

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2017

School number: 1099

School name: Paralowie R-12 School

1. General information

- Principal: **Peter McKay**
- Postal Address: **PO Box 83, Whites Rd, Salisbury North, 5108**
- Location Address: **Whites Rd, Paralowie, 5108**
- District: **Salisbury Plains**
- Geographical location: **24 kms**
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: **No**
- Phone No.: **08 8182 7222**
- Fax No **08 8258 5859**
- School website **www.paralowie.sa.edu.au**

February FTE	Enrolment	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Primary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.					
	Reception	58	60	55	57	75
	Year 1	56	62	70	53	59
	Year 2	57	61	71	68	57
	Year 3	52	66	63	76	68
	Year 4	49	55	72	65	77
	Year 5	64	60	861	75	66
	Year 6	77	71	60	70	79
	Year 7	88	92	80	71	80
Secondary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.					
	Year8	134.0	153.0	142	154	139
	Year9	180.0	127.0	155	151	144
	Year10	188.0	164.0	128	170	156
	Year11	229.6	146.0	157	228.75	156.25
	Year12	95.1	115.7	111.5	125.4	110.75
	Year 12 plus	1.0	3.2		0.4	1.85
TOTAL			1327.7	1235.2	1225.5	1268.85
School Card percentage		48.5	41	41	36	45
NESB Total (Persons)		303	367	390	495	538
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		106	110	120	117	143
FLO Total (Persons)					106	115

Deputy Principal, R-12(PC06):	Mr Peter Groves
Head of Junior School R-6 (PC05):	Ms Kerryn Cousins
Senior Leader, Middle School:	Mr Ben Abbott
Senior Leader, Senior School:	Ms Sandy Stuart
Senior Leader, Learning Improvement:	Mr David Kinna
Senior Leader, Junior School – Intervention Support/Daily Operation:	Ms Kati Zito

- **Staffing numbers:**

91 FTE including

2 Primary Coordinators, 14 Secondary Coordinators, 2 Secondary School Wellbeing leaders and 2 Teacher Librarians. The Leadership Team has a balance of female and male members. Adult Community Education and liaison is based in the Paralowie Community Centre. An Aboriginal Education Coordinator (1.0), Aboriginal Education Workers (3) and a Pastoral Care Worker R-6 are an integral part of the Student Services Team along with R-12 Special Education, R-12 ESL and other support staff.

- **OHSC:** No

- **Enrolment trends:**

Primary numbers have increased and secondary enrolments are expected to be maintained.

- **Year of opening:**

1995 as Paralowie R-12 but previously 1969 Salisbury North Technical High School

- **Public transport access:**

It is readily accessible by train and bus centred at the Salisbury Interchange.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

Students come to the school from a wide geographic area. The high proportion of School Card holders across the school () indicates the socio-economic complexities of our school community. There is an increasing enrolment of students from a background other than English as well as a significant number of Aboriginal students (143).

- **Support offered:**

Two Student Wellbeing leaders 7-12 and one R-6.

Wellbeing Hub for students R – 12

A wide range of intervention programs are conducted at the school to support better learning outcomes for our students.

- **Student management:**

Student Behaviour Management – we have clearly defined student behaviour management procedures that support teachers and students.

- **Student government:**

Student Participation/Student Voice is a major focus R-12. It takes different forms at different levels of schooling.

Student Participation has been recognised by the school community as a focus in promoting and developing in our students a wide range of skills which will enable them to become active participants in their school and in the wider community, when seeking employment or in continued study.

At Paralowie we have a highly effective R-6 student voice and Middle School and Senior School Student Forums. These incorporate regular meetings, student participation in a range of school committees, Open Night and Transition programs, as well as student run assemblies.

We believe that the contribution of student input into social and learning issues which are important to them, provides us with a valuable opportunity to shape a curriculum that will better suit the needs of our students.

Key School Policies

Achievement For All

Context

Paralowie School is a large Reception to Year 12 school of 1414 students, in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. Our School is particularly diverse and complex with a large percentage of our community experiencing economic hardship. The high proportion of School Card holders (approximately 45%) indicates the socio-economic complexities of our school. This is compounded by high rates of unemployment and transience. The students at Paralowie are representative of the wide range of cultures that make up our community. The school is a category 2 Index of educational disadvantage.

Our Purpose

At Paralowie student learning is at the heart of everything we do. Our core purpose is quality learning and teaching R-12, in a supportive harassment free environment where success and achievement for all is our focus.

Our quality learning and teaching programs are underpinned by collaborative work that:

- values and builds on the **student teacher relationship**
- ensures **equity and social justice** in all our actions
- has **high expectations** for student achievement and participation.
- values and is **inclusive** of the range and diversity of groups and individuals
- maintains a strong commitment to **accountability, innovation and improvement.**

Our Core Values

- Respect - we recognise the value of all people and treat everyone fairly and with equity.
- Honesty - honesty and openness in all our interactions.
- Safety - we believe in a safe, clean, healthy environment for all.
- Integrity - we believe strongly in the need to be accountable to each other, our school and our community.

Vision

At Paralowie we work with our community to provide an education which aims to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and values to actively participate in, and contribute to, a productive and rewarding life in society.

Paralowie R-12 School is an innovative and highly regarded R-12 school, acknowledged by its community for the range of diverse learning pathways and successful programs it provides to ensure students are successful in learning, life and citizenship.

This means for:

R-6 School our main focus will be on student engagement, social capabilities and achievement in literacy and numeracy with a strong focus on reading development.

We will achieve this through:

- the delivery of the Australian curriculum and monitoring the achievement of all students
- Focussing on attendance
- Improving outcomes in literacy, numeracy and early Intervention programs
- Developing resiliency and a positive approach to wellbeing and lifestyle.

Middle School (Yrs 7-9) will focus on engagement, attendance, achievement with a focus on reading development. (year 7 students are in the Secondary School).

We will achieve this through

- Building curriculum partnerships and successful transition programs with our primary schools
- Implementing a 7-9 curriculum underpinned by an explicit Middle School teaching and learning methodologies. Focus on literacy, and attendance.
- Further developing our student resiliency and positive education/wellbeing programs
- Developing a middle school culture and ethos underpinned by student participation.
- Australian Curriculum (ACARA)

Senior School (Yrs 10-12) will focus on achievement and successful transition from school to further education, work or training.

We will achieve this through

- SACE that meets the needs of all students
- Developing and maintaining successful Vocational, Community Based Learning and Academic student pathways
- Implementing student mentoring advocacy and case management processes
- Building an explicit Senior School culture based on acknowledgment and achievement of success
- 2 x I.P.P.: Plumbing and Health Pathways Certificate 3.
- FLO Program: 2018: 114 students either off campus or with some subjects on site. Managed by SL2.

These priorities along with a whole school focus on

- Reading
- Professional Learning in classroom pedagogy to bring alignment with 21st Century skills

External School Review Priorities

1. Embed a culture that maximises learning opportunities for all students and promotes the sharing of quality teaching practice across the school.
2. Establish a leadership structure that is aligned to agreed R-12 school priorities. Provide mentoring to all leaders in the achievement of targets consistent implementation and opportunities for the sharing of targets and strategies between leaders.
3. Review use of current learner management system (Daymap), establish culture of regular self-review amongst all teachers and leaders to ensure effective use of data to inform their work so that all students are engaged and challenged.

Strategic Directions 2018

- Literacy – Reading focus
- Numeracy
- Positive Education/Student Wellbeing
- SACE Improvement
- Attendance
- Learning Design, Assessment and Moderation

4. Curriculum

- Paralowie has a reputation for innovative curriculum responses to the learning needs of our students. The 7-12 school is a member of NASSSA (Northern Adelaide State Secondary School Alliance). The school is a member of the Orion Partnership.
- All staff have laptops. All students Years 8-12 have laptops. All Primary classrooms have Interactive White Boards. Students in R-6 and Year 7 access laptops on trolleys and also computers in the Resource Centre.

The Middle School is committed to developing teaching and learning across the curriculum with a focus on the core curriculum and enrichment activities. As well, we are committed to supporting a positive education program embedded into all subject areas.

- **Curriculum development:**
Our focus has been in programming teaching and assessing against Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards. Our main T & D focus will highlight reading and numeracy across the curriculum, positive education and staff/student wellbeing.
- **Special needs:**
We have a Special Education intervention program across the school R-12 which offers support to students in and out of class. We do not have a District Special Class. Negotiation of the curriculum is offered where appropriate. Acceleration of students occurs where applicable. The school also offers T & D for staff and regularly communicates with parents.
- **Special curriculum features:**
There is a broad curriculum offering to cater for all students. There are strong links with local industry

and extensive offering of VET programs, as well as debating, dance, specialist sport classes, STEM Girls Program and programs aimed at extending more capable students.

- **Teaching methodology:**

A range of teaching methodologies are used to suit student, staff and course needs. These methodologies are aimed at engaging students in the curriculum to produce the best outcomes.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting:**

Written reports are given to parents four times each year and parent/teacher interview sessions are arranged in Terms 1 and 3 to coincide with the issue of these reports. In addition to continuous assessment and reporting there are also mid-year and end-of-year examinations for year 11 & 12 students. Interim reports can be requested by parents at any time. Informal contacts concerning the progress of students are welcome at any time throughout the year.

5. Sporting Activities

Paralowie students have a high record of sporting success. The School participates in a wide range of local, zone and state competitions. Students with athletic potential have the opportunity to select specialist sports classes in years 8, 9 and 10 which are in addition to a standard health and movement program.

Our Specialist Volleyball team/s participate in the national championships in Melbourne every December. This event hosts 500+ teams across Australia and New Zealand, making it the largest school sporting event in the southern hemisphere. During the tournament in 2015 we achieved a gold medal, in 2016 we achieved a silver medal, and in 2017 we achieved another silver medal.

- Strong student involvement in the Volleyball program has resulted in significant success in intra and interstate competitions. Those successes have instilled a strong sense of pride in the school and in the students themselves.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Structured Work Placements.
- Students At Risk Programs.
- Mentoring – primary & secondary.
- NASSSA Debating
- Tournament of the Minds
- Children's University
- Wakakirri (bi-annual)
- Choir (bi annual)
- Youth Leadership Seminars.
- Peer Tutoring Program.
- Youth Opportunities
- Smith Family programs
- Tailored Aboriginal education support strategies
- Specialist Volleyball
- Success Trip (Years 7-9).
- Year 5-6 camp, Year 7 camps, J.P. camps, 7-12 Sports Day & Splash Carnival, R-6 Sports Day

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

Paralowie has a large R-12 staff and many opportunities to develop professional, personal and collegial relationships. The staff is extremely supportive of each other.

- **Leadership structure:**

An extensive and collaborative leadership structure exists R-12. Opportunities for leadership development exist for all staff.

- **Staff support systems:**

Paralowie is both a challenging and rewarding appointment. The school has a high reputation for the quality of its curriculum development, its support structures and the opportunities made available for staff training and development. Our staff have a clear commitment to social justice and its implementation in our school. There is a well documented and ongoing induction process. Learning teams support teachers new to the school and share and develop practice.

Wellbeing Leader and support staff work with teachers and students. One central staff room provides opportunities for daily networking with a range of colleagues.

- **Staff utilisation policies:**

A number of part-time staff teach in the school. The primary school has a Literacy/Numeracy support hour supported by ancillary staff and leadership staff. Specialist learning needs teachers support students with high needs.

The school liaises extensively with outside agencies in both the short and long term. These include Intervention support staff and instrumental teachers.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA): 933
- Travelling time: Approximately 35 minutes from the city centre.
- Cooling for school buildings: refer to School Facilities section below.

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds:**

A new administration building, staffroom, R-12 Resource Centre and Junior School classrooms were opened in late 1995. Middle School renovations have provided much improved facilities for students in Years 7-9. Data cabling the whole school is complete and provides ready access to the administrative and curriculum networks in all teaching areas as well as workrooms and offices. There is a spacious Senior School Centre with access to computing facilities. The R-12 staff room is part of a new Administration building.

- **BER:** Primary Gym/Activities Hall, 2009-2010
Cooling: All of the school is air conditioned.

- **Specialist facilities:**

Comprehensive renovation of Science Laboratories was completed in 2000.

New multipurpose basketball/netball/tennis courts were completed in 2000.

Excellent Tech Studies, Upgraded Home Economics kitchens and Art facilities, plus a large Drama / Dance space.

2018 STEM Works – redevelopment of 2 existing buildings to create a dedicated R-6 STEM learning centre and a specialist 7-12 STEM facility.

- **STEM:**

Paralowie R-12 School is well on its pathway to meet the aims and objectives of the STEM Strategy by 2020 with some innovative programs and experiences already being delivered to students. These are allowing our students to apply their skills in new ways using collaboration, problem-solving and inter –disciplinary thinking. Programs like the Girls STEM Club and the STEM Learning and Socialising experience offered each term to our Aboriginal learners specifically targets those two under-represented groups. These experiences have become available to our students through our strong links with key people from Uni SA Mawson Lakes and the University of Adelaide. Work across the ORION partnership with the year7/8 STEM Collaborative project aims to provide year 7 students with STEM or STEM related learning experiences at a secondary site through a mentoring approach with year 8 students. The other aim is to strengthen the STEM content knowledge of the teachers from both levels of schooling. Connections to industry are being established to further broaden the experiences we offer the students.

- **Student facilities:**

Canteen; Senior School Centre

- **Staff facilities**

Staff Room and Conference Rooms. Staff offices; staff email addresses.

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

Up to standard – elevator installed 2000.

- **Access to bus transport**

Close at hand

- **Community Centre**

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures:**

Major school policy decisions are made by the School's Governing Council and the R-12 Staff Meeting. These are supported by the R-12 Curriculum Leadership Meeting and other short or long term working parties. Finance, Facilities and Curriculum Standing Committees report to Council. A Newsletter is published every 3 weeks. There are senior curriculum handbooks and guides to the sub schools. A parent Community Centre is a critical component of parent participation and is staffed by a Community Development Officer.

- **Effective Parents and Friends Group**

- **Regular on-line:**

Parent newsletter. Daily bulletin for staff and students (DAYMAP). Published policies on Bullying, Uniform etc.

- **School financial position:**

The school operates successfully within its Global Budget

- **Special funding**

None, apart from special submissions.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Paralowie R-12 School is a large Reception to Year 12 school of 1387 students, situated in the Salisbury North West (SNW) region of Adelaide. Students who attend the school are predominantly living in Paralowie, Salisbury North, Salisbury Downs, and Burton.

Our School is particularly diverse and complex with a large percentage of our community experiencing economic hardship, compounded by high rates of unemployment and transience. The unemployment rate is higher than the state average, particularly for young people. Family income levels are lower than the state average, which is reflected in the high number of School Card holders (approximately 45%) and is reflected in the socio-economic complexities our school. Main areas of employment are manufacturing and construction (although recently declining due to the downturn in the car industry), retail, health care and public administration. The new Industrial Estate precinct at Edinburgh Park is focussing on new employment opportunities in manufacturing/engineering, including DSTO/Defence.

Salisbury North West is a diverse multicultural region. Paralowie R-12 has a wide range of cultural groups, including one of the largest enrolments of Aboriginal students in the metropolitan area (120 R-12). Other main EALD groups include Italian, Vietnamese, Khmer, Chinese and more recently Sudanese, Afghani, Bhutanese and Indian.

- **Parent and community involvement: (Paralowie Community Centre)**

A Community Development Officer focuses on Parent Participation and Adult Learning. There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in the school:

- Volunteering in classrooms
- working individually with children with particular needs,
- Adult Learning Programme
- planning activities run in the Community Centre
- all school committees
- coaching sports teams
- participating in working bees
- Parents & Friends group
- Fundraising activities
- participating in playgroup for pre-school children
- diversity groups supporting families from NESB
- Support group for families with children with Special Needs.
- Feeder schools:
- Main feeder schools are Burton, Lake Windemere, Settlers Farm and Salisbury North Primary Schools.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:
Main local shopping centres are Whites Road, Hollywood Plaza and Parabanks
- Local Government body:
Salisbury Council is represented on Governing Council.

12. Further Comments

Paralowie R-12 School offers a challenging and rewarding work environment with opportunities for staff development and leadership through a wide range of curricula and co curricula activities

Staff are committed to their students. The majority of staff want to be at Paralowie – they openly say they do not want to work anywhere else.