



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0822

School name: Whyalla High School

School Profile Text:

Whyalla High School is situated 500 metres from the Whyalla Foreshore overlooking Spencer Gulf and the large well maintained school oval. The attractive main building received Heritage Listing status in 2003. Whyalla Technical High School, as the school was originally known, was built by BHP in 1943 as the first high school in Whyalla and for some years operated as a Trade School for BHP apprentices. The school was renamed Whyalla High School in 1971 and continued to provide education for students in years 8 to 12 until 1991 when secondary education in Whyalla undertook a major restructure. Whyalla High School (WHS) along with the two other public high schools in the town, Edward John Eyre High School (EJEHS) and Stuart High School (SHS), began to operate under the banner of The Whyalla Secondary College with WHS and SHS both providing years 8-10 education and EJEHS catering for years 11 and 12. More recently, in 2011 the Whyalla Secondary Schools Alliance was formed to develop a vision for the future of secondary education in Whyalla.

The school motto *Una Omnibus Schola - One School for All* is supported by an agreed vision and values that were developed and adopted by the school community.

The core values of the school are Respect, Inclusion, Relationships and Learning Achievement.

Students at Whyalla High School have positive experiences in many areas including academic, sport, arts, music and service to the community.

A rich learning environment has been developed through relationship building strategies, middle school methodologies, personalised learning support and individual opportunities for student's identified pathways. A Student Counsellor, Aboriginal Community Education Officer, and established links with other schools and agencies provide extra support for students and alternative pathways both within and outside of the school community

1. General information

- School Principal: Tricia Richman
- Deputy Principal: Jenna Hewlett
- Assistant Principal: Dianna Pickert
- Year of opening: 1943
- Postal Address: 20 Broadbent Terrace, Whyalla, SA 5600
- Location Address: 20 Broadbent Terrace, Whyalla, SA 5600
- DfE Region: Eyre and Western
- Geographical location 380km from Adelaide
- Telephone number: 08 8645 8844
- Fax Number: 08 8645 0057
- School website address: www.whyallahs.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: info@whyallahs.sa.edu.au

- **February FTE student enrolment:**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Year 8	137	171	189	173
Year 9	175	128	172	185
Year 10	141	165	129	168
Total	453	464	490	526
Aboriginal	57	53	54	62
School Card	125	127	128	

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Student enrolments at WHS have shown a rapid increase over the past 3 years, to a peak of 531 in 2019. At its peak, as a year 8-12 school, student numbers reached almost 1500 later dropping away as the school reduced its year level options and the population of Whyalla decreased due to closure of the Shipyards.

- **Staffing numbers (as at February census):**

- Principal
- Deputy Principal
- Assistant Principal
- 7 x Coordinators
- 32 teachers
- Finance Officer
- 17 x School Services Officers
- 1 x Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer
- 2 Groundsmen

- **Public transport access:**

A privately owned City Bus Service provides transport to both residents and students across all areas of the city. These transport needs are also supported by a local taxi service. This service is also accessed by Whyalla High School students.

An intercity bus service and regional airline company provide several daily services to and from Adelaide and other local regions.

- **Special site arrangements:**

The three secondary schools in Whyalla have formed an Alliance to provide a rich and diverse curriculum for students across years 8-12.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

The majority of students are from English speaking families and from a variety of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Many students are the second or third generation members of their family to attend the school. Most families live in the eastern area of the city but a considerable number travel from the western area to attend the school using the city bus service or private transport. In 2018 approximately 10% of students identify as Aboriginal and 7% have verified disabilities.

- **Student well-being programs**

Be You values and programmes are embedded in the Care Group programme undertaken by all students.

- **Student management**

Whole School and Year Level assemblies are held regularly where individual, group and whole school successes are celebrated and information shared.

The Positive Behaviours for Learning Policy has a code of behaviour consistent with the expectations of staff, students, parents and caregivers. Students are taught to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and are guided by negotiated class and school rules. All staff value positive relationships and underpin all student management processes with these values.

- **Student government**

An active Student Voice Team consisting of elected representatives from each Care Group meets each week. Students lead the meetings and develop agenda topics. Two students attend Governing Council Meetings to provide student voice to this forum.

3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:**

Goal 1 – Increase and maintain student’s achievement in writing from Year 7 to Year 9.

Goal 2 – Increase and maintain student achievement in all subjects.

Goal 3 – Increase and maintain reading achievement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students.

Further details of school priorities can be found in the Site Improvement Plan, accessible via the school web site.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**

All students in years 8-10 engage in the four phase one Australian Curriculum subjects (English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences). We have made it one of our priorities to implement STEM (Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering) activities across the middle school curriculum. This means that aspects of STEM are either embedded in core and experiential subjects or are run as separate choice subjects at different year levels.

All year 8 students experience learning Language, Health and Physical Education, Home Economics, Technology and Arts (visual arts , performing arts and music).

At year 9 and 10 level, students begin to select pathways aligned with their learning pathway, identified through the development of a Personal Learning Plan. Options include:

Drama	Design & Technology
Music	Workshop Practices
Art	Science, Technology, Mathematics & Engineering (STEM)
F1 in Schools	Automotive, Construction, Electrotechnology & Engineering (ACEE)
Photography	Robotics
Health and Physical Education	Land Rover 4 x 4 Technology Challenge
Outdoor Education	Wood Technology
Human Movement	South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Association (SAASTA)
Child Development	Whyalla Alliance Sports Program (WASP)
Fashion Design	
Food Technology	
Certificate I in Hospitality	
Textiles	

- **Special needs:**

The school has developed a Learning Centre to provide personalised and small group learning support. Students access this support by teacher or self referral and have clear objectives for short term achievement. This support applies for students with identified learning needs or extension.

- **Special curriculum features:**

Whyalla High School delivers Certificate I in Hospitality – Kitchen Operations as part of the Eyre and Western Trade Training Centre. Students can also access other VET pathways provided by other secondary schools in Whyalla.

- **Teaching methodology:**

As a school we work in middle school teams, where possible, with two teachers, as core partners working between two classes. This team works together across the four core subjects English, Mathematics, Science and History/Geography. Specialist subjects are provided by expert teachers in those areas.

At year 10 level, students work in a model more aligned to that of a senior secondary curriculum, where there is more subject selection and establishment of personal pathways.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

Written reports are sent to parents/carers at the end of term 2 and term 4. Learning Conversations are conducted at the end of term 1 and term 3. Continuous opportunities exist for parents/carers to meet with teachers to discuss their child's learning experiences and achievement.

5. Sporting Activities

The school is involved in "Knock Out" competitions in a range of sports as a means of allowing students to pursue their interests and skills in these sporting activities. A wide range of sporting activities are offered out of school hours by local sporting clubs e.g. football, soccer, hockey, netball, tennis, baseball, swimming, sailing and volleyball.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Year 8 students participate in a school camp at the beginning of their first year at school. This activity focuses on relationship and team building activities, and is held at a site established for this purpose.

Year 9 students have an opportunity to travel to Melbourne CBD participating in tours of locations that are considered culturally significant including the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australian Open venues, Melbourne Shrine and Chinatown as well as attending a musical.

Year 10 students have an opportunity to participate in a Ski Trip to the Victorian Snowfields. This event is a privilege and is offered to students with exceptional behaviour and learning attitudes.

An annual musical production provides students opportunity to express their skills in performing arts. In 2018 the musical was “We Will Rock You”, following successful seasons of “Joseph” in 2013, “All Shook Up” in 2014, “Grease” in 2015, “Addams Family” in 2016, and “The Little Mermaid” in 2017.

A Stage Band made up of students from across all Whyalla Schools provides a fabulous opportunity for young people with interest in music. The band participates in an annual tour where they perform to audiences in selected locations.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

The staff team is made of approximately one quarter beginning teachers, one half in their first 3-5 years of teaching and one quarter more experienced.

- **Leadership structure**

Principal, Deputy Principal, Assistant Principal and seven coordinators, ASETO and Finance Officer make up the leadership team.

- **Performance Management**

Each member of staff develops a Performance Development Plan (PDP) in collaboration with their line manager. The PDP links to the school’s Site Improvement Plan. Meetings are held at least once per term, and written feedback is provided to indicate achievement toward targets identified in the PDP.

- **Access to special staff**

Instrumental music teachers are available to all students. As part of their curriculum they will learn the theory of music, history and attend to practice of their chosen instrument.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points

0.5

- Isolation placement points

4.5

- **Housing assistance**

Teachers residing in country locations more than 40 kms from their 'home' are eligible for 'Government housing'. The rental at Whyalla is subsidised by 15% against the market rates. Teachers moving to the country have the right to access government housing through Real Estate Management (REM). If there is no housing available, REM will find private rental, enter into a lease agreement and the teacher will receive the subsidy. See Country Housing sheet for current rent concessions.

- **Locality allowances**

Whyalla attracts a Country Incentive allowance of \$4149.00 per annum. There is a special allowance for Whyalla of \$26 per annum. These are paid fortnightly.

- **Relocation assistance**

Teachers relocating to Whyalla will have their removal arranged by DECD including in transit insurance. Travel reimbursement, packing and accelerated depreciation of furniture allowances can also be claimed by completing an ED 131E form.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Built in 1942 the Main Building is of solid construction with thick walls, high ceilings, long corridors and general classrooms and science laboratories of a generous size. An attractive stone pillar and aesthetically pleasing stair case is viewed from the articulate marble entry and leads up to the well equipped Library/Resource Centre. The building is in good condition and its architectural significance has been recognised by gaining the status of heritage listing in 2003. The substantial buildings and maintained grounds are regarded as a major landmark within the city. The recreational areas include multi purpose sports courts, designated hard play and grassed zones and an oval. The multipurpose hall is used as the drama classroom, for school assemblies and is occasionally used after hours by various community groups. Students can access the large grassed oval area across the road for physical education lessons, sporting events and lunch break activities.

- **Heating and cooling**

All classrooms and workshops are air conditioned. Some workshop areas do not have heating.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

Students access facilities across all Whyalla secondary sites.

- **Student facilities**

The school canteen operates each day, providing recess and lunch for students (and staff) as needed. A pre-order system is used to minimise waste and ensure students access their preferred items.

- **Staff facilities**

Each member of the teaching staff is provided with an office space away from their teaching classrooms. Recently developed workspaces provide spacious accommodation for teacher's planning and preparation work in a team environment.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

The school is built on sloping land and as a result has many flights of steps for movement around the yard. Access ramps are provided where possible. There is no lift access to rooms above ground level.

- **Access to bus transport**

The school makes good use of the 25 seater Whyalla High School bus which is often the mode of transport for excursions and camps. We have recently purchased a 12 seater mini-van to assist with transport.

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

All staff are involved in decision making processes through a regular structure of meetings. A consensus model of decision making is preferred.

All policy reviews and developments are ratified by Governing Council. Governing Council meets on average once per month, and includes parent, community, staff and student representation.

- **Regular publications**

A school newsletter is published every four weeks, and given to students to take home and posted to interested community groups. The newsletter is posted on the school's web site.

- **Other communication**

A school Facebook page has been developed for sharing information with the community and seeking input to decision making processes. The site is monitored by the Deputy Principal.

- **School financial position**

The school has an effective and successful budgeting and expenditure process in place to ensure resources are appropriately targeted and managed.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

The coastal City of Whyalla with a population of around 24,000 is located 395 kilometres by road northwest of Adelaide. Several daily flights and bus routes operate between the cities.



Mining, steel manufacturing and associated industries along with health services, education and retail provide most of the employment in Whyalla. A number of major retail stores, a large choice of schools both public and private, a modern regional hospital and health service facility with resident and visiting specialists, Uni SA, TAFE SA along with a huge range of cultural, entertainment, religious, sporting and social opportunities make Whyalla a vibrant, progressive, engaging and “family-friendly” community.

- **Parent and community involvement**

Families of students engage well with the school and support student learning through attendance at parent, student and teacher reporting sessions, Governing Council, sporting and social events.

- **Feeder or destination schools**

Students enrol at Whyalla High School from one of eight local primary schools. There is also a considerable level of transience with students moving to the city from locations around the country.

- **Other local facilities**

Whyalla has facilities commensurate with those of a small city, in particular a substantial health service, tertiary education opportunities and a vast range of cultural and commercial establishments.

- **Accessibility**

Whyalla is approximately four hours from Adelaide by road. Regular public coach services operate daily. Whyalla is also serviced by Rex Airlines and Qantas, operating flights from Adelaide multiple times each day. The flight is approximately 30 minutes.

- **Local Government body**

The City of Whyalla provides local government to the community.