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 21st 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.darltnps.sa.edu.au
   - School e-mail address: dl.0666.info@schools.sa.edu.au

DPS Site Context Statement.
• **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:**

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DPS Site Context Statement.
- **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 skilfully, 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 21st 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**
  

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