

Mallala Primary School Context Statement

1. General Information

School Name	Mallala Primary School
School number	0241
Principal	Ms Sharon Okmasich
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*. There is no public transport access to Mallala Primary School, however, trains and buses service Gawler which is approximately 30kms away.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pre-school					25	30
Reception	30	23	17	19	17	22
Year 1	17	24	26	20	17	19
Year 2	21	13	26	25	19	20
Year 3	12	18	14	29	21	18
Year 4	19	10	22	17	35	21
Year 5	21	18	11	21.6	14	34
Year 6	19	16	19	9	20	12
Year 7	13	16	16	20	8	24
Total	152	138	151	160.6	151	170

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Male FTE	71	75	81	88.6	79	88
Female FTE	81	63	70	71	72	82
School Card	52	37	45	40	31	49
NESB	5	4	4	2	2	2
ATSI	10	6	5	6	4	7

A Preschool is located on the school grounds. Currently this operates for full days every Monday and Tuesday and every second Thursday. Mallala pre-school currently has 30 enrolments. A major upgrade to both the building and outdoor play area occurred last year with educators continuously updating knowledge and practice to ensure the children are provided with the best possible early learning programme.

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.

An onsite OSHC run by Happy Haven started operating in 2018. Happy Haven offers Before School, After School and Vacation Care programmes. Further information is available through the Happy Haven website or by contacting the school Front Office.

2. Students

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 Behaviour Development

A Student Behaviour Code is in place and was negotiated with the school community. This is currently under review and will have input from staff, students and families. Behaviour Development is a high priority at Mallala with ongoing improvement in establishing a preventative approach that works to support students in making strong decisions about their behaviour and interactions with others. The site is currently participating in the PEACE programme which aims to provide clear and targeted information and strategies that are developed directly from students input. We aim to make real change for students in taking responsibility for, and managing, their own behaviours.

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 the school values of Respect, Diversity, Perseverance and Excellence is maintained throughout the school.

In addition to the diverse outside play areas students can also access Library activities as well as clubs such as Lego, IT, craft, cooking and numerous other activities at recess and lunch times through our continuously evolving Yard Play Programme. We are continuously looking to provide alternative options for students during break times and in the process of utilising the vast skills of community members.

Student Voice

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. Different groups of students also meet with the Principal regularly to discuss issues related to learning and wellbeing.

Special Programmes

Mallala Primary School offers a three-tier Intervention Programme.

Tier 1 students are identified, initially by the class teacher who then refers the student to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator. Discussions are held with Regional support services and relevant assessments and adjustments identified. 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 6 Primary classes and a Preschool on site.

Positive Education is embedded across the site and throughout the curriculum. Positive Education is the merging together of Positive Psychology which looks at the strengths within people, and quality education and teaching.

Students are involved in Positive Education through both explicit teaching and implicit learning as a natural part of the school day.

Additional teaching staff provide NIT in The Arts, LOTE (Korean) and Health/Physical Education.

A leadership structure of a full time Coordinator and a part-time Student Wellbeing Coordinator supports the curriculum and school development.

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

All classes have Interactive TVs and laptop computers. There are also sets of iPads and other ICT equipment available to students. We are continuously increasing our availability of laptops 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 of teachers or parents 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 3. 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

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

Position Focus

Teaching and Learning Coordinator - Data, Curriculum and Pedagogy

Student Wellbeing Coordinator - Well Being, Engagement and Students with Disabilities

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. Whole site professional development is also a key focus to ensure consistency and continuity across the year levels and between classes. Specialist staff include a 0.4 Arts teacher, 0.4 LOTE teacher (Korean) and 0.6 Health/Physical Education teacher.

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 ongoing with plans for greater learning opportunities to be established. Altarama is utilised by students and the community. We have a well-established Nature Play area with plans in progress for this to extend incorporating adventure play equipment. This area also links with the pre-school outdoor learning area.

School lunches are available from the local shop on Monday – Thursday and are ordered through the school.

The Families and Friends of Mallala (Parent Club) provides hot lunches weekly during the winter months.

All buildings have wheelchair access.

DECD buses service Redbanks, Dublin, Windsor and Long Plains.

7. School Operations

Mallala Primary School Governing Council meets 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.