

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
Preschool Name	Mallala Preschool
Preschool number	1734
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. There are currently seven Primary classes and a Preschool on site. We aim to maintain low numbers within primary classes as much as possible and ensure that strong adult support is available for students across all levels of schooling. With the movement of Year 7 to High School in 2022 this will most likely lead to a reduction in classes to six across the primary school. In 2020, Mallala Primary School's Index of Education Disadvantage (IoED) was reassessed from Category 3 to a Category 4.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pre-school		25	30	27	25	23
Reception	19	17	22	29	22	21
Year 1	20	17	19	19	29	17
Year 2	25	19	20	19	22	27
Year 3	29	21	18	18	17	20
Year 4	17	35	21	19	17	13
Year 5	21.6	14	34	20	20	15
Year 6	9	20	12	33	19	16
Year 7	20	8	24	12	32	15
Total	160.6	151	170	169	178	144

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Male FTE	88.6	79	88	86	99	88
Female FTE	71	72	82	83	79	56
School Card	40	31	49	47	45	
NESB	2	2	2	3	2	1
ATSI	6	4	7	8	11	9

A Preschool is located on the school grounds. Currently this operates for full days on Monday and Tuesday and every second Thursday. The preschool is fenced with an exciting outside play space and welcoming indoor area. Educators continuously update knowledge and practice to ensure the children are provided with the best possible early learning programme. Our preschool is an important part of our site and orientation to school occurs across the school year, with children regularly accessing school grounds including the gym, nature play area, library, ovals and our remnant woodlands area, Altarama. Preschool children are included in school

Assemblies and other whole site activities including the annual Colour Explosion Fun Run, Outdoor Classroom Day and Sports Day. We ensure that preschool fees are kept at an extremely reasonable rate to encourage and support access for all.

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, with playgroup also supported by a staff member to establish strong relationships and links across all areas of the site.

An Occasional Care program is held in the preschool building offering two sessions each Friday. Occasional Care is operated by staff who also work across the preschool and school.

An onsite OSHC run by Happy Haven began 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 number of students come from farming backgrounds and also live in Mallala or in surrounding towns. 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 ranging 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 experiencing gradual growth in population.

Student Behaviour Development

A clear focus on the school values of Respect, Diversity, Perseverance and Excellence is maintained throughout the school. Simply put for students these values translate to working hard and being kind.

The development of positive behaviours that will support students throughout the many different interactions and situations they face in life is a high priority at Mallala. Over the last few years we have set about establishing a wellbeing and behaviour approach focusing on prevention and proactive practices that work to support students in making strong decisions about their behaviour and interactions with others. We aim to make real change for students in taking responsibility for, and managing, their own behaviours. The focus is on shared community understanding of Safety, Belonging, Flexibility and Access for all children and young people at Mallala. The school employs a restorative justice approach to managing behavioural infringements, and staff are supported and encouraged to appropriately respond to inappropriate behaviour, not simply react to it. Work across the site is continuing with the recently established Department for Education Behaviour Support Toolkit to ensure that all behaviour is handled in a manner that is fair and equitable for all.

All classes are involved in setting their own codes of conduct and class vision statements within the framework of the Mallala Community Wellbeing Approach, resulting in clear classroom expectations being developed collaboratively and agreed to from the beginning of the school year.

To support positive interactions during play times and in addition to the diverse outside play areas, students are able to access Library activities as well as clubs such as Lego, IT, craft, cooking and numerous other activities through our evolving Yard Play Programme. Alternative options for students are continuously evolving, based on changing needs and interests, and we are also in the early stages of utilising the vast skills of community members to enhance these opportunities.

Student Voice

The Learning Design Team (LDT) meets regularly 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. The LDT focuses on developing leadership and strong, positive role models among our young people.

Student to teacher feedback is actively sought after within classes. Different groups of students also meet with the Principal and leadership team regularly to discuss issues related to learning and wellbeing. This provides further opportunities for our young people to have real input into their learning and school decisions that directly impact them.

3. Curriculum

Mallala Primary School is reporting against the Australian Curriculum (AC) in all areas of study and in the preschool via the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). Additional teaching staff provide NIT (non-instruction time) to class teachers via specialised subjects of Health and Physical Education (0.6), The Arts (0.4) and LOTE Korean (0.4).

A leadership structure currently has a Principal and two Senior Leaders with specific areas of responsibility relating to learning, engagement and wellbeing. Leadership are playing an increasing role in classes with participation in classroom teaching, intervention and general learning support. Teachers are supported in their delivery of the curriculum by the Leadership team which includes:

Senior Leader: Teaching and Learning - Data, Curriculum and Pedagogy

Senior Leader: Student Wellbeing and Inclusion - Well Being, Engagement and Students with Disabilities

Teachers meet regularly in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in order to collaboratively engage in current learning, continuously develop their skills and practice and share their own extensive knowledge with peers. Whole site practice is established and embedded to promote consistency between and across all year levels, enabling continuity of learning to occur. Student Support Officer (SSO) roles include class support, intervention, administration, finance, 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. 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. The majority of classes utilise the Class Dojo app in addition to phone and email to maintain strong teacher / parent communication and relationships and shared responsibility for student learning throughout the year.

Intervention occurs within a 3 tier process to ensure that the targeted needs of all students are met to the highest possible standard. Differentiation occurs within teaching and learning across the classroom to cater for the vastly different needs of students. Small group targeted intervention and individual student intervention programs and curriculum adjustments are identified and developed in collaboration between all stakeholders. Strong relationships with Department Support Services are established, valued and collective expertise utilised to support student needs. Mallala Primary School negotiates with parents and private providers, established through NDIS funding, to work with children and young people on school grounds.

4. Sporting Activities

Mallala Primary School has a well-equipped gym and substantial grassed areas to support implementation of a variety of sports and skill-development through our strong Health and Physical Education program. The school participates in annual swimming lessons. Mallala Primary School holds a Sports Day each year that is well attended by families and supported by the local community. Active after School programmes are regularly offered to provide a variety of activities for students to engage with. Local sporting clubs including football, netball and lawn bowls are available within the township with strong links established and opportunities for students to engage with these available throughout the year.

6. School Facilities

Mallala Primary School has large classrooms, impressive gym, ample hard surface areas and two ovals for students. The grounds are in excellent condition. We have a well-established Nature Play area and recently included adventure play equipment. This area also links with the pre-school outdoor learning area.

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.

School lunches are available from the local shop on Monday – Friday and are ordered through the school. The Families and Friends of Mallala (Parent Club) provides hot lunches weekly on Fridays during Terms 2 and 3, with iceblocks offered for sale during Terms 1 and 2.

All buildings have wheelchair access.

Two Department for Education (DfE) buses service Redbanks, Dublin, Windsor and Long Plains.

7. School Operations

Mallala Primary School Governing Council meets on Tuesday evenings in weeks 3 and 8 of each term. They provide a link between the parent community and the school. The Governing Council oversee the governance of the school and have input into aspects of school management such as policies, events, facilities and budgets.

8. Community Engagement

At Mallala Primary School we are continuously increasing our engagement with families and the local community. We currently have in excess of 70 volunteers that includes parents, grandparents and community members. Volunteers are involved in the Kitchen Garden and Volunteer Reading Programs as well as support in all whole school events. Volunteers are provided with training to support their participation in the Reading Program with on-site Reporting Abuse and Neglect: Education and Care training also offered twice per year. We are looking to further extend and utilise the skills of our community through the establishment of a mentoring program and the established Yard Play activities.

Mallala Primary School, Mallala Preschool, Playgroup and Occasional Care all have Facebook pages which are used to regularly share information, events and successes. The Skoolbag app is utilised to provide information to families in addition to the fortnightly Newsletter.

Students are supported to engage with the local community with upper primary students assisting in the local Church Café and Op Shop each Friday. Members of the Men's Shed, Country Women's Association and other local services are involved with the school and students in a variety of ways. Students have participated in local Council forums to have input into Council decisions affecting young people. Our Outdoor Classroom Day incorporates a Scavenger Hunt around the town with outstanding response and input from these services and the local Mallala business community. Community members from the Church, Museum, Country Women's Association, RSL etc. regularly attend Assemblies to share their own work and successes with students. We highly value and appreciate the strong community links that we have at Mallala and will continue to look for new ways to further these connections.