SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0666
School name: DARLINGTON SCHOOL

Darlington School is a rich and diverse educational community. Contemporary practice will 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: love, courage, co-operation, responsibility, confidence and creativity forming a strong foundation on which to promote success for all.

1. General information
   - School Principal: Kathryn Entwistle
   - Deputy Principal: Jennie-Marie Gorman
   - 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.darlingtnps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: info@darlingtnps.sa.edu.au

DPS Site Context Statement.

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• 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.

• 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

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

36.5 FTE comprising 32.3 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, ACEO, 7 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, Seaciff Primary School, Seaview Downs Primary School, Sheidow Park Primary School, Woodend Primary School, Hallett Cove School & Seaview High School

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2. **Students (and their welfare)**

**General characteristics:**

Darlington School has a diverse and rich culture. Students come from an 8km radius & from varied socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

• **Student management:**

Well-being for learning is a strong focus and is supported by the school values. Student Management practices are founded upon the neuroscience of learning and the DECD Wellbeing Framework. Through ongoing professional development staff has a deep knowledge and understanding of how to develop pro-social behaviour. An interagency case management model is used where appropriate. Mediation and restorative practices support 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.

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DPS Site Context Statement.  

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• **Special programmes:**

Intensive English Language Programme  
National Partnerships Chaplaincy Programme  
Community Mentoring Programme  
SAPOL Living Skills Programme  
Play is the Way  
Community Development Programmes – 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 **DevelopExpertLearners. 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.**

A Diagnostic Review of the Site in 2011 focused upon the following elements of the DIAF; “Focus on Learning”, “Attend to Culture”, “Set Direction” and “Shared Leadership”. Recommendations from this review form the school’s direction. To date, decision making, professional learning, performance development and consistent, contemporary teaching practice have been introduced to the school.

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 SACSA Framework and the Australian Curriculum. Site improvement in this area has focused on the implementation of the Australian Curriculum Mathematics and Science. 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 TIEL.
  Darlington School offers specialist programmes in Spanish, The Arts & Physical Education.

- **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
  Coordinator 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

- **Special curriculum features:**
  *Healthy eating & Well-Being are particular foci & are supported by a Crunch & Sip program & a Right Bite Canteen.*

- **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, SAST, Running Records, Milligate test, 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 optional in term 3 and written reports are generated in term 2 & 4.

• **Joint programmes:**

  Transition program from Darlington Children’s Centre to Darlington School.
  SAPOL (Sturt Police) – Living Skills Personal Development Programme for Year 7 students.

5. **Sporting Activities**

Annual Sports Day
SAPSASA

Daily fitness and Physical Education lessons
Cluster Sports teams & Skills sessions

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

End of Year Concert

School Band and Instrumental Music Lessons

School Choir

Festival of Music

School Garden
7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
  17 permanent & 11 contract teachers. Ancillary comprises 1 permanent & 7 temporary SSO’s, 3 temporary BSSO’s, 2 ACEO’s & 1 x 0.4 Groundsperson.

- Leadership structure
  Principal
  Deputy Principal
  Coordinator – Intensive English Language Programme
  School Counsellor
  Coordinator - Pedagogy and Curriculum Development
  Children’s Centre Director

- 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, Learning support room, Spanish room, Music room, Resource Centre, OSHC, Administration & staff work rooms
  2. An open space unit containing 6 classrooms with flexible teaching options & art/cooking facilities, Computer room & staff work room. All rooms are carpeted. Other buildings include a Canteen, Hall & Darlington Kindergarten.
  3. A single storey building refurbished to accommodate 5 classrooms, art/cooking facilities & staff work area.
    All classrooms have been 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 8 computers, teacher resource room & meeting room, 2 computer rooms with 26-30 computers per room, Spanish room with 8 computers, Music Room.
  Interactive whiteboards in all classrooms & specialist rooms. 3 kitchen & art areas accessible to all classrooms. PE equipment & Hall.

• **Student facilities**
  Volunteer operated Canteen open every day for recess. Lunch orders provided by Seaview High School Canteen Tuesday – Friday.

• **Staff facilities**
  Staffroom, 4 staff work areas & Resource room.

• **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 2 buses to bring children from an area extending from Port Noarlunga to Somerton.

• **Other**
  Hall is hired by a variety of community groups.

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
  Day book for additional staff information.
  Memos as required.

• **Other communication**
  Staff Information Book
  Enrolment Information packs.
• 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