

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: April, 2016

School number: 0314

School name: Northfield Primary School

1. General Information

School No. : 0314

Courier: North Adelaide Region

Principal: Ms Donna Beaney

Postal Address: North Avenue, Northfield 5085

District: Northern Adelaide Region

Distance from GPO: 9km Phone No. : 8262 2607

School Based Preschool: Yes (1778) Fax No. : 8349 7830

February FTE Enrolment

Year Level	2013			2014			2015			2016		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Reception	20	19	39	19	22	41	22	19	41	19	20	39
Year 1	16	18	34	25	24	49	23	19	42	16	23	39
Year 2	28	24	52	15	16	31	26	24	50	27	19	46
Year 3	16	17	33	18	24	42	17	18	35	24	25	49
Year 4	16	15	31	18	17	35	20	26	46	24	13	37
Year 5	14	18	32	13	10	23	17	19	36	23	22	45
Year 6	19	20	39	15	23	38	11	15	26	23	16	39
Year 7	13	13	26	19	20	39	12	21	33	13	15	28
Total	142	144	286	142	156	298	148	161	309	169	153	322

The forecast into 2017 shows steady growth, with a current predicted enrolment in 2017 of 340. Preschool enrolment remains steady at around 50 students.

- Current leadership
 - Principal: Ms Donna Beaney
 - Deputy Principal: Mr Lee Scaife
 - Assistant Principal: Mrs Erica Solowij
 - Business Manager: Ms Sandra Gursansky
- School website address <http://www.northfldps.sa.edu.au/>
- School e-mail address dl.0314.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers – 26 teaching staff and 17 non-teaching staff
- Out of School Hours Care (before and after school) and Vacation Care, Contact Camp Australia ph. 1300 105 343
- Enrolment trends - school and preschool enrolments are steady with a gradual increase over the past five years. Transience is between 30% to 40% in any given year.
- Northfield Primary School is rich in tradition, having opened in 1861.
- Public Transport and Community bus services are available on Hampstead Road and Grand Junction Road, which are in close proximity to the school.

2. Students

General characteristics

Northfield PS is a category 2 level of disadvantage and celebrates a diversity of cultures and cultural backgrounds. Refer to the breakdown of enrolment below which shows a relatively high proportion of EALD students and families accessing School Card assistance. The Preschool has a similar breakdown.

Enrolment Demographic

	2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
ATSI	33	11%	22	7%	32	10%	35	11%
EALD	187	61%	177	59%	154	50%	156	49%
Disabilities	26	9%	27	9%	32	10%	26	8%
School Card	171	56%	139	47%	153	50%	170	53%
Enrolment	286		298		309		322	

Programs to support a positive school environment

In 2006 the school introduced Pathways to Peace program and established a Peace Code which is used as a platform for learning and behaviour from Preschool to Year 7. In 2008 we became a Save the Children, United Nations Global Peace School having completed accreditation during 2007. The Peace Code is crucial in the maintenance of a positive school environment. It is an expectation that students work towards making the classroom, school and community a better place through peace projects. Major wellbeing projects include Harmony Day and workshops with the Gyuto Monks as part of a weeklong Peace Education program. Peer Support through buddy classes operate across the school to foster and develop communication, care and support amongst students of all ages.

Aboriginal Students

Northfield Primary School is located in the heart of Kaurana country and respect the Kaurana people as the traditional owners of the land. Our Aboriginal students identify with a diversity of Aboriginal cultures. They are supported by our Support & Intervention Team including our Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET) and Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO).

Support and Intervention

All students with disabilities are fully mainstreamed and have Negotiated Education Plans (NEPs) to support their individualised special needs. Over half of our students have English as a second language and have varying degrees of learning needs. The school has a Support & Intervention Team who oversee additional resource allocation and track student achievement with achievable and ambitious targets. In addition to classroom teachers individualising learning, additional support and intervention by teachers and School Services Officers (SSOs) is allocated on a needs basis.

Pastoral Support Worker (PSW)

The school accesses 15 hours per week of PSW time. Nathan Watkins works on whole school peace projects and prioritises individual time for students who are vulnerable with their learning engagement particularly in regards to their well-being.

Student Involvement

Years 5-7 students are encouraged to lead committees to foster greater participation in decision-making and involvement in school improvement initiatives.

3. Strategic Directions

The School's Vision Statement: is 'Working Together for a Quality Education'. Our moral purpose is to support students to challenge themselves to continuously achieve. Staff are currently working together on articulating our mantra, which revolves around *developing powerful learners through collaboration, personalisation, innovation and peace activism*.

Through developing powerful learners, the **Site Improvement Plan** has focused priorities on literacy and numeracy. The school has an agreed whole school data collection agreement in place to measure the progress in these areas on an individual student basis and across the whole school. Reading comprehension focuses on developing our students' abilities in "The Big Six" of reading – oral language, vocabulary, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency and comprehension. We explicitly teach The Big Six through the strategies of making connections, visualizing, inferring, synthesising, questioning and determining importance. Northfield Primary School has developed a whole school literacy teaching and learning agreement.

Numeracy is a continued focus in 2016. We aim to develop a whole school numeracy agreement, develop staff knowledge in mathematics teaching and learning, improve staff, parent and student perceptions towards mathematics and collect and analyse numeracy achievement data.

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings

The school is phasing in implementation of the Australian Curriculum. In 2016, English, mathematics, history and science are all being implemented in line with the national requirements. All R-7 students have specialist teaching with 90 minutes of Health and Physical Education and 90 minutes of Performance Arts. R-7 students receive 45 minutes of ICT instruction.

Assessment procedures and reporting

School

Assessment of student learning is continuous and supportive of achieving next steps for learning. Reporting to parents include:

- Community Open Night in Term 1
- Parent & Teacher Progress Discussions in Term 1
- Written Mid-Year Reports in week 10 of Term 2
- Optional Parent & Teacher Progress Discussions in Term 3
- End of Year Report in Week 9 of Term 4.

Preschool

All students receive an exit report for parents and new schools. Parents are also encouraged to attend a progress discussion after 2 terms in preschool.

5. Sporting Activities

Northfield Primary School is committed to promoting a *Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Minds* approach to learning. Strategies include:

- Specialist Physical Education teacher and Performance Arts teacher
- SAPSASA opportunities in swimming, netball, soccer, cross-country, Australian Rules Football and athletics
- Preschool to Year 7 Sports Day in Term 1
- Swimming instruction in Term 1 for R-5 at the school
- Aquatics for Year 6/7 in Term 1 every even year
- Swimming as part of Health and Physical Education in Terms 1 and 4
- Sports clinics in netball, cricket, Australian Rules football

- Daily brain breaks
- Soccer competition with local schools.

6. Other Curricular Activities

To further develop student engagement and reading comprehension, the school is involved in the following:

- Harmony Day
- Book Week
- Reconciliation Week
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- International Day of Peace
- Aboriginal cultural activities
- Primary Maths Challenge
- End of Year Concert
- Peer Support and Cross-Age Tutoring activities
- Breakfast Club for students operated by community volunteers
- Books in Homes Program

7. Staff

Staff Profile

The leadership team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Assistant Principal and Business Manager. The experience of teaching staff ranges from newly appointed graduate teachers through to highly experienced teachers. A normal teaching staff turnover from one year to the next is around two to three teachers. The Business Manager and Administration Officer oversee the front office administration. We currently have several classroom-based SSOs who provide support for targeted students and two SSOs in the Preschool who provide support for teaching and learning. The school has an Aboriginal Community Education Officer and Pastoral Support Worker.

Staff Support Systems

The school culture is warm and friendly, with staff enjoying a supportive team environment. Staff work in cohorts – Preschool, R-2 and 3-7. All staff are in a small learning team of two to four people.

Performance Support

Every staff member has a designated line manager. There is an expectation that a formal meeting to discuss performance is held every term, with written feedback provided at least twice per year. Staff set personal targets related to the Site Improvement Plan and develop a Personal Development Plan as a reference point to personal improvement.

Access to Partnership and support staff

The school is in the Torrens Partnership. The Education Director is Ros Maio. The school is serviced by the Channel Manager, Disabilities Coordinator, Behaviour Coach, Attendance Officer, Aboriginal Education Community Manager, Speech Pathologist, Guidance Officer and Social Worker.

8. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds

Northfield Primary School offers excellent facilities and grounds to cater for a variety of learning experiences. The teaching block accommodates 13 of the 15 classrooms with the other two classrooms situated in the administration area. All indoor areas have high functioning air conditioners and new carpet. In addition, the school has:

- an Innovative Learning Centre (ILC)
- a newly developed Performance Arts Studio
- a Library with fiction and non-fiction books and a teacher resource area
- a Preschool with adjacent kitchen, refurbished wet area and fenced outdoor area with playground
- a swimming pool used in terms 1 and 4
- a gymnasium with toilets and change rooms
- a Support and Intervention room
- an Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service run by Camp Australia
- a hard play area with line markings for netball, basketball, four square, sprints and chess
- a large oval with two soccer pitches, Australian Rules Football goals and beach volleyball
- two large playgrounds
- several areas with garden plots.

Information Communication Technologies

In recent times, the school has prioritised a significant investment into modernising ICT infrastructure. Our Innovative Learning Centre is a learning environment which reflects our mantra of powerful learners through collaboration and innovation. We continue to roll out purchases in laptops, I-pads, tablets and cameras. ICTs provide 21st Century tools to further engage and enhance learning at Northfield Primary School.

9. School Operations

Decision Making Structures

Decision-making is based on collaboration and consultation. The Personnel Advisory Committee meets regularly and is engaged in a range of issues pertaining to human resource management. There are a number of other committees including finance, canteen, OSHC, ICT, grounds & facilities, fundraising, Australian Education Union Sub-Branch and Public Service Association.

Regular publications

Parents receive fortnightly newsletters. The school's website can be found at <http://www.northfldps.sa.edu.au/> and has updated information including class pages.

School financial position

The school continues to operate a fiscally responsible budget. School Council and staff support expenditure on students of today, whilst ensuring that school's finances will not be placed in jeopardy. Recent audits from 2014 and 2015 reflected outstanding practice with finances.

10. Local Community

General characteristics

The community is changing due to the renewal of housing within the area particularly with the developments at Oakden and Northgate. A number of Defence Force families attend the school. There is an increasing number of families who speak English as a Second Language and the school positively promotes this cultural diversity. Many students and families are connected through sports with the Gepps Cross Football Club.

• Parent and community involvement

Parents are encouraged to participate and be involved in decision making through School Council and in the day to day life of the school through a wide range of activities including, Fundraising, working in the school canteen, coordinating the school Breakfast Program, hearing reading and assisting with camps and excursions.

• Feeder schools

The majority of Reception enrolments come through our onsite Preschool. The Preschool is seen by all staff as an integral part of the school and is included in all whole school events and most programs. Preschool operates Monday to Thursday.

• Other local care and educational facilities

Enfield Folland Park Preschool

Northgate Childcare Centre

Stepping Stone Child Care Centre who bring pre-schoolers to our preschool.

Local Secondary Schools include Dame Roma Mitchell School and Windsor Gardens Vocational college

• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Several small shopping centres are close to the school, with a larger centre at nearby Northgate.

• Other local facilities

Northgate Life Centre supports the school on a number of levels involving music and performances. Gepps Cross Football Club is located close to the school.

• Local Government Body

The school is situated in the Port Adelaide Enfield Council. Our local member of Parliament for the Torrens Electorate, Dana Wortley has a strong relationship with the school and provides support in a proactive manner.

11. Further Comments

The school is one of the oldest in the State. Staff contributed to a school history book written for the official opening of the redevelopment in 1996. In 2003 we celebrated 50 Years on the current site.