

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: February 2023

**School number:** 0270

**School name:** Mitcham Primary School

## School Profile:

Mitcham Primary School's vision is to develop positive, resilient and lifelong learners who strive to achieve their personal best. Our values are Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

Mitcham Primary School staff strive to engage and develop the potential in every child so that they can achieve at the highest possible level through quality teaching and learning. The school works in collaboration with parents and students to provide high quality education. Evidence-based pedagogical practices and the Australian Curriculum are the frameworks used to design our teaching and learning. Specialist programmes include performing arts, instrumental music (years 4-6), senior choir, physical education, French and science. Research based intervention programmes such as Multilit and Quicksmart are offered to students who require extra support in literacy and numeracy. English as an Additional Language and/or Dialect (EALD) is also provided to those students who require language support.

Our community has high expectations in all areas of learning and want their children to achieve their personal best. The school also looks for opportunities to support parents with their own learning through parent workshops on matters that will support parents' understanding of the social, emotional or educational needs of their child.

There is a strong sense of community with parent representatives for each class and volunteering elsewhere within the school, fostering a supportive family environment. Parents are encouraged to engage in a range of committees and in the Governing Council to support the school's priorities.

Mitcham Primary has undergone major facilities and grounds upgrades in the last 7 years including innovative learning environments, extensive play spaces, gymnasium and performing arts areas.

# 1. General information

- School Principal name: Scott Greenshields
- Deputy Principal's name: Sue Blight
- Assistant Principal (Special Education & Wellbeing): Susan Bowler
- Assistant Principal (Curriculum): Lexie Anderson
- Coordinator (Digital Technologies): Lachlan Norman
- Year of opening: 1847
- Postal Address: 20a Hillview Rd, Kingswood, 5062
- Location Address: Mitcham Plains
- DECD Region: Southern
- Geographical location: 6kms from GPO
- Telephone number: 08 8271 2227
- School website address: <http://www.mitchamps.sa.edu.au>
- School e-mail address: [dl.0270.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0270.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Privately run through Happy Haven
- February FTE student enrolment: 624

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Reception</b>	92	82	101	87	93
<b>Year 1</b>	86	89	84	104	89
<b>Year 2</b>	96	89	89	77	105
<b>Year 3</b>	88	101	86	91	74
<b>Year 4</b>	115	88	97	90	90
<b>Year 5</b>	97	108	85	91	84
<b>Year 6</b>	89	90	103	83	89
<b>Year 7</b>	95	72	78	-	-
<b>Link Students</b>	7	10	8	-	-
<b>TOTAL including Link</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>624</b>
<b>NESB</b>	225	179	136	129	158
<b>School card Approvals</b>	61	72	58	43	-
<b>Aboriginal FTE Enrolment</b>	0	0	0	4	4



- Student enrolment trends: Generally children come from families with professional backgrounds. High school destinations of Mitcham Primary Year 6 students vary. The greatest percentage attend Unley HS as it is the zoned high school for most students.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

40 part and full time teachers (including Leadership, EALD, supporting 24 classes) 25 SSO part and full time (providing Library, class room support, student intervention and office administration)

18 SSO part and full time (providing Library, class room support, student intervention and office administration)

- Public transport access: Harrow Terrace, Cross Roads and Belair Road are all within walking distance of the school. The public transport system uses all of these roads.
- Special site arrangements: The school works with other schools in the DfE partnership including some closure days and combined staff meetings
- General characteristics
  - : Mitcham Primary School serves a generally affluent community that has high expectations of the school academically and socially. The school works in collaboration with parents and students to provide high quality education. There is a strong sense of community with parent representatives for each class and committees within the school, fostering a supportive family environment.
- Student well-being programmes
  - : To facilitate academic and social growth the school is organised into four levels of schooling; Reception-Year 1, Year 2, Year 3-4 and Year 5-6. Buddy classes operate between younger and older classes to support a culture of respect, responsibility and resilience. Staff regularly receive professional development in familiarising themselves with strategies to support student's personal and social capabilities making sure we are using current DfE practices and procedures. Student well-being programmes such as Student Voice, Anti-Bullying and Leadership Programmes are a priority at Mitcham, Parents work in partnership with the school to support student learning. A pastoral care worker works on site full-time supporting students in class and the yard.



- Student support offered
  - : We are committed to full time integration and inclusion of children with disabilities. Research based intervention programmes such as Multilit and Quicksmart are offered to students who need extra support in literacy and numeracy. Students who are verified as eligible for the DFE Disability Support Programme receive support as identified in their OnePlan. The OnePlan is developed in collaboration with parents and school staff and is reviewed on an individual basis as needs change.
- Student management
  - : Whole school behaviour management structures that are underpinned by our values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience are in place for class and yard behaviour. All classes develop class expectations around behaviour. The leadership team follow up incidences and facilitate parent meetings in extreme cases. Parents are supportive of the school's structures. School uniform is a requirement.
- Student government
  - : All students have the right to learn in a safe and supportive environment. Weekly class meetings and fortnightly SRC meetings are held. An elected male and female representative from each class attends SRC. Staff support decisions taken at SRC. 2 female and 2 male year 6 students are elected as SRC School Captains and 9 students from year 6 are elected to form the Student Executive.
- Special programmes
  - : STEM Extension programme for identified students in Years 3 – 6. Researched based intervention Programmes R-6 for students identified with specific learning difficulties, English as an Additional Language and or Dialect (EALD), a large Instrumental Music programme and After Hours Sports are offered.

### 3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Mitcham Primary School is part of the Mitcham Plains Partnership. Curriculum leadership within the partnership focusses on literacy and numeracy improvement and the retention of students in the higher bands through task design, intellectual stretch, and differentiation and student voice.

Mitcham Primary's site Improvement Plan is a living document that is owned by all staff and is approved by Governing Council.

- Recent key outcomes:

Mitcham Primary School performs well in the areas of literacy and numeracy. The majority of our students are achieving well above the National Minimum Standard. We continue support students in the lower bands to meet the National Minimum Standard through classroom differentiation and targeted literacy and numeracy programmes.



Year 1 phonological awareness scores have continued to validate our decision to fund and implement the Read, Write, Inc. phonics programme in Reception and Year 1 classes. A high percentage of our students are achieving excellent results in PAT-R and Brightpath as a consequence. This is also a testament to the strength of our literacy programmes through the increased focus on writing stamina and effective strategies for reading and comprehension in primary year levels.

In Numeracy, we continue to target increased achievement through extensive whole staff and targeted small group professional development in task design. Our focus for numeracy programmes is to engage students in quality open-ended tasks with a high level of challenge, problem solving and opportunities for deep learning.

## 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: Mitcham Primary School teachers plan, teach and assess using the fully implemented Australian Curriculum. All teaching programmes have rigorous team based planning processes which allow for student centred inquiry approaches.
- Special needs:  
Targeted support (small group or individual) is provided for students with disabilities through OnePlans. This support is managed by the Assistant Principal (Special Education & Wellbeing). Mitcham Primary School conducts a range of intervention programmes to support students with specific learning needs. This includes students with disabilities, students who have English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD), Maths Intervention and learning support in literacy. There is a pre-referral process in place where student data is analysed and collated so that assessment and/or intervention can be prioritised collaboratively with DfE service providers.
- Teaching methodology:  
Teachers use an extensive range of teaching pedagogies with an emphasis on higher order thinking skills, problem solving, investigations project work, and collaborative learning that meets the developmental and specific learning needs of different cohorts of students and individuals.  
Cyber safety is an integral part of health programmes and all students and parents sign a digital devices user agreement annually. R to 6 classes have access to ipads and laptops. The school employs part-time ICT technicians to ensure the continual management and updating of hardware.
- Student assessment procedures and reporting  
At Mitcham Primary School assessment consists of the following interrelated components:  
Assessment - comprises Federal (NAPLAN), State (Progressive Achievement Tests - PAT) and school-based assessments. Assessments are designed to enable teachers to plan and refine their teaching. There are summative and formative assessments. Summative assessments occur at the culmination of the teaching and learning process, giving the students the opportunity to demonstrate what has been learned, whilst formative assessments provide information about what is required in the next stage of learning. Formative

assessment also aims to promote learning by giving regular and frequent feedback.

Recording - Teachers collect this information using a variety of tools including observation, performance assessment, process focused assessments, selected responses and open ended tasks. A variety of tools are used for recording and analysing including rubrics, exemplars, checklists, anecdotal records and continuums.

Reporting - Reporting to families occurs in a number of ways throughout the year. In term one interviews are conducted. Semester one and Semester two reports are provided to parents.

- **Sporting Activities**

Mitcham PS has a school services officer (SSO) to support the management of the large number of sports and other curricular activities offered to students. After hours sports include cricket, netball, basketball, soccer and AFL. In addition, students access School Sport SA (formerly SAPSASA) from Year 5 to 6. The school has a sports day in term 4, a swimming carnival for years 4 -6 and swimming lessons/aquatics for R-6 students.

## **5. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

The co-curricular activities are varied and an important way for students to try new skills and become involved in the wider school community. Activities include sporting teams, Chess, instrumental music programme (bands and ensembles which are provided by the Instrumental music teachers), STEM Club, Choir and the Year 6 Festival of Music choir.

## **6. Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile**

Mitcham Primary has a large teaching and non-teaching staff. There is a balance of permanent and contract teachers with advertised teacher positions highly contested with numerous applications.

- **Leadership structure**

Currently there is a fulltime Principal, 1 Deputy Principals, 2 Assistant Principals (Special Education and Wellbeing) (Curriculum) and a Coordinator Digital Technologies). The Business Manager has line management responsibility for all SSOs and is a member of the leadership team. The leadership team is committed to providing leadership opportunities for staff.

- **Staff support systems**

All staff are members of a year level team (PLC). Teachers work and plan collaboratively in these teams. Teachers collaboratively develop units of learning in line with the Australian Curriculum. There is a weekly staff meeting where time is spent on professional learning and administration. A structured agenda enables staff to share information, make decisions and to learn and share in small groups.

- **Performance Management**  
Staff performance management occurs through meetings and class observations with line managers. The school uses the DFE Performance Plan documentation with all staff having performance Plans, reflecting on progress and receiving feedback from line managers
- **Staff utilisation policies**  
The Assistant Principal (Special Education and Wellbeing) facilitates the management of learning support and the Special Education Intervention Team. SSOs provide a range of support focussed on school management and student learning. Teachers write individual OnePlans for students with specific needs that are reviewed and shared with parents/caregivers annually.

## 7. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**  
The school has a variety of buildings spread over a large site generally aligned by year level. There are buildings from the 1940s through to a new gymnasium being built in 2022. There are large leafy grounds where students play during breaks, with students playing in designated areas in the school including a nature play area. The Out of School Hours Care programme (located in the Gymnasium and Performing Arts) offers before school, after school and vacation care programmes. The large, air-conditioned gymnasium is used extensively for Physical Education specialist teaching, school events and assemblies. This space provides storage for sports equipment. The specialist French, Science and Performing Arts teachers have dedicated teaching and learning spaces across the school campus. Our dedicated library is an integral part of our Innovation Centre where students engage in the STEM design thinking process. There are computers and devices in all classrooms. All R-6 students have access to ipads or computers to support flexible learning opportunities. The school employs IT support personnel to manage the technical infrastructure. We have a school Uniform Shop located near the main administration building. Opening hours are published on the school website.
- **Heating and cooling**  
The school has heating and cooling.
- **Student facilities**  
Students have access to a variety of learning spaces throughout the school. Our library is well utilised by all along with our lunch time STEM clubs. The extensive grounds are used extensively by staff to engage in outdoor learning experiences.
- **Staff facilities**  
All staff have access to the staff room and teacher/sso prep rooms throughout the school.



- Access for students and staff with disabilities  
Students and staff with disabilities have access using ramps and disabled toilets.
- Access to bus transport  
Buses are able to enter the school carpark if needs be.

## 9. School Operations

- Decision making structures  
Decision making is shared between the Principal, Personnel Advisory Committee, Staff, Governing Council and the SRC in accordance with DfE policy. Forums for decision making include: staff meetings, professional learning communities, year level teams and a range of subcommittees. School Service Officers meet every fortnight each term. The Governing Council is an active decision making team with subcommittees for Finance, Grounds, Community Engagement, Fundraising, OHSC and Sport. These committees make recommendations for Governing Council approval. Meetings are designed to be issues based with committee reports tabled unless decisions require agreement. There is a focus on staff sharing practice on their professional learning and teaching pedagogy.
- Regular publications  
A school newsletter is published three times per term. Teachers post weekly updates to parents via the class SeeSaw app. The school uses 'Sentral' which allows for daily communication to staff and also stores minutes from meetings, student profiles and allows the preparation of reports. A great deal of information is disseminated to parents via Sentral, SeeSaw and the MPS website which enables parents to receive up to date information on extra-curricular activities and school events. Each year teachers are provided with a Mitcham PS handbook which gives them information they need to know about the day to day operations
- School financial position  
The school has a sound financial base and is prudent with its spending. We rely on school fees and fundraising to provide additional school resources. There are no major loans or on-going repayment responsibilities.

## 10. Local Community

- General characteristics  
Parents are actively involved in supporting staff and students with reading, excursions, sports, camps and school sport. Each class elects Class Parent Reps whose role is to liaise with parents, teacher and students for various reasons. Parents are encouraged to attend assemblies and social events organised by the Community Engagement and Fundraising committee and the school.





- Parent and community involvement  
Parental involvement is good as indicated by the number of sub committees and commitment to sporting teams. An informed and active Governing Council contributes to school management and operates a very successful canteen.
- Feeder or destination schools  
Mitcham Pre-School, Mitcham Village and Netherby are our main feeder kindergartens but we are increasingly attracting children from other child-care and pre-school settings.  
Many children attend Unley High School for their secondary education while a significant number access the private system.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
Close to Urrbrae Wetlands and Mitcham Shopping Centre
- Local Government body  
Mitcham City Council

## 12. Further Comments

- Mitcham Primary School was opened in 1847 and is the oldest public school in the state of South Australia.

