



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: July 2020

**School Number:** 0124

**School Name:** Eden Hills Primary School

## School Profile:

We recognise that the school is a setting which significantly influences the social, cultural and cognitive development of students and work hard to ensure authenticity and trust in our relationships. Therefore we aim to develop a community of learners who feel, value and demonstrate attitudes that contribute to their own wellbeing and development and to their participation as active and responsible global citizens.

Eden Hills Primary School opened in 1916 and is located in Mitcham Hills. It is described as a city school in a rural setting, with the beautiful physical environment and small size encouraging creative outdoor play.

The school is characterised by a strong sense of positive relationships, community pride and heritage. Strong links between staff and parents translate into good communication. Parents and caregivers have a high level of expectation in their child/ren's educational development and achievement. There is a high level of parent participation in school related activities, including classrooms, excursions, committees, governance, learning support and after hours sports programs.

The student population over recent years has grown steadily with a current enrolment of 263 students with the capacity to take 300.

There are many opportunities for students to have a voice in their learning. Beyond the usual Student Representative Council structures, senior students have the opportunity to participate in a range of projects including assemblies, World Vision and Environmental forums. Important learning opportunities are also available for our senior students through links with Blackwood High School.

Authentic learner agency is a priority in our school where students are becoming more involved in setting their own learning, intentions and success criteria. Students are continually encouraged to have a voice in shaping approaches to learning, on a daily basis. Eden Hills Primary School has a balance of explicit instruction and inquiry based learning to suit all learners.

Eden Hills Primary School has extensive collaborative practices where teachers plan and teach in teams and student learn in collaborative flexible learning spaces.

## **General Information**

**School Principal:** Andrew Dowling

**Deputy Principal:** Kellie Bowden

**Year of opening:** 1916

**Postal Address:** 78 Wilpena Street, Eden Hills 5050

**Location Address:** 78 Wilpena Street, Eden Hills 5050

**DECD Region:** Mitcham Hills Partnership

**Geographical Location:** 14kms from GPO

**Telephone Number:** (08) 8278 2243

**Fax Number:** (08) 8278 2236

**Website:** [www.edenhillps.sa.edu.au](http://www.edenhillps.sa.edu.au)

**Email:** [dl.0124.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0124.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

**Out of School Hours Care Service (OSHC):** Before School Care 7:30am-8:30am, After School Care 3:10pm-6:15pm, Vacation Care and Student Free Days 7:30am-6:15pm

**February FTE student enrolment:**

	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Yr 1</b>	<b>Yr 2</b>	<b>Yr 3</b>	<b>Yr 4</b>	<b>Yr 5</b>	<b>Yr 6</b>	<b>Yr 7</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2012</b>	59.6	27.0	30.4	25.0	28.0	25.0	30.0	33.0	<b>258.0</b>
<b>2013</b>	52.0	46.6	26.0	31.4	22.0	28.0	25.0	30.0	<b>261.0</b>
<b>2014</b>	35.0	44.0	45.6	28.0	30.0	24.0	28.0	22.0	<b>256.6</b>
<b>2015</b>	34.0	37.0	47.0	48.6	27.0	27.0	22.0	25.0	<b>268.6</b>
<b>2016</b>	34.0	31.0	37.0	47.0	46.0	28.0	26.0	21.0	<b>270.0</b>
<b>2017</b>	30.0	35.0	31.0	38.0	45.0	47.0	26.0	28.0	<b>280.0</b>
<b>2018</b>	25.0	30.0	32.0	33.0	36.0	48.0	45.0	24.0	<b>272.0</b>
<b>2019</b>	39.0	28.0	28.0	33.0	32.0	36.0	47.0	38.0	<b>281.0</b>
<b>2020</b>	36.0	39.0	26.0	30.0	30.0	32.0	35.0	35.0	<b>263.0</b>

**Category of Index of Educational Disadvantage:** 7

**Student enrolment trends:** Stable

**Staffing Numbers (as at February census):**

12.4 FTE Teachers (16 Staff)

16 SSO / Support Staff

1 Grounds Staff

**Public Transport Access:** Belair – Adelaide train stops outside the school.

## **Students (and their welfare)**

### **General Characteristics**

There are currently 263 students enrolled at Eden Hills. Approximately 10% access School Card. There are a relatively small but increasing proportion of students from a non-English speaking background and no ATSI students enrolled.

### **Student Well-Being Programs**

There is a positive sense of cohesion amongst the students. Positive interaction and support between older and younger students and the size of the school contributes to strong caring relationships. Buddy class programs are run with classes attending events together throughout the year. We offer intervention social programs for students such as What's the Buzz and Bounce Back. We have mentors that work with individuals and we have a breakfast club program that runs once a week to offer further opportunities for social interaction. We employ 2 staff dedicated to support wellbeing across the school.

### **Student Support Offered**

Year 6/7 students run a peer support 'Helping Hands' program. They are available in the yard during every recess and lunch break to support all students in a range of ways e.g. social, physical, friendships

### **Student Management**

A School Code of Behaviour exists, which details behavioural expectations and logical consequences for students. An Essential Agreement is collaboratively developed by students and staff at the beginning of each year to ensure common understandings and agreements. A Restorative Practice approach is used to resolve issues. All staff have participated in Play is the Way training and use that language to reinforce behaviour.

### **Student Government**

The Student Representative Council is comprised of 4 Executive members from the Year 7 cohort and two peer elected members from each class R-7.

Students are positive, confident and keen to express their opinions by contributing to class meeting and Student Representative Council structures which operate effectively throughout the school. Leadership opportunities exist for senior students through a variety of roles. Senior Student Council representatives meet regularly with students from other schools in our partnership to share programs and organise cross partnership activities.

## **Special Programs**

Play is the Way – an ongoing social skills program for Reception to Year 7.  
Intervention programs including PreLit, MiniLit, MaqLit, Reading Tutor, What's the Buzz, and Bounce Back.

## **Key School Policies**

### **Site Improvement Plan**

Our current Site Improvement Plan has Writing, Numeracy and Authentic Student Agency as our 3 key focus areas. The current Site Improvement Plan can be accessed on our website at [www.edenhillps.sa.edu.au](http://www.edenhillps.sa.edu.au)

### **Bushfire Safety Policy**

We are located in a bushfire zone. We have updated procedures and plans which are reviewed annually. We ensure that fire safety drills are carried out each term and our facilities and grounds are regularly maintained.

## **Curriculum**

### **Subject Offerings**

All Learning Areas as outlined in the Australian Curriculum are offered. Specialist subjects taken by specialist teachers are music, performing arts, Japanese and PE.

### **Special Needs**

21 students have a One Plan and are supported by SSOs, teachers and staff allocated by Disabilities Services, along with outside agencies such as Autism SA, Novita and Cora Barclay.

Data collection and tracking individual progress and growth is a key policy in our school. For those students who aren't progressing as expected are identified to access specific intervention programs which target the curriculum needs and social/emotional wellbeing of students.

EALD students are supported by a teacher individually, in class and in small groups.

### **Special Curriculum Features**

In Literacy we utilise a phonological awareness approach R-2 with Jolly Phonics. Year 3-7 classes learn spelling and literacy strategies through Words Their Way and all classes use the Daily 5 methodology to support literacy learning. The school uses iMaths as a foundation for numeracy with back to front mathematics strategies to support learning. As Eden Hills has a strong focus on Inquiry learning all teaching teams and classes teach 4 inquiry units a year underpinned by powerful learner attributes.

## Teaching Methodology

Inquiry focus through units of inquiry developed collaboratively in teaching teams are taught each term. We utilise our learning coordinator to support the development, resourcing and assessment of these units.

The Junior Primary classes embed inquiry into their investigative play based learning and shared learning activities.

Embedding STEM learning into classroom practice is a significant focus at Eden Hills. A dedicated STEM room is also used with learning opportunities involving Beebots, Spheros, Ollies, WeDos, Arduinos, Makey Makeys, drone and 3D printing. Students have adequate access to laptops and iPads to support their learning and the school has full Wi-Fi capabilities.

The classrooms are open to flexible learning environments with the students involved in their design. A range of classroom set ups are evident across the school catering for 21<sup>st</sup> century education.

## Student Assessment Procedures and Reporting

<b>Term 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquaintance Night</li> <li>• Parent/teacher discussion</li> <li>• Student Learning Plans</li> </ul>	<b>Ongoing ...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interactive Digital Calendar</li> <li>- Performances/ displays</li> <li>- Open mornings / school tours</li> <li>- Work samples/ students' books</li> <li>- Student Portfolios – formative and summative assessment tasks from units of inquiry included</li> <li>- Assemblies – weeks 3, 6 and 9</li> <li>- Informal discussion</li> <li>- Seesaw App and Class blogs</li> <li>- Digital School Newsletters</li> </ul>
<b>Term 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written reports</li> </ul>	
<b>Term 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-Way Learning Discussions</li> <li>• Student Learning Plans</li> </ul>	
<b>Term 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written reports</li> </ul>	

## Joint Programs

Year 6/7 Students are selected to participate in extension programs at Blackwood High School in the areas of Science, Technology and Maths (STEM), Humanities and English and the Arts.

A strong relationship exists with Eden Hills Kindergarten. We work together on transition and literacy programs with a focus on Executive Functions and Intellectual Stretch.

## School Transition

A strong and effective transition program exists for students about to start school. During terms 3 and 4 we offer 4 morning sessions, known as Transition Tuesdays, to all 4 year old children where they can be involved in activities with our current early years classes, familiarise themselves with school routines and gain a sense of belonging to a school community, and develop positive relationships with educators and other children. This is open to any child regardless of whether they will be attending Eden Hills PS or not.

For those children that will start school the following year, we offer 3 structured transition visits during term 4 so that the children have a sense of familiarisation and belonging before they officially start school.

The year 7 students will visit their allocated high school during term 4 for a transition visit. This is generally arranged with the high school they will be attending. We will cater for students with special needs to support their transitions at a deeper level if needed.

## **Playgroup**

We offer a playgroup every Friday morning during school terms for children aged birth to school age. This is an interactive, fun and social playgroup that is open to all and has been a part of the Playgroup in Schools program. Our primary school students also engage in playgroup and run some of the activities for the younger children which is a great way for our students to connect with the community and gain leadership skills.

## **Sporting Activities**

Our students enjoy playing sport and are active participants in school fitness and skills programs. A high percentage of students play in organised sports teams.

Our entire school population take the train or Bus to SANTOS Stadium to participate in Sports Day.

A range of out of school hours sports are offered through the school, co-ordinated by the school's sports committee and coached by parent volunteers. These include teams in soccer, basketball, netball, volleyball, T-Ball, cricket, and Pedal Prix.

Students have opportunities for involvement in SAPSASA competitions including swimming, athletics, cross-country, volleyball, basketball and netball.

## **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

### **General**

Students have opportunities to participate in a range of community service programs. Music students have opportunities to participate in the Festival of Music at least every second year, keyboard through private providers and strings at other sites if enrolled. Our school offers junior choir, middle primary choir and year 3 recorder as structured lessons.

Some lunchtime clubs are offered dependent on interest. These may include chess club, Lego club, and STEM club.

Playgroup runs once a week and older students are invited to read and play games with the younger children.

### **Special Events**

Acquaintance Night in Term 1.

Coffee Van in yard 2 mornings a week for staff and parents.

Wednesday Breakfast Club.

Year 7 Graduation.

Harmony Day.

Whole school picnic at Belair National Park.

Whole School Sports Day at SANTOS Stadium.

Book Week.

Wheels Days and other fundraising 'special days' initiatives by the SRC.  
Whole school assemblies – held in weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term.  
Aquatics for Years 6/7 at Noarlunga Beach.  
Swimming at SA Aquatic Centre Marion for R-5 students.  
Liaison with Blackwood High School, partnership primary schools and Eden Hills and other local Kindergartens.  
Pedal Prix.  
Grandparents Day coinciding with Remembrance Day.  
Festival of Music Choir, Year 3 Recorder.  
Upper Primary discos held in partnership with neighbouring schools.  
Year 6 sports Day held with partnership schools.  
Year 7 Quiz Day held with partnership schools.  
Spring Fair – a biennial community event organised and run by the community.  
End of year concert at Capri Theatre.  
End of year class celebration excursion.  
Camps held every second year.

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

### **Staff Profile**

There are a range of ages and levels of experience on staff. The majority of our teaching staff are permanent employees with a few contract positions each year. Many of our SSO staff have permanent hours with some casual staff employed each year.

### **Leadership Structure**

Principal, Deputy Principal. Business Manager (SSO 3) with line management responsibility.

### **Staff Support Systems**

Teaching staff work collaboratively in teams consisting of Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Middle School, and students have the opportunity to work in all of the classes within the team for various lessons to support their learning. This extends even further when working with buddy classes.

Staff plan literacy, numeracy and inquiry units collaboratively in their teams.

Professional Learning Communities support reflective and innovative practice and help establish and monitor the site improvement plan priorities.

All staff has access to regular PD which is based on the school focus, individual need, and team needs.

### **Performance Management**

Performance development is an ongoing process with staff sharing responsibility for setting the agenda. Staff members meet formally twice per term with their line manager. Professional discussions can be initiated at the request of the principal or staff member. At these meetings staff members discuss their own goals, their classroom program, students' progress, school priorities and verification of skills and knowledge as aligned to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Performance Development practices in place are designed to maximise support for staff learning, critical reflection on pedagogy, change and the needs of each student in the class. Walk-throughs and observations with

feedback are an integral part of performance development. Teaching teams meet with the Principal to collaboratively discuss and present their work as a team.

### **Staff Utilisation Policies**

This is determined by the Principal in consultation with the Personnel Advisory Committee and Staff. Currently we have 10 classroom teachers, 5 NIT teachers, 1 EALD teacher.

### **Access to Special Staff**

Instrumental Music Services (DfE) provides Strings lessons for students from Year 3 offsite. Students are also able to access keyboard and cello lessons from Private Providers working within the school. Payment for these lessons are through the private provider.

## **Incentives, Support and Award Conditions for Staff**

All teaching staff are allocated their maximum face to face teaching time as part of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and are provided the required non instruction time in their roles. Yard duties are shared equally and minimised where possible. All SSOs have the lunch breaks as per their award conditions. All staff are reminded to ensure an adequate work life balance. Staff are provided the appropriate release time to complete special projects, specific school roles and professional development

The Principal's telephone costs are covered by the school.

## **School Facilities**

### **Buildings and Grounds**

The school is situated in very pleasant grounds, which provide a variety and balance of creative and traditional play spaces for students.

The school's buildings currently consist of an Administration Building, 10 classrooms, Resource Centre, Sport Arts Centre (Gymnasium), STEM room and Multi-Purpose Room in the newly renovated 'Old House'.

The STEM room was created through a redevelopment of a classroom space using school funds. The room caters for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning and is modern in its design.

The "Old House", one of the school's original brick buildings, is used for OSHC, Special Education, Intervention Programs and Activity Room. This was renovated in 2017 with the removal of walls, a new kitchen, flooring and data cabling from a combination of OSHC and School funds.

Combination Capital works and loan was used to build a Hall, completed in 2005.

BER funding provided a four classroom Early Years Unit which was completed in 2011.

A significant Capital Works Grant in 2011/12 was used to replace the Administration building and the Resource Centre (2 separate buildings). These buildings were completed in September 2013.

The grounds had significant upgrading when the Admin and Resource Centre were built.

We received a Fund My Neighbourhood grant in 2017/2018 to upgrade our playground.

The balcony of the Resource Centre has a student designed sandpit, grass area and minigolf course for students to use.

## **Heating and cooling**

All work spaces are heated and cooled using reverse cycle units.

## **Student Facilities**

Drinking fountains, bag racks/hooks, toilets, shaded areas, open spaces, nature spaces.

## **Staff Facilities**

Large staffroom with two work stations with internet access available to teachers. Four work stations for Support Staff in the main administration area.

Dedicated meeting room and work area.

The school is networked with ample internet/Wi-Fi access through the curriculum network.

## **Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities**

All buildings are wheelchair accessible via ramps and one simple lift. There are two disabled toilets and one ambulant toilet.

## **Access to Public Transport**

The school's location is within 100m of the Eden Hills Train Station enabling classes to travel conveniently into the city or Belair.

# **School Operations**

## **Decision Making Structures**

Procedures are well established to support decision making and school operations. These are supported by committees including:

### Students

Class Meetings

SRC Meetings

SRC Executive Meetings

### Staff

PAC

Learning Teams

PLCs

Student Review Team

Leadership Team

### Parent

Governing Council

Sub committees - Finance, Social and Fundraising, Spring Fair (even years), Sport, OSHC

Parents and Friends

### Regular publications

Regular communication with the school community is maintained through:

Schoolzine App, Website, Email and Push Notifications

School newsletter uploaded on to the App and school website for easy access

All distributed notes and letters published on App and Website for easy access

Electronic permission slips for excursions

Seesaw app for sharing student work and class information  
Class blog generally updated on a weekly basis by staff and students  
Notice board for daily communication in front of admin building  
Orientation information is available in a handbook for new families

### Staff Communication

Email  
Electronic day book

### **School Financial Position**

School is in strong financial position with a commitment to repayment of Capital Works Assistance Scheme loan (approximately \$20,000 annual repayments over 15 years). These repayments are due to be finalised by the end of 2021.

A tax deductible Building Fund exists.

## **Local Community**

A highly treasured, unique sense of community exists at Eden Hills PS. A deep understanding of community and relationships and a commitment to maintaining this strong school / community partnership is seen to be essential. The school highly values the parents' positive involvement.

Parents and other family members are involved in many ways in daily life at Eden Hills through things such as classroom support, 'tutoring' as part of the Learning Assistance Program, gardening, sports coaching, Governing Council, associated committees and event support including assisting on camps and excursions.

### **Feeder or Destination Schools**

Eden Hills Kindergarten (located approximately 15 minutes walk from the school) is the main feeder kindergarten for the school.

Blackwood High School is approximately 15 minutes walk from Eden Hills PS and a growing number of students from the school go there for their secondary education. Students also choose to attend a range of other Government Secondary Schools with specialist programs such as Urrbrae Agricultural School.

### **Other Local Care and Educational Facilities**

There are a large number of kindergartens and child-care centres in the immediate Blackwood community.

### **Commercial / Industrial and Shopping Facilities**

Blackwood is a very busy and well serviced local shopping area, with a significant number of banks and supermarkets, as well as a very wide range of speciality shops available.

### **Other Local Facilities**

Blackwood has a range of sporting clubs, grounds and parks in the local area, along with a Recreation Centre. Belair National Park is close by and is well utilised by the school and

local community. Wittunga Botanic Gardens, a 20 minute walk from Eden Hills PS is also open to the public and utilised by the school community.

### **Accessibility**

Public transport access: Train - on the Belair line, approx. 30 minutes to the city.

### **Local Government**

Electorate of Waite

### **Federal Government**

Electorate of Boothby

## **Further Comments**

Eden Hills Primary School celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in July, 2016.

A group of parents and a local historian collected information and used a community grant to publish a short history of the school.