include Unley, Glenunga and Urrbrae. A large percentage of students go onto private schools.

Other local care and educational facilities: Students have access to Urrbrae wetlands and Waite Institute arboretum.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Highgate Village, Unley Rd and King William Rd shops are in the vicinity.

Other local facilities: Community Library, Unley Rd, Unley oval, Fullarton Park Community Centre.

Accessibility: Public transport is readily available.

Local Government body: City of Unley area grants available, joint grounds agreement City of Mitcham.

12. Further Comments

There has been continuous schooling at Highgate since 1923. A separate Junior Primary school was opened in August 1957. The two schools merged in 2012.

Opie House (original home of the Opie bread family) now accommodates the Out of School Hours Care program and extra curricula activities e.g. instrumental lessons. Although parts of the school are aging, in appearance it is aesthetically pleasing.