

SITE CONTEXT STATEMENT

South Downs Primary School and Disability Unit



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 1038

Updated: 2023

School name: South Downs Primary School

School Profile:

South Downs Primary School and Disability Unit is situated in Elizabeth Downs which is part of the City of Playford Council. South Downs Primary School is situated 30 kilometres from the Adelaide Central Business District. It is part of the Uleybury Partnership in the Department for Education (DfE).

The school was opened in 1967. It is classified as a Category 1 School on the DfE Index of Disadvantage. At South Downs Primary School and Disability Unit, we believe that quality teaching and learning is essential to all students reaching their full potential and experiencing success. Our School values, **Be Kind, Be Safe and Be a Learner** are a powerful message for all. Our Site Improvement Plan reflects these values and our belief that all students are capable of achieving their full potential.

Our classes range from Reception to Year 6. In 2023 there are 4 mainstream classes and 4 Disability Unit classes. South Downs Primary School has a strong sense of community with high expectations of students, staff and families.

South Downs Disability Unit accommodates 32 children with a range of physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Northern Suburbs of Adelaide.

South Downs Disability Unit offers an inclusive and individualised curriculum that is responsive to the needs of every child. Each child has a One Plan developed in collaboration with families and other support agencies. Staff work closely with a variety of external service providers to ensure learning opportunities and programs achieve the best outcomes for each child. We have a large focus on developing independence through a weekly cooking program and access to swimming in Term 4.

South Downs Disability Unit has a strong focus within their Site Improvement Plan on the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication, providing a sensory and play-based curriculum that develops communication, literacy and numeracy

Enrolments in the Disability Unit are determined through The Department for Education special option process. South Downs Primary School does not have the authority to enrol students in the Disability Unit as enrolments are offered externally by DfE Student Support Services.



1. General information

- School Principal name: Caitlin Manser
- Leadership team: James De Palma, David Molloy and Kurt Ferguson
- Year of opening: 1967
- Postal Address: Mavros Road, Elizabeth Downs SA 5113
- DfE Portfolio: Para Hills 4 – Uleybury Partnership
- Distance from GPO (km): Located in Elizabeth Downs opposite Argana Park
- Telephone number: (08) 8255 6380
- School website address: www.sthdownsps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.1038.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes – Happy Haven
- Public transport access: Yes

February FTE student enrolment	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reception	17	19	16	17	10	14	11	9
Year 1	14	17	19	16	12	10	14	11
Year 2	21	12	15	16	15	11	9	16
Year 3	12	17	13	13	14	13	13	11
Year 4	17	8	19	19	21	16	12	11
Year 5	15	15	10	18	11	9	13	13
Year 6	13	17	14	7	14	14	13	11
JP Disability Unit	-	-	8	8	8	24	24	14
Primary Disability Unit	-	-	8	8	8	7	8	16
Total	130	116	139	136	136	137	117	112

Staffing:

Leadership	1 Principal, 3 Senior Leaders
Total teachers	6 FTE, 6 Part Time Teachers
School Services Officers (SSOs)	7 Permanent, 16 Contract
Aboriginal Community Education Officer	1 (13 hours per week)

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

School Card Assisted Students – 73.91%

English as an Additional Dialect – 13.91%

Aboriginal Students – 15.17%

Students with Disabilities – 41.73%

Student well-being programs

South Downs is committed to student wellbeing with a strong focus on promoting positive behaviour.

The Berry Street Education Model: provides schools with training, curriculum and strategies to engage the most challenging students. It is a positive education framework that supports teachers meet the specific needs of young people, particularly those who have been affected by trauma. Identified staff undertook the 4 day training in 2018 and the school was successful in applying for a Trauma Informed Schools Grant in 2018 which has resulted in all staff undertaking domains 1 and 2 in 2019 and then 3 and 4 in 2020.

In 2022, all staff were trained in Interception to support student regulation. In 2023, a PLC has been created to further support the work of implementing Interception consistently across all classrooms.

Child Protection Curriculum: The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS: CPC) is a child safety program for children and young people from age 3 to year 12.

Breakfast Club is available for all students, everyday in the Canteen from 8.30-8.50am. Our ACEO and Senior Leaders, operate the initiative, with community volunteers. Food is provided by Kickstart for Kids.

Student support offered

For students with additional needs, Student Support Services (SSS) provide proactive, targeted and intensive intervention services. Where teachers have identified a particular need for support for a targeted student(s), and have discussed/gained consent from a parent or guardian for SSS involvement, they can make a pre-referral to the Students at Risk Review Team (STAR). The STAR Team will review the need for referral and can support the teacher's access to Student Support Services. The teacher will need to describe the barriers the student is facing and the prior adjustments made.

SSS have a number of Departmental providers that can support teachers to work with and implement adjustments for targeted students in the classroom, including:

- Special Educator (and Special Educator – Hearing)
- Psychologist
- Speech Pathologist
- Behaviour Support Coach
- Speech Pathology
- Aboriginal Education Services

Students at South Downs Primary School and Disability Unit can also access therapy sessions with NDIS external service providers, with providers gaining access to therapy rooms on site.



Student management

Anti-Bullying Policy – stating the responsibilities of Students, Staff and Parents. This policy outlines what bullying is, the types of bullying, strategies to deal with bullying and the processes for students and parents to undertake in order to report bullying.

SDPS Behaviour Management Policy – outlines the expectations and processes the school undertakes when dealing with both inappropriate and appropriate student behaviour. This is reviewed annually with staff and student input.

Student government

A student voice team meets twice per term to work with leadership and governing council on school improvement and fundraising.

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies: A copy of the Site Improvement Plan can be found at www.sthsownsps.sa.edu.au

Recent key outcomes: A copy of our Annual Report can be found at www.sthdownsps.sa.edu.au



4. Curriculum

Subject offerings:

The Australian Curriculum sets the achievement standards for South Australian school students in eight learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- The Arts
- Technologies
- Health and Physical Education
- Cultural Studies – Japanese

Additional needs:

Students with One Plan are supported through:

- Individual programs with 1:1 SSO support
- Small group in class SSO support
- Individual in class SSO support
- A One Plan Timeline has been established to support staff, students and parents in this process.
- Quality Differentiated Teaching Practices

Student assessment procedures and reporting:

- Running Records R-5 – towards the end of each term
- Accelerated Reader Quizzes – weekly
- Star Reader Tests – weeks 9/10 each term
- NAPLAN Yrs 3 and 5 – March
- Report Grades – end of each Semester
- PASM – Phonological Awareness Skill Mapping - Rec T4 W4
- Y1 Phonics Check Term 3 Week 3
- PAT Reading/Maths – 1-7 T3 W7-9
- Individual Reading & Maths Targets – R-6 set & reviewed termly
- Parent-Teacher interviews are conducted in Term 1 and upon parent/ teacher request at other times

5. Sporting Activities

Class teachers teach the Physical Education subject area and also provide daily fitness activities. South Downs hosts an annual Sports Day and Colour Fun Run. The Sports Coordinator organises for students to be involved in a range of SAPSASA opportunities as they arise.



6. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile:

Length of service at the school ranges from one year to approximately twenty years. Staff are committed to the learning and social development of all students and work collaboratively towards this. Ancillary staff (SSOs) work extensively in classrooms as para professionals and are highly skilled in supporting staff and students particularly in the areas of Personal and Social Capabilities development, Literacy and Numeracy.

Leadership structure:

The leadership structure at the site consists of a full time Principal, a Senior Leader for Inclusion, a Senior Leader for Curriculum & Pedagogy and a Student Wellbeing Leader.

Performance Management:

PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

TERM	ACTIONS	WHO
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome letters Timetable Term overviews – Maths & English or Specialist Area Individual student targets – Reading– spreadsheets & student desks Individual PDPs draft, meeting, finalise with LM Student Targets Feedback & check in with LM 	Class teachers All teachers All teachers Class teachers All teachers All teachers Class teachers
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timetable Term overviews – as T1 Individual student targets – as T1 Informal peer observations by request Term Overview feedback & check in with LM 	All teachers All teachers Class teachers Teacher books with LM All teachers
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timetable Term overviews – as T1 Individual student targets – as T1 Lesson observations –booked, taught, reflective meeting, written feedback PDP 6mth review and meeting with LM 	All teachers All teachers Class teachers All teachers, LM, peer All teachers
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timetable Term overviews – as T1 Individual student targets – as T1 PDP 12mth review and meeting 	All teachers All teachers Class teachers All teachers

Access to special staff:

The school has a strong working relationship with outside providers including those who work within the Department for Education i.e. Special Educators and those who provide support to students who work outside the Department i.e. Occupational Therapists.

7. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds:

The school buildings are comprised of 4 SAMCON units. Most of which are utilised by the school. In 2021, as a result of the expansion of the Disability Unit to four classes, all mainstream classes are now situated in Blocks 3 and 4. The computer room was re-located to Block One and the Disability Unit is situated in Block



Two. In January, the school replaced the old playground that was located near the oval with an inclusive playground that had wheelchair access.

In 2022, a new school garden was constructed consisting of new planter boxes for each class to be responsible for planting and growing a variety of vegetables and fruits. Another addition in 2022 was a new nature play area which replaced 2 sheds.

Heating and cooling:

Classes have reverse cycle split system air-conditioning and heating which can be set to specific temperature.

Specialist facilities and equipment:

There is a gymnasium on site which students have access to during class lessons. In 2022, new laptops were purchased to ensure that Year 3-6 students have access to 1:1 devices. We also purchased new I pads to also ensure that our Disability Unit students have access to 1:1 I pads.

Access for students and staff with disabilities:

Ramps are provided so that all areas of the school can be accessed.

8. School Operations

Decision making structures:

South Downs Primary School has an active Governing Council who work closely with the staff and leadership team on our improvement journey. The school has a PAC which supports the Principal with staffing and budget decisions.

Regular publications:

School newsletters are sent home in weeks 3, 6 and 9. The Facebook site is regularly updated and communication via SeeSaw is used in the Disability Unit. Issues which are urgent are sent home via individual notes and through our whole school text communication, Whispir.

School financial position:

South Downs is a financially viable institution with its major commitment being towards student growth and learning in literacy and numeracy.

9. Local Community

Parent and community involvement:

South Downs Primary School is committed to forging and maintaining strong connections with families. Volunteers are also welcome to support students by listening to reading.

Our Governing Council has a passionate Fundraising Committee who organise a variety of stalls across the year.

Feeder or destination schools:

The school has no designated kindergarten nor preschool. There are two main high schools where students attend from South Downs Primary School, which are Craigmare High and Playford International College.

Other local facilities:

The school is located opposite Argana Park which has excellent netball, football and soccer sporting facilities. Elizabeth Park and Craigmare shopping centres are close by, while the major Elizabeth shopping precinct is a short distance from our site.

