

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 06/08

**School number:** 0972

**School name:** Hawthorndene Primary School

## 1. General information

### Part A

Principal : Ms Tania Leonard

Postal Address : Suffolk Road, Hawthorndene 5051

District : Inner South

Phone : 08 82783551

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	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Reception	28	23	28	33	32	58
Year 1	33	35	35	31	40	39
Year 2	32	34	44	36	34	41
Year 3	28	31	32	44	34	32
Year 4	34	29	34	33	44	32
Year 5	22	33	30	31	36	44
Year 6	32	18	37	27	35	36
Year 7	31	29	16	25	26	33
TOTAL	240	232	256	260	281	315

### Part B

- Deputy Principal's name, if applicable  
:Mr Dean Ellis

- School e-mail address  
:info@hthdeneps.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers  
:25
- OSHC  
:Before and After School Care operates every day between 7 a.m – 8.30 a.m. and 3.15p.m – 6.15 p.m. Vacos operates during the school holidays. Our program received full accreditation during 2006.
- Enrolment trends  
:Enrolments have been increasing each year. We have a very close relationship with the Hawthorndene Kindergarten and special transition programs operate throughout the year.
- Special arrangements  
:We are part of the Mitcham Hills College of schools and are accredited as an IB World school for the Middle Years Program.
- Year of opening  
:1965
- Public transport access  
:Bus stop situated at the front of the school.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics  
:Most of our students come from stable middle class background where parents value education and have high academic expectations of the school. As our enrolments increase so has the percentage of our students who receive School Card.
- (Pastoral) care programs  
:All classes implement Program Achieve where class teachers work with their students developing skills and strategies to build positive “mindsets”.
- Support offered  
:Each class has a “buddy class” where older and younger students work together on a regular basis each term.  
  
Our Chaplain’s appointment has just been extended for a further two years. Nina provides a range of programs to support students and families. Seasons for Growth has been an ongoing successful program for students dealing with changes in their lives.
- Student management  
:The HPS Student Behaviour Management policy has a focus on acknowledging and rewarding positive behaviours. Each class develops their own set of rules and consequences in line with the schools BM policy.

In the school yard positive behaviour is rewarded with a “golden triangle”. At Assemblies 6 triangles are selected from a special container for special recognition and a reward. For severe inappropriate behaviour students are given a blue card and are required to report to the Focus Room at lunchtime. Blue Card misdemeanours are recorded, parents informed and students counselled.

- Student government  
:All classes elect two representatives at the beginning of the year for the Student Representative Council. The SRC has fortnightly meetings and each class has regular class meetings. The SRC executive ( two students from our Year 6/7 classes) meet with the Mitcham Hills Cluster group twice each term.
- Special programmes  
:LAP supports a range of students from Reception to Year 7.  
Fitness & Aerobics instructors provide regular sessions for all students.  
Insturmental Music is provided by private providers on a regular basis  
School Choir performs in the Festival of Music  
School Band performs weekly with an hourly paid band leader.

### **3. Key School Policies**

- Partnerships Plan or Statement of Purpose  
:To create a vibrant learning community where:-
  - \* Effort and achievement is valued
  - \* There is an interest in learning
  - \* We are all accountable
  - \* There is high performance
- Recent key outcomes
  - :1. To improve the quality of teaching and learning outcomes with a particular focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Information Technology and The Arts.
  2. To develop and improve the sense of student and staff well-being.
  3. To encourage active participation of all groups and individuals in the HPS community.
  4. To prepare students for life within a global society, by nuturing their understanding and appreciation of other cultures and internationalism.

### **4. Curriculum**

- Subject offerings  
:All year 6/7 students undertake the IB Middle Years Program

A Specialist teacher provides the LOTE program which is German  
A Specialist teacher provides The Arts program which includes Music, Dance and Drama.

Staff use the SACSA framework when planning for all aspects of the curriculum which is required as part of a relevant learning program

- Open Access  
:N/A
- Special needs  
:The Deputy oversees this program. Several SSO'S work with students on NEP's and students who require ESL support.  
The Early Intervention Program provides individual support for 6 year olds in the area of literacy development.
- Special curriculum features  
:Information, Communication Technologies are a focus area of the Curriculum. In 2006 a Co-ordinator was appointed for a five year tenure to lead the staff and students in this vital area. Initiatives proposed include:- developing an Intranet, installation of Electronic Whiteboards in classrooms, support staff to develop "units of inquiry", model and promote programs through collaborative practices and introduce "learning objects".
- Teaching methodology  
:Teachers use a range of methodologies to provide relevant learning experiences for their students. These range from student initiated programs to group tasks, whole class explicit teaching and individualised programs to meet specific needs.
- Assessment procedures and reporting  
:Term 1 Week 3 Acquaintance Night  
Term 1 Week 10 Parent Teacher Interviews  
Term 2 Week 10 Written Reports  
Term 3 Expo Evening. School open to showcase student work.  
Term 4 Written Reports.  
All staff use a range of assessment strategies. These include: anecdotal records, photos, student/teacher conferences, tests, written work and rubrics.
- Joint programmes  
:We are part of the Mitcham Hills College and as an IB World School provide the Middle Years Program for all our Year 6 & 7 students. We have regular meetings with all MYP staff in our neighbouring schools to share good practice and develop units of work.  
  
Our connection with the Hawthorndene Kindergarten provides an extensive transition program, where our Reception staff and students visit the kindy every week on a regular basis. The kindy attends one of our

Assemblies each term and we also provide school visits for those students about to start school.

## 5. Sporting Activities

- **Aerobics sessions:** all classes participate in these weekly sessions with an experienced instructor.
- **Sports Day:** Twilight sport's day is held in the first term each year. All families have house teams which they patriotically support each year. The day runs from 1.30 p.m. until 6 p.m.
- **Out of School Hours Sport** These activities are supported by parents who coach, score, time-keep, transport and participate in various other tasks as needed. Sports offered are: Australian Rules Football, Basketball, Cricket, Netball, Soccer, Softball, Tee Ball and Orienteering.
- **School Hours P.E. Program** All staff are responsible for providing a 100 minutes of physical education each week. This includes fitness activities, skill based lessons and a range of sporting clinics. Our students also participate in a variety of SAPSASA activities. Annual swimming and aquatic programs are offered to all students.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- **General**  
:The school has a highly regarded Music program. The Festival Choir and the New Zealand Choir perform each year and are highly valued within our school community. We have a school band which plays on a weekly basis and performs during the Festival of Music. Many of our students participate in instrumental music lessons during the school day. These lessons include: Recorder, Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Piano, Guitar, Drums, Violin and Voice. Our Year 6/7 students perform their productions at the Blackwood Community Hall in June each year.
- **Special**  
:Our Year 5,6 & 7 students also participate in the Pedal Prix Race at Murray Bridge and in Adelaide.  
Our Year 3 and Year 4 students participate in the Water Watch program.  
Many of our students participate in the National Tests organised by NSW University.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**  
Staff are predominately full time and on ten year appointments. Each year we may have one or two temporary staff due to increases in enrolments or covering permanent staff on various forms of leave. We have a very experienced and committed group of teachers who work together to improve learning outcomes for their students.

Ancillary Staff include: Finance Officer, Secretary, School support staff working with specific student and also supporting the Resource Centre and a Grounds Person.

The Christian Pastoral Support Worker works to support all students, staff and community members in a pastoral role, referral role and a resource role.

- Leadership structure  
:Principal, Deputy Principal and Coordinator.
- Staff support systems  
:Training and Development session are organised on a regular basis and determined by staff needs and the school's priorities. The Coordinator regularly offers sessions which focus on ICT's.
- Performance Management  
:Structures are established to provide all staff with the opportunity to improve their performance within a supportive framework. A culture of learning from each other and taking risks to improve skills and abilities is encouraged. The Principal meets with staff throughout the year and provides written feedback at least once a year.
- Staff utilisation policies  
:During recent years staff have agreed to use a proportion of their FIR. allocation to reduce the class size of early childhood classes. The PAC (Principal's Advisory committee) meets regularly to ensure that effective staff consultation occurs in relation to human resource management.
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- Access to special staff  
:Families and students are supported to access Guidance Officers, Speech Therapist, CAMHS and other support agencies when required
- Other  
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## 8. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds  
:Buildings consist of a two story brick building approx 30 years old and two demac buildings as well as a separate Activity Room. The grounds are spacious and picturesque and provide an excellent environment for recreational and environmental activities. These include a full sized beautifully maintained oval, two separate fixed playground areas, other grassed spaces as well as a creek setting with a wealth of flora and fauna.
- Cooling  
:All classrooms have reverse cycle airconditioners as well as ceiling fans in the main brick building.

- Specialist facilities
  - Recently renovated Resource Centre.
  - Music, Dance and Drama Room
  - Computing Room
  - German Room
  - Art Room
  - OSHC Room
- Student facilities
  - Students have access to all the Specialist facilities mentioned above. They also have access to computers and are provided with their own email address.
- Staff facilities
  - :Recently upgraded Staffroom and Conference Room.
  - All staff have access to computers and the internet and each staff member has their own email address.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
  - :There is a ramp in the grounds which provides wheelchair access.
  - There is a shower facility on site.
- Access to bus transport
  - :Bus stop outside the main building.
- Other
  - :Hawthorndene Kindergarten is adjacent to the school.

## 9 School Operations

- Decision making structures
  - :Regular meetings are scheduled for a variety of purposes from whole staff to Year Level groups to Team meetings and interest groups. When proposals require a decision, if consensus is not reached then a vote is taken.
- Regular publications
  - :School newsletters are distributed every fortnight and are also published on the school's website. Class teachers send class newsletters home on a regular basis, particularly in the J.P. years. Parent and Staff Handbooks are available from the Front Office. Weekly Staff Bulletins are provided for all staff.
- Other communication
  - :Class Parent representatives are appointed each year as a connection between the P&F and each class. Web Site and email facility is also available.

- School financial position  
:The school has an Annual Budget and works within these parameters to resource all curriculum areas and maintain the buildings and grounds to a very high standard. Currently we have established two separate tax deductible funds which parents may contribute to. The Library Fund which enables new resources/materials to be purchased each year, and a Building Fund into which all fundraising amounts are deposited so that we can apply for a loan to build a new Multi Purpose Hall in the near future.
  - Special funding  
:In 2006 the school successfully applied to the federal government through the “Investing in Schools” program for funding to support three school initiatives. They are:  
The replacement and installation of Reverse Cycle Airconditions (\$53,230)  
The refurbishment of the Demac toilet block (\$62,036)  
The procurement of Interactive Whiteboards (\$33,509)
- Funding was also received to implement the “Boys for Success” program. All staff were released to participate in T&D for this program.

## 10. Local Community

- General characteristics  
:Mainly English speaking background . Very supportive of the school and the education program offered. There is a strong sense of “community”. Living in the Mitcham Hills identifies our community and develops a unity and sense of belonging to this beautiful area. The school is a focus for the the community.
- Parent and community involvement  
:Involvement in the school is extremely high. Many parents participate within the classroom on a regular basis. Other parents participate on a more formal level by nominating to belong to the following groups:  
Hawthorndene Governing Council, Buildings and Grounds, Parents and Friends, Finance Advisory, Sports, OSHC, Fundraising and Education.
- Feeder schools  
:Hawthorndene Kindergarten is our main feeder school, however we occasionally get children from Jean Bonython and Blackwood Kindies.
- Other local care and educational facilities  
:Our Before and After School Care Program operates everyday from 7 a.m. until 6.15 p.m. We also offer a Vacation Care Program during each school holiday period.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
:Blackwood is our nearest shopping and commercial centre. It is approx. 1.5 kms from the school.

- Other local facilities
  - :Belair National Park and Golf Course, Hawthorndene Apex Park, Blackwood Library, Blackwood Hospital, Wittunga Botanic Garden
- Accessibility
  - :Adelaide Metro Bus Service has a stop outside the school. This service also connects with the train service at Blackwood Railway station.
- Local Government body
  - :Mitcham Council 8272 8888
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