



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 13/3/19

School number: 0477

School name: Balaklava Primary School

School Profile:

Balaklava Primary School is a proud public school with a long history of serving the Balaklava township and surrounding areas. We manage a fleet of 11 buses and students come from areas as far afield as Lochiel and Port Parham. Our school is set in beautiful, well-kept grounds, shares a boundary with Balaklava High School and is within a short walking distance of the Balaklava Child Community Centre and Out of School Hours Care (OSHC).

Balaklava Primary has a strong focus on developing the whole child. In addition to strong literacy and numeracy programs and the integration of digital technologies, we offer an exceptional music program. Our school values Mutual Respect; Tolerance; Success; Fair Treatment; Cooperation; Responsibility and Honesty are reflected in all areas of our school community and our motto Believe, Participate, Succeed encapsulates our attitude to learning and life.

In 2018, 10 classes were maintained. Transience continues, with a large number of students enrolling and relocating throughout the year, however despite this, our numbers remained steady at 265. Of this 4.60% of students have an ATSI background and 12.26% of students are diagnosed as having a disability. Due to difficult financial decisions regarding the 457 Visa fee structure, many of our NESB students relocated. We did however retain approximately 1% of our population of NESB students.

Highlights of the year included but were not limited to: the annual Meet and Greet, SAPSASA events, Sports Day, Swimming Carnival, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day contributions, a successful Open Morning well attended by families and visitors, National Reconciliation Week in conjunction with the Partnership school, Youth Environment Leadership Group, Student Leader school tours and Harmony Day. The end of year presentation concert was a wonderful way to celebrate a year of great learning. Our strong music program allows students to be involved in Choir, Festival of Music performance - including having a student who performed a Solo, performances at local events and facilities such as the aged care home and CWA.

Through the Lower Mid North Partnership, our staff further extended their pedagogical knowledge of Visible Learning through a numeracy lens. The staff continued to deliver a comprehensive curriculum, supporting students and their learning with commitment and dedication.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Dianna Jarman
- Deputy Principal's name: Kym Palka
- Year of opening: 1877
- Postal Address: PO Box 108, Balaklava 5461
- Location Address: 29 Wallace Street, Balaklava 5461
- DfE Region: Lower Mid North
- Geographical location – : 92km from GPO
- Telephone number: 08 88621660
- Fax Number: 08 88621009
- School website address: <http://www.balacr7.sa.edu.au/>
- School e-mail address: dl.0477_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE Enrolemnt

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
• Reception	35	32	45	29	34
• Year 1	34	29	35	47	30
• Year 2	31	28	36	35	48
• Year 3	38	30	30	25	32
• Year 4	29	34	27	30	28
• Year 5	31	28	33	29	31
• Year 6	35	30	30	33	29
• Year 7	39	39	34	33	33
•					
• TOTAL	262	250	260	261	265
•					
• ATSI	9	17	8	12	12
•					
• NESB	13	14	18	8	6
• School Card	35%	35%	35%	37%	35

- Student enrolment trends: Enrolments have been fairly stable with a slight increase in recent years.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

- **Teachers**
 - 13.0 FTE (8 full time, 7 part time)
- **SSO and GSE** hrs/wk
 - 1 Full Time (office) 37.5
 - 1 Part Time (office) 28
 - 1 Part Time (ICT) 12
 - 1 Part Time (Grounds) 12
 - 1 AEW (on leave) 5.5

Total = 95 hrs/wk

Additional SSO – Special Education, Behaviour Management, EALD & Literacy

- 12 Part time 251.25 hrs/wk

- Public transport access:
The principal of the primary school manages 11 LinkSA and DfE buses. The buses provide transport for over 600 students to the pre-school, primary, non-government and high school sites daily.
- Special site arrangements:
We share the use of the High School's canteen (lunch orders) and their gym, for sporting activities such as implementing Sporting Schools grants.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
Students are from a mixed farm, coastal and town background. A number of families have moved from interstate and suburban areas to enjoy country living and affordable housing.
Currently 35% of the school population qualifies for School Card.
- Student well-being programs:
What's the Buzz
- Student support offered:
Pastoral Care worker is on site 3 days a week and our Well Being Coordinator is available for student needs every day. 2019 has seen the establishment of an "Engine Room" to support children who have difficulty controlling their emotions.
- Student management:
Our Student Behaviour Management Policy is currently under review. It revolves around 3 key areas; Be Safe, Be Caring and Be Your Best. There

is presently a strong emphasis on responsive, pro-active strategies which involve partnerships with families.

- Student government:
Student Representative Council for R-7. A student leaders group with our School captains as well as House Captains and Music Captains
- Special programmes:
Additional special needs programs include MiniLit and MultiLit which are run for selected students by our trained SSOs. Our Well Being Coordinator runs Whats the Buzz to improve social awareness.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
Our SIP goals for 2019-2021 are;
 1. Increase student achievement in mathematics R-7, particularly in the number strand with the Challenge of Practice being; “If we develop a common approach to teaching Big Ideas in Number: trust the counts, place value, multiplicative thinking and explicitly teach it 4 times per week, then we will increase student’s achievement in mathematics, particularly in the number strand.”
 2. Increase the number of students achieving the Standard of Educational Achievement (SEA) in Numeracy Year 3-7. Again the Challenge of Practice; “If we develop consistency in our mathematical language across the school and focus on programming and planning collaboratively, with a focus on effective learning design (differentiation) we will increase student numeracy achievement from year 3-7.”

In term 1, 2019, staff will be doing peer observations of maths lesson delivery and ongoing throughout the year, sharing best practice with Numeracy in PLCs as well as revisiting aspects of our Numeracy Agreement in weekly staff meetings.

- A focus on Nature Play with the school embarking on a program to provide an assortment of “hands on” equipment throughout the extensive school grounds.
- Recent key outcomes:

2018 NAPLAN Numeracy: We saw growth in SEA and HB retention from Year 3 to Year 5

2018 NAPLAN Reading: The Year 3 students showed improvement from 2016 - 2018. Year 5 students showed growth in SEA and HB in 2016-2018.

Running Records: The school has been achieving good growth in regards to Reading and this is being retained in Year 3 NAPLAN. We credit this to the site wide agreement to use Jolly Phonics and Jolly Grammar.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: We aim to provide a broad and balanced learning experience for all students as outlined in the Australian Curriculum developed and revised by ACARA. Specialist subjects are Music, Science and French
- Open Access/Distance Education provision: Upon parent request information is provided regarding Open Access
- Special needs:
Students with Special Needs are catered for within the classroom setting by class teachers and dedicated SSOs
- Special curriculum features:
MultiLit and MiniLit are available to teacher nominated students. Instrumental music is available for Yrs 5-7 . The school choir performs at the Primary Schhols Music Festival and the local events eg Balaklava Eisteddfod. We also have a School Band, Instrumental and vocal Ensemble. We have just finished 3 terms of Sporting Schools support, focusing on LaunchPad Gymnastics.
- Teaching methodology:
The school places heavy emphasis on the Visual Learning concept with all staff having received training.
- Student assessment procedures and reporting
Interviews are held in Terms 1 and 3 with written reports at the end of Terms 2 and 4.
- Joint programmes:
Ongoing Transition programs with Balaklava High School and the local

5. Sporting Activities

The school is active in SAPSASA & local competitions covering netball, football, softball, cricket, golf, soccer, tennis, swimming (close proximity to community pool) and basketball.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Religious Education seminars are held by local church groups at least twice a year.
- Year 7 Graduation and whole school end of Year concert, Book Week and Harmony Day parades. NAIDOC week celebrations, swimming carnival and sports Day events. Way 2 Go school, Walk to School and Ride to School initiatives.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
:Relatively stable
- Leadership structure
:Principal, Deputy, School Well Being Coordinator and Coordinator in Learning Improvement
- Staff support systems
Regular Training and Development opportunities both insite and externally
- Performance Management
Teaching and SSO staff book in for 2 Performance Management meetings / year in terms 1 and 3
- Staff utilisation policies
All classes have at least 1 SSO attached to them to assist students with identified learning needs and to also offer teacher driven extension tasks.
- Access to specialised staff
Regular visits from regional support staff. Instrumental Music teacher one day a week.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
:Nil
- Isolation placement points
:Nil
- Shorter terms
:N/A
- Travelling time
:From Gawler 40 mins; from Adelaide – an hour from the northern suburbs
- Housing assistance
:Nil
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
:Nil
- Additional increment allowance
:Nil
- Designated schools benefits
:Nil
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:N/A

- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:Nil
- Locality allowances
:Nil
- Principal's telephone costs
:access to a school mobile

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Brick Open Space Unit for two classes which also houses a new Resource Centre which was established in 2014, stone JP building for two classes, stone Admin building, BER quad classroom block opened in 2011 as part of the BER programme, hardboard double and single classrooms, A Music Room and Atco building for pre-loved uniforms and Instrumental Instruction.
- Heating and cooling
: Split Level Air-conditioning to all learning spaces.
- Specialist facilities and equipment
:Resource Centre, Music suite, Science room and LOTE room.
- Student facilities
: Daily access to joint canteen on the high school site.
: JP Playground & UP Playground
: Large covered outdoor learning area – BER funded
: Cricket pitch, basketball, netball and 4 square courts
: Extensive well maintained oval
: Sensory garden
- Staff facilities
: Staffroom
: Small meeting room
: Photocopying and preparation room with teacher and SSO work station.
: Staff work stations in Open Space Unit and BER building
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
: All main buildings have ramps
: Open Space Unit Well is currently inaccessible
: Toilets with facilities

- Access to bus transport
 - :School buses use a road within school grounds for drop off and collection of students each morning and afternoon

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
 - Leadership, PAC, Administration, Staff meetings, Student Representative Council (SRC) and Governing Council, including Parent Coordinating Committee
- Regular publications
 - :Fortnightly Newsletter distributed in paper and electronic format
- Other communication
 - :Electronic Daybook
 - :Weekly staff bulletin
 - :Facebook
 - :Flexibuzz
 - Website: www.balagr7.sa.edu.au
- School financial position
 - : Resource Entitlement of around \$2,900,000 per year
 - : Staff managed classroom and curriculum budgets
 - : Reserves to fund on-going curriculum initiatives such as ICT and facilities
- Special funding
 - CAP funding provides assistance for performances, sporting activities and excursions
 - Sporting Schools Grants for 2018-19 have provided access to LaunchPad Gymnastics

11. Local Community

- General characteristics:
Local shops service town, local and farm community of approximately 3000 people. Primary production area with supporting businesses. Wide range of active volunteer organisations and Christian churches.
- Parent and community involvement:
Governing Council, Parent Coordinating Committee. Each class has 2 parent representatives to support class/school activities.
- Feeder or destination schools:
Balaklava Community Children's Centre
- Other local care and educational facilities:
After School Hours and Child Care based at BCCC with a local pick up on our site
Balaklava High School, Horizon Christian School. Primary schools are located at Owen and Pt Wakefield, with a preschool also at Pt Wakefield
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:
A supermarket, post office, chemist, newsagent, two hotels, and a variety of shops including electrical, hardware, hairdressing and fruit & veg.
: Two hay processing plants, abattoirs, numerous pig & poultry farms, Viterra grain handling
- Other local facilities:
Hospital, helipad, medical centre, four doctors, visiting specialist services, St John/SAAS Ambulance station, dentist, aged care facilities. Local newspaper, town oval and Sports Club, Lions Club, CFS, Red Cross, art gallery, Community Arts Organisation, Economic Development Board, Racing Club and Swimming pool and RSL. Sports Clubs including golf, gliding, football, netball, basketball, tennis, hockey, table tennis, bowls, croquet, rifle and pistol clubs. Leisure clubs including gardening and photography. Caravan park and cabins plus others.
- Availability of staff housing:
Private rental accommodation is generally available. Recently 2 new housing developments have opened
- Accessibility:
Road access to Adelaide(1.5 hr to GPO) and public transport to Adelaide via regional bus service.
- Local Government body:
Wakefield Regional Council has its Head Office at Balaklava.

12. Further Comments

: Balaklava is close enough to Adelaide for commuters, being an hour from Gepps Cross. It is also 50 minutes from the Clare Valley, Barossa Valley & the Yorke Peninsula

: A bus service to Adelaide operates daily

:Wakefield Regional Council has an active Economic Development Board encouraging development in the area

: School promotion, publicity and learning performance is a focus. We regularly advertise and provide education features in the local newspaper.

: We have approximately 3.34 hectares with the Balaklava High School sharing one boundary fence, the Balaklava Community Children's Centre several blocks away and the Horizon Christian School across the road

:We welcome parent and community involvement and actively support local initiatives such as tree planting, Adelaide Plains Cup Festival, Balaklava Agricultural Show, Balaklava Eisteddfod and other opportunities as they arise

:Staff form a collaborative, cohesive group who work well with an interested Governing Council and Parent Coordinating Committee