

Mallala Primary School Context Statement

1. General Information

School Name	Mallala Primary School
School number	0241
Principal	Mr Alec Tibbitts
Postal Address	28 Owen Rd, Mallala, SA, 5502
Location Address	28 Owen Rd, Mallala, SA, 5502
Partnership	Greater Gawler
Distance from GPO	57km
Preschool attached	Yes
E-mail address	dl.0241.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Phone number	08 8527 2240
Fax number	08 8527 2028

The school opened in 1877.

School Values are Respect, Excellence, Perseverance and Diversity. These values are a focus across the school at the start of each year.

There is no public transport access to Mallala Primary School, however, trains and buses service Gawler which is approximately 30kms away.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Reception	21	30	23	17	19
Year 1	20	17	24	26	20
Year 2	12	21	13	26	25
Year 3	18	12	18	14	29
Year 4	20	19	10	22	17
Year 5	17	21	18	11	21.6
Year 6	13	19	16	19	9
Year 7	8	13	16	16	20
Total	129	152	138	151	160.6

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Male FTE	55	71	75	81	88.6
Female FTE	74	81	63	70	71
School Card	30	52	37	45	40
NESB	4	5	4	4	2
ATSI	9	10	6	5	6

Enrolment numbers have gradually decreased in previous years, but have recently increased.

A Preschool is located on the school grounds. Currently this operates every Monday and Tuesday and every second Thursday for full days.

A parent run Playgroup operates on Wednesday mornings and has facilities for inside and outside play. Playgroup fees and insurance are paid by the school to encourage attendance.

2. Students (and their welfare)

A small percentage of students come from farming backgrounds. The majority of students come from families whose parents/carers commute to work in Balaklava, Gawler, Elizabeth or Adelaide.

Buses from a large catchment area that ranges from Dublin and Windsor to Redbanks, transport approximately 70 students. Some of these students live in isolated situations. A number of students commute to school from Thompson's Beach and Port Parham, areas which are currently experiencing slow but gradual growth in population.

Student Management

A Student Behaviour Code has been negotiated with the school community and is working effectively. Behaviour Management is a high priority at Mallala, with clear processes and strategies in place to prevent and manage issues of behaviour that interrupts learning and infringes on the rights of others.

The school employs a restorative justice approach to dealing with behavioural infringements, and staff are supported and encouraged to appropriately respond to inappropriate behaviour, not just simply react to it.

A "Positive Interactions with Children" policy exists to support the management of children in the Preschool. All staff have agreed to this policy.

All classes are involved in setting their own codes of conduct and class vision statements, this resulting in clear sets of classroom rules and boundaries being developed collaboratively and agreed to from the beginning of the school year.

A clear focus on Respect is maintained throughout the school.

Student Government

The Student Voice Committee meets fortnightly and provides students with opportunities for leadership and participation in decision-making. This group has had an increasing role in the development of policies and procedures as well as providing feedback about teaching and learning.

Special Programmes

Mallala Primary Schools offers a three-tier Intervention Programme.

Tier 1 students are identified, initially by the class teacher who then refers the student to the School Counsellor. This group, which includes members of the Region's support services, meets each term to discuss individual students and arranges relevant assessments. Students receive support from SSOs, both inside and outside the classroom. These programmes are provided to the SSOs by the class teacher which sometimes includes specific programmes provided to the teacher by support services.

Tier 2 students are identified by the class teachers and their eligibility to participate in the programme is assessed by the leadership team. Data is examined and analysed with students given a place in the programme based on greatest need.

Intervention programmes are based upon the greatest need in the school and may focus on Literacy or Numeracy.

Tier 3 students are also identified by the class teacher. It is expected that teachers provide targeted support for these students in the classroom. Their progress is monitored closely by class teachers.

3. Curriculum

Mallala Primary School is reporting against the Australian Curriculum in all areas of study.

There are currently 7 Primary classes and a Preschool on site.

Additional teaching staff provide NIT in The Arts, LOTE (Korean) and a further area as negotiated with teachers.

A leadership structure of a full time coordinator and a part-time counsellor supports the curriculum and school development.

SSO roles include class support, intervention, administration, library, ICT and grounds.

All classes have Interactive Whiteboards or TVs and computers. There are also sets of iPads and other ICT equipment available to students.

Written reports are provided to parents in term 2 and term 4. Interviews occur in term 1 for all students and by request in term 3. It is expected that the parents of students participating in the Intervention Programme will be contacted to arrange an interview time in term 3.

4. Sporting Activities

Mallala Primary School has a well-equipped gym and substantial grassed areas.

The school participates in swimming lessons.

Mallala Primary School holds a Sports Day each year, with this year's event being held in term 4 with a late start, running into early evening. Sports Days are well attended by parents.

Local sports clubs offer during and after school activities on occasion.

Local sporting clubs are available within the township.

5. Staff (and their welfare)

Teachers are supported in their delivery of the curriculum by a full time Teaching and Learning Coordinator, a 0.6 Counsellor.

Position Focus

Teaching and Learning Coordinator: Data, Intervention and Pedagogy

Counsellor: Well Being, Students with Disabilities and Pedagogy

Early Years and Primary Years teams meet several times each term. These meetings are to share practice and discuss issues which are specifically relevant to particular cohorts.

Specialist staff include a 0.4 Arts teacher and 0.4 LOTE teacher (Korean).

After school guitar tuition is available on the school grounds. This is by private arrangement with the tutor.

6. School Facilities

Mallala Primary School has large classrooms and ample hard surface and grassed areas for students. The grounds are in excellent condition. A feature of the school is a local native species bushland environment called "Altarama." The development of this area is nearing completion and is utilised by students and the community.

School lunches are available from the local shop and are ordered through the school.

The Parent Club provides hot lunches weekly during the Winter months.

All buildings have wheelchair access.

DECD buses service Redbanks, Dublin Windsor and Long Plains.
Mallala Preschool is undergoing a transformation through the Preschool Outdoor Learning Area Project which will be completed by June, 2017.

7. School Operations

Governing Council meet on Tuesdays in weeks 3 and 8 of each term. They provide a link between the parent community and the school. They oversee the governance of the school and have input into aspects of school management such as policies, events, facilities and budgets.

Mallala Primary School has an active parent club and fundraising group.