



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: Apr 2021

**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 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, governance, learning support and after hours sports programs.

The student population over recent years has remained steady with a current enrolment of 251 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 learning interest clubs. 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 goal setting, understanding learning intentions and success criteria. Students are encouraged to have a voice in shaping approaches to their learning. 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 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:** 15kms 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>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>
<b>2021</b>	27.0	36.0	40.0	29.0	27.0	31.0	32.0	29.0	<b>251.0</b>

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

**Student enrolment trends:** Stable

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

14.6 FTE Teachers (20 Staff)

14 School Support Staff

1 Grounds Staff

1 OSHC Director

1 Pastoral Support Worker

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

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

### **General Characteristics**

There are currently 251 students enrolled at Eden Hills. Approximately 12% access School Card. There are a relatively small but increasing proportion of students from a non-English speaking background and 2 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 Zones of Regulation. 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 1 staff member 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 and 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. Staff have participated in Play is the Way and Zones of Regulation training and use that language to reinforce behaviour.

## **Student Government**

The Student Representative Council is comprised of 6 Executive members from the Year 6/7 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 meetings and Student Representative Council structures which operate throughout the school. Leadership opportunities exist for senior students through a variety of roles. Senior Student Council representatives meet with students from other schools in our partnership to share learning 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 Zones of Regulation.

# **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**

25 students have a One Plan and are supported by SSOs, teachers and staff allocated by Support 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 the Heggerty Program to provide phonological and phonemic awareness supported by a systematic and synthetic based phonics approach R-2 through Jolly Phonics. Year 3-7 classes learn literacy strategies through explicit teaching supported by Words Their Way, Brightpath Writing moderation and the Daily 5 methodology. The school uses iMaths as a foundation for numeracy with back to front mathematics strategies to support learning.

## Teaching Methodology

The school embeds high quality inquiry-based practices to engage students as strong agents in their learning through a concept-driven, connected and relevant curriculum.

STEM learning is provided through a dedicated STEM room and is also used to foster creative learning opportunities involving Beebots, Spheros, Ollies, WeDos, Arduinos, Makey Makeys 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 environments respond to the needs of a range of learners through flexible learning. Ongoing feedback from students helps shape their design.

## 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>• One Plans</li></ul>	<b>Ongoing ...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Interactive Digital Calendar</i></li><li>- <i>Performances / displays</i></li><li>- <i>Open mornings / school tours</i></li><li>- <i>Work samples / students' books</i></li><li>- <i>Formative and summative assessment tasks</i></li><li>- <i>Assemblies – 3 per term</i></li><li>- <i>Informal discussion</i></li><li>- <i>Seesaw App and email</i></li><li>- <i>Digital School Newsletters</i></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>• One 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 6/7 students attend a transition day at their chosen high school during term 4. The school caters for students with special needs to support their transitions at a deeper level.

### **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 is 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 develop 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 bus to SANTOS Stadium to participate in our annual 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 middle primary choir and year 3 recorder as structured lessons.

Student led lunchtime clubs are offered during lunchtime breaks. These include Helping Hands activities, chess, Lego, boardgame and coding clubs.

### **Special Events**

- Acquaintance Night in Term 1
- Wednesday Breakfast Club
- End of Year Graduation
- Harmony Day
- Fun Day at Belair National Park
- School Sports Day at SANTOS Stadium
- Book Week
- Fundraising 'special days' initiatives organised by the SRC
- Whole school assemblies – 3 per 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, Eden Hills and other local Kindergartens
- Pedal Prix
- Grandparents Day coinciding with Remembrance Day
- Festival of Music Choir, Year 3 Recorder
- Eden Hills Primary school early years / primary years discos
- Upper Primary discos held in partnership with partnership schools
- Year 6 sports 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 excursions
- Camps every 2 years.

## **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 casual staff employed each year to support students with special needs.

### **Leadership Structure**

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

### **Staff Support Systems**

Teaching staff are highly collaborative and collegial, working in team structures across the Junior, Middle and Upper Primary. Students have the opportunity to work across classes within the team for various lessons to support their learning. This extends even further when working with buddy classes.

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

Professional Learning Communities support reflective and innovative practice and help establish and monitor the Site Improvement Plan (SIP) priorities.

All staff participate in regular PD which is based on the Site Improvement Plan, individual and team needs.

### **Performance Management**

Performance development is an ongoing process with staff sharing responsibility for setting the agenda. Staff members meet formally twice a year 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 SIP, 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 Leadership to collaboratively discuss and analyse achievement data.

### **Staff Utilisation Policies**

This is determined by the Principal in consultation with the Personnel Advisory Committee and Staff. Currently we have 16 classroom teachers (10 classes), 5 NIT teachers (4 NIT subjects) and 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 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 play spaces for students.

The school's buildings currently consist of an Administration Building, 11 classrooms, Resource Centre, Sport Arts Centre (Gymnasium), STEM and Music Room.

The "Old House", one of the school's original brick buildings, is used for OSHC, Special Education. Private Providers and Intervention Programs. 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.

A combination of Capital works and loan was used to build the Sport Arts Centre, 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 underwent significant upgrades when the Admin and Resource Centre were built.

The school received a Fund My Neighbourhood grant in 2017/2018 to upgrade our playground and was completed in 2018.

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

Further Government funding was received in 2021 to support local business to upgrade school facilities. The school has used this funding to upgrade its artificial grass surface,



Upper Primary classroom airconditioning, glass doors between primary classrooms and the Sport Arts Centre floor has been resurfacing.

### **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 unisex disabled and ambulant toilets.

### **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

Staff Meetings

Year level learning teams

PLCs

SSO meetings

Student Review Team

Leadership Team

#### Parent

Governing Council

Sub committees - Finance, Sport, OSHC, Parents and Friends, Arts

#### 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
- Notice board for daily communication near admin building
- Orientation information is available in our school handbook for new families

### Staff Communication

Email

Electronic day book

Staff Meetings

### **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).

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 in supporting student learning.

Parents and other family members are involved in many ways in daily life at Eden Hills through activities including classroom support, reading support as part of the Volunteer 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 is one of the main high schools of destination for our graduates. Students also attend a range of other Government Secondary Schools with specialist programs such as Urrbrae Agricultural School and Mitcham Girls High 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.

In 2021 Eden Hills Primary was involved with the Blackwood Reconciliation Group in creating a documentary to share the history and significance of Colebrook Reconciliation Park and to share how visits to the site promote healing, kinship and reconciliation.