



## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 24/06/2016

**School number:** 0666

**School name:** DARLINGTON SCHOOL

Darlington School is a rich and diverse educational community. Contemporary practice continues to be implemented to provide a supportive, purposeful learning community. High expectations and quality learning opportunities will ensure the development of expert learners. We work in close partnership with families and the wider community to create opportunities for our students to develop the skills and knowledge they need to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As an educational community we value: respect, responsibility and resilience forming a strong foundation on which to promote success for all.

### 1. General information

- **School Principal:** Kathryn Entwistle
- **Deputy Principal:** Jo Miller
- **Year of opening**

Darlington School was opened in 1953

Darlington Junior Primary was later opened in 1965

The Primary and Junior Primary Schools amalgamated in 1986

Intensive English Language Programme commenced in 2012

Child Development Centre opened 2014

- **Postal Address and Location Address:**  
9-11 White Crescent, Seacombe Gardens 5047
- **DECD Partnership:** Marion Coast
- **Geographical location** – 15km south of Adelaide
- **Telephone number:** 0882963318
- **Fax Number:** 0882983672
- **School website address:** [www.darlngtnps.sa.edu.au](http://www.darlngtnps.sa.edu.au)
- **School e-mail address:** [dl.0666.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0666.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

- **Kindergarten or CPC Facilities on site.**

Darlington Children’s Centre is on site. The leadership teams from the Children’s Centre and Primary School have a long history of shared and collaborative leadership focused on promoting high quality teaching and learning in partnership with families and the wider community. The Kindergarten offers to families flexible kindergarten sessions and occasional care.

- **Child Development Centre**

The Child Development Centre on site focuses on quality care education Birth to 8 years of age.

- **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service**

Darlington School OSHC and Vacation Care Programmes are well established and offer an accredited high quality educational care programme for families and their children.

Operational times are as follows;

7.00am to 6.00pm Monday – Friday

Vacation Care Programmes are offered during term holiday breaks

- **March FTE student enrolment:**

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
2012	33	30	35	28	32	30	30	47	265
2013	25	39	36	34	36	39	33	35	247
2014	39	29	42	35	36	49	39	40	303
2015	32	50	39	42	34	38	32	35	302
2016	51	28	41	44	35	28	34	32	293

	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		<b>2014</b>		<b>2015</b>		<b>2016</b>	
	No's	%								
<b>School Card</b>	77	29	159	64	165	54	165	54	98	33
<b>NESB</b>	123	46	128	52	153	51	143	47	153	51
<b>ATSI</b>	47	17	47	19	44	15	58	19	47	31

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Enrolments have remained stable since their increase in 2014. Enrolments at the end of the year are expected to be approximately 305

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

33.3 FTE comprising 29.1 Tier 1, 4.2 Tier 2. These figures include Principal, Deputy, Counsellor, Coordinator of Pedagogy and Curriculum Development, Teacher-Librarian, AET. There is also a Christian Pastoral Support Worker. Ancillary staff includes Finance Officer, 2 ACEO's, 10 SSO's, 3 BSSO's & Groundsperson.

- **Public transport access:**

Buses access the City & Westfield Marion. Oaklands Railway Station is also accessible.

- **Special site arrangements:**

Darlington is a member of the Marion Coast Partnership which includes; Darlington Children's Centre, Hallett Cove Karrara Kindergarten, Hallett Cove Preschool, Trott Park Kindergarten, Woodend Children's Centre, Seaview Downs Kindergarten, Hallett Cove East Primary School, Hallett Cove South Primary School, Seacliff Primary School, Seaview Downs Primary School, Sheidow Park Primary School, Woodend Primary School, Hallett Cove School & Seaview High School

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

### General characteristics:

Darlington School has a diverse and rich culture. Students come from an 8km radius & from a variety of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Students in the IEL program come from further afield and most come by specially organized mini-buses.

- **Student management:**

Well-being for learning is a strong focus and is supported by the school values of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility. Behaviour Education and Bullying – No Way Policies have undergone major revitalization in 2016 and are now heavily supported by the Restorative Justice Framework and Play is the Way philosophies. These policies are founded upon the neuroscience of learning and the DECD Wellbeing Framework. Through ongoing professional development, staff have developed a deep knowledge and understanding of how to build and support positive behaviour. An interagency case management model is used where appropriate. Mediation supports students to reflect on their behaviour and accept responsibility for their decisions.

- **Student government:**

Darlington School Student Governance Model is structured upon weekly classroom meetings where students formulate the agenda, discuss issues and put forward agenda items and proposals for consideration to the Student Representative Council which meets on a weekly basis. The representation of this group is inclusive R-7.

A leadership-training program is held each year. Currently this program is managed by the Health and PE teacher.

- **Special programs:**

Intensive English Language Program

National Partnerships Chaplaincy Program

Play is the Way

Community Development Programs – through Child Development Centre

Community Garden

Breakfast Club

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

- **Site Improvement Plan includes**

**LITERACY:** Reading and reading comprehension are target areas

**NUMERACY:** Problem solving and the application of computations in context are priorities

**WELLBEING:** Attendance and Behaviour Education are focus areas

**2013 saw the initiation of the school’s vision to Develop Expert Learners. The intent is to ensure that when students exit Darlington School they do so as informed, resourceful and strategic learners, independently prepared for challenges and opportunities in their future.**

An External Review, led by Rob Harkin and Helen Tunney in 2015, showed that Darlington Primary School had engaged in rigorous self-review and had implemented consistent and contemporary approaches to teaching and learning as well as staff professional learning and planning.

*“The Expert Learner agenda has been skillfully, strategically and incrementally developed and is now embedded in the culture of the school, evidenced by the language used by teachers, leaders, support staff, students and parents. For example students talked about “doing lots of learning” and that they “did lots of learning – not work – because learning is never finished”.*

Form the Report of External Review 2015

Through the formulation of site and cluster Professional Learning Communities, implementation of the Australian Curriculum as a tool for consistent and rigorous planning has been achieved.

## Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

From a curriculum perspective planning, programming, assessment and reporting are informed through the learning outcomes and standards within the Australian Curriculum. Site improvement in this area has focused on the implementation of all areas of the Australian Curriculum. In a 21<sup>st</sup> Century context high quality teaching and learning has been facilitated across the site through the use of DECD Learning Design Framework and TfEL.

Darlington School offers specialist programs in Spanish, The Performing Arts & Health and Physical Education for the mainstream students.

- **Special needs**

Extensive valid data collection and analysis informs and monitors all students across the site including those students with specific learning needs. Individual planning and differentiation of curriculum support the scaffolding of students through to success. Interagency case management of these students informs and supports individual planning. The following staffing ensures leadership and specialised support is provided to these students and their families;

School Counsellor

Assistant Principal Intensive English Language Programme

Specialised Intensive English Language Teaching Staff and Bilingual School Support Officers

School Support Officers

EALD Teacher

Aboriginal Community Education Officers

Aboriginal Education Teacher

- **Teaching methodology:**

At Darlington School, we use the **gradual release** model to implement a consistent pedagogical approach across the school.

Teachers :

- Make the purpose of the learning known
- Provide intensive instruction
- Model the use of the skill or strategy

Students then:

- Experiment with the learning, whilst provided with strong feedback from the teacher

Before they are able to :

- Apply their learning independently in varying contexts

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

A data schedule determines which assessments implemented by teachers and when. Assessments include the PAT-R comprehension test and PAT-M numeracy test, Running Records, NAPLAN and Jolly Phonics & Grammar assessments. Data gathered informs teaching plans and the differentiation of learning opportunities. Parent- Teacher discussions are held at the end of term 1 and are optional in term 3. Written reports are generated in term 2 & 4.

- **Joint programs:**

A transition program supports students moving from Darlington Children’s Centre to Darlington School.

A transition program is also in place for the successful transition of students from Darlington School to Seaview High School as well as other High Schools.

## **5. Sport Activity**

Annual Sports Day

SAPSASA

Physical Education lessons

After school Sports teams & Skills sessions

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

End of Year Concert

School Band, String Ensemble and Instrumental Music Lessons

School Choir

Festival of Music

School Garden

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

- **Staff profile**

20 permanent teaching and leadership staff ( full and part time) & 11 contract teachers (full and part time). Ancillary staff comprises 1 permanent & 10 temporary SSO's, 3 temporary BSSO's, 2 ACEO's & 1 x 0.4 Groundsperson.

- **Leadership structure**

Principal

Deputy Principal

Assistant Principal – Intensive English Language Programme

School Counsellor

Coordinator - Pedagogy and Curriculum Development

- **Access to special staff**

Christian Pastoral Support Worker, Instrumental Music teachers, EALD teacher, Intervention & Support teachers. Regional support personnel - Guidance, Speech, Learning Centre & Curriculum consultants.

## **8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff.**

N/A

## **9. School Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds**

**Classrooms are situated in 3 buildings**

1. A 2 storey building containing 5 classrooms with flexible teaching options & art/cooking facilities, Computer room, Counsellor's office, Learning support room, Spanish room, Performing Arts room, Resource Centre, OSHC, Administration offices & staff room.

2. An open space unit containing 6 classrooms with flexible teaching options & art/cooking facilities, Computer room & staff preparation and learning support room. All rooms are carpeted. Other buildings include a Canteen, Hall & Darlington Kindergarten.

3. A single storey building refurbished to accommodate 5 classrooms, small performance space, 2 offices, art/cooking facilities & staff area.

All classrooms have been recently refurbished through BER funding.

A Child Development Centre opened in 2014.

- **Heating and cooling**

Wall-hung reverse cycle units in most classrooms

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

Resource Centre equipped with 12 computers, teacher resource room & meeting room, 3 computer rooms with 26-30 computers per room, Spanish room with 8 computers, well-resourced Performing Arts Room.

Interactive whiteboards are in all classrooms & specialist rooms. 3 kitchen & art areas are accessible to all classrooms. PE equipment & Hall.

- **Student facilities**

Staff operated Canteen open every day for recess. Lunch orders provided by Seaview High School Canteen Tuesday – Friday.

- **Staff facilities**

Staffroom, 4 staff preparation areas & Resource room attached to the Resource Centre..

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

Wheelchair access to all buildings, toilet & shower facilities for disabled & lift in main building

- **Access to bus transport**

Private buses & train used for excursions. Intensive English Language Program has 3 buses to bring children from an area extending from Port Noarlunga to Somerton.

- **Other**

Hall is hired by a variety of community groups. The Primary School's Music Festival Troupe and Orchestra use the school for rehearsals in term 2 and 3.

## 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

Governing Council meets twice a term.

Management Committee comprising senior staff & staff representatives meet every week to coordinate our initiatives.

PAC meets as required.

SRC meets weekly.

Staff meetings weekly.

- Year Level Meetings three times a term
- Professional Learning Communities three times a term
- Curriculum Committees twice a term

- **Regular publications**

Newsletter published twice a term

Intranet for daily information for staff

Memos as required.

- **Other communication**

Staff Information Book

Enrolment Information packs.

TRT Information Folders

- **School financial position**  
The school is in a sound financial position.
- **Special funding**  
Category 3 funding

## 11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**  
A diverse cultural & socio-economic community comprising both rented & owner occupied housing. Work available in a number of local industries.
- **Parent and community involvement:**  
Community involvement through a range of school activities & Governing Council.
- **Feeder or destination schools**  
Most children come to school from Darlington Children's Centre with a small number coming from other pre-schools in the district. On transition to High School most children move to Seaview High.
- **Other local care and educational facilities**  
Flinders University  
Darlington Children's Centre & several Child Care Centres  
Flinders Medical Centre & the Marion Domain  
Cultural Centre & Library
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**  
Westfield Marion
- **Other local facilities**  
Range of sporting facilities available including the Aquatics Centre
- **Availability of staff housing**  
N/A
- **Accessibility**  
Bus & train available
- **Local Government body**  
Marion City Council