



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 07/02/22

School number: 1063

School name: Highgate School

School Profile:

Vision

Our vision is that students will receive an exceptional education that includes a range of language opportunities and develops resilience, empathy, self-efficacy and creative approaches. Our students will leave Highgate School with understanding of other cultures and the transferable skills to be successful in diverse and challenging contexts.

Mission

Our Mission is to inspire a love of learning in every student and equip them to be independent, responsible and positive contributors to global society.

Strategic Plan 2021-2025

The Highgate School Strategic Plan focuses on four key pillars:

Learning, Wellbeing, Community and Environment

Highgate School provides a rich, engaging curriculum and is well supported by its dedicated staff and supportive school community. Our students are given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities.

A bilingual, binational program was established in 2017, with two classes initially. The program now has five R-2 French classes and these students learn in French 4 out of 5 days a week. There are an additional five classes in years 3-6 and these students learn 50:50 French/English across the week. This program continues into Unley High School.

The school commenced an increased focus on international education in 2021 and became a Candidate School for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. We are working towards accreditation.



We are undergoing significant redevelopment that commenced in 2021. Two new buildings, play areas and landscaping are due to be finished by the end of Term 1 2022. Later in the year, we will be refurbishing the EY play equipment and establishing a Year 5/6 area adjacent to Avenue Road. We also expect to have renewed our school oval by the end of the year.

The core values of the school are Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Kindness.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Nicola Brelsford
- Acting Deputy Principal: Emily Roberts
- Assistant Principals : Sarah Cole (Wellbeing & Engagement) & Genevieve Papineau (French Program)
- Co-ordinator of Inquiry and PYP: Jo Hurn
- Co-ordinator of Innovative Technologies: Lucy Jachacy
- Year of opening: 1923
- Postal Address: 4 Hampstead Avenue, Highgate SA 5063
- Location Address: 4 Hampstead Avenue, Highgate SA 5063
- Partnership: Greenhill South
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 5 km
- Telephone number: 82719622
- Fax Number: 83736075
- School website address: web.highgates.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.1063.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: no
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes
- February 2021 FTE student enrolment: 745

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reception	108	124	107	81	82	71
Year 1	98	120	124	111	82	76



Year 2	88	98	123	121	118	84
Year 3	76	82	103	121	127	113
Year 4	88	79	81	105	121	115
Year 5	70	95	74	73	101	103
Year 6	73	66	88	74	71	85
Year 7	42	54	44	58	43	0
TOTAL	643	718	744	744	745	647
NESB	225	341	400			
School Card Approvals	38	50	41	45	45	45
Aboriginal FTE enrolment					2	2

Student enrolment trends: The school had a significant increase in student numbers from 2016-2019 and stabilised due to capacity limitations. In 2022, numbers have reduced following the year 6/7 transition to High School. Capacity will increase following the finalisation of the new building works.

Staffing numbers (as at February census): Teaching staff (as of February census) includes the full time equivalent of 38 teachers of which there are 30 FTE classroom teachers.

Specialist staff includes 1.2 STEM, 1.2 The Arts, 1.2 Health and Physical Education, 1.8 LOTE (Chinese) Mandarin, 0.8 EALD, 0.8 HASS.

Administration ancillary staff (including IT technician, resource centre, sports coordinator) comprises 9 part and fulltime staff. In addition, hours are provided for intervention/support programs for students with learning difficulties and language maintenance/development – SSOs and BSSOs are engaged to meet these needs.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics: Home backgrounds are generally affluent, highly multicultural. School card is 14% of population. About 57% of students are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Student well-being programs: The Assistant Principal in Engagement & Wellbeing is available to support students and staff. They oversee intervention and lead developments in whole-school wellbeing initiatives.

Student management: Whole school behaviour management structures exist for class and yard behaviour. All classes have developed negotiated class rules. Support from the Leadership team in following up incidents and facilitating parent meetings in extreme cases. Parents are supportive of the schools' structures. School Uniform is a requirement.

Student voice: Weekly class meetings and regular SRC meetings are held. Two representatives from each class attends SRC. SRC members are trained in meeting procedures and group skills. 8 students are elected from year 6 to form the Student Executive

Special programs: In addition to the French bilingual/binational program offered at our site, we have the following specialist programs - Chinese R-6, STEM R-6, The Arts R-6, HASS 3-6 and Health and PE R-6.

3. Key School Policies

The School's policies and agreements are found on the school website. Policies align with DfE policies.

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Highgate School is part of the Greenhill South Partnership.

The Highgate School Strategic Plan has 4 core aspects: Learning, Wellbeing, Community & Environment.

In 2021, we commenced a school wide international strategy that is expected to result in IB accreditation and the full implementation of the PYP program in 2023/24. We also expect to expand our International Student Program.

The Highgate Site Improvement Plan focuses on improving Literacy and Numeracy, specifically increasing **high band achievement in Reading, Writing and Maths**.

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings

All teachers plan, program, assess and report using the Australian Curriculum in all learning areas LOTE (Chinese), The Arts, Digital & Design Technologies, Physical Education and some HASS subjects are non- instruction subjects.

Special needs

Students with special needs are supported through individual learning plans with a range of interventions including literacy, numeracy and social skills. Bilingual SSOs support students as required across the school. SSOs are used to support students with additional needs (individually and small groups).

Special Curriculum Features

We offer a small number of places for international students on long and short stay visas.

French Bilingual Bi-national program.

A bilingual, binational program was established in 2017. The program now has five R-2 French classes and these students learn in French 4 out of 5 days a week. There are an additional five classes in years 3-6 and these students learn 50:50 French/English across the week.

5. Sporting Activities

Students participate in a wide range of physical activities at Highgate School. R-6 students have regular specialist PE lessons, regular class fitness activities, lunch time activities and sports clinics. After-hours sports include netball, softball, cricket, football, and soccer.

Students have the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA sports – swimming, athletics, cross country, badminton, cricket, netball, soccer and football.



Teachers also organise clinics in lesson time, with an emphasis on skills development. Swimming occurs each year for a one-week block.

Each year we have a Sports Day with a focus on skills and a variety of activities.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Instrumental music is offered to students from year 2 - Piano, flute, drums, guitar, strings, wind lessons are offered to students on a private provider basis. Students have the opportunity to participate in the School band and music ensembles. Students can also take up enrichment programs such as choir, Festival of Music. Oliphant Science Awards and Robotics – these are offered by interested staff. Acquaintance night, Harmony Day, participatory sports days, Book Week, Open Nights, Science & PE week, various cultural celebrations and R-6 end of year concerts are some of the regular major events, although these may change depending on staff and parent engagement. Camps occur in years 4 & 6.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile: Teachers are a mixture of permanent and contract employees, supported by tenured site leaders and numerous ancillary staff.

Leadership structure: Currently consists of Principal, Deputy Principal, one Assistant Principals and two Co-ordinators. The French Bilingual/Binational program (across Highgate School and Unley High School) is led by the Assistant Principal of French. PAC supports whole school decision making which is generally consultative.

Staff support systems: Staff work in collaborative teams (PLCs) that focus on analysis of student achievement, Inquiry planning and planning for intervention. Teachers team teach in some curriculum areas. Staff plan together and share knowledge, expertise and skills. There is a weekly staff meeting.

The Specialist teachers work alongside classroom teachers to align their teaching and learning programs through an Inquiry approach.

Our EALD teachers provide additional literacy coaching for teachers and intervention for identified students. All classroom teachers contribute to LEAP levelling processes.

Performance development: Staff is involved in formal Performance Development with observations, reflective reports, written feedback and peer support. T&D and career planning is encouraged and supported at school.

Staff utilisation policies SSOs are used for Intervention programs and classroom support and specific 1:1 support for students with special needs, supporting the resource centre, IT technician, school reception, clerical and finance work.

Access to special staff: EALD teachers work across the Site, negotiating with teachers as to mode of operation for specific students.

Special Education is supported by departmental support services and external agencies where appropriate.



8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Isolation placement points
: Nil
- Shorter terms
: No
- Travelling time
: 15 to 20 minutes from the city
- Housing assistance
: Nil
- Cooling for school buildings
: all classrooms are air-conditioned
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
: Nil
- Additional increment allowance
: Nil
- Designated schools benefits
: Working in a pleasant well resourced environment.
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
: Nil
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
: Mitcham Dental Clinic
- Locality allowances
: Nil
- Relocation assistance
: Nil
- Principal's telephone costs
: Nil

9. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds: The school community works hard to maintain and develop Highgate School. We are currently undergoing a \$5 million redevelopment which will result in the addition of two new buildings and considerable grounds upgrades. We expect this to be completed by the end of term 1 2022, with further works to happen over the remainder of the year (as above).

All learning spaces and Resource Centre have Interactive Whiteboards or Touch Panels. The school has sets of ipads and laptops for student use in class. All year 4 - 6 students have 1:1 touchscreen laptops.

Heating and Cooling: All buildings have heating and cooling.

Student facilities: Canteen, Resource Centre, Performing Arts room, Gymnasium

Staff facilities: There is a modern, well equipped staffroom, with coffee/tea making facilities in other areas. There are additional meeting rooms available.



Access for students and staff with disabilities: There are access ramps to main buildings and 4 toilets for students/staff with disabilities.

Access to bus transport: Private contractors or STA buses are used for excursions.

Other: Uniform shop.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures: All staff in the school have a shared participatory decision making policy. Management is collaborative. Staff structures include staff meetings, Personnel Advisory committee, staff meetings T&D, PLCs have recently been incorporated into our staff meeting structures.

Regular publications: A weekly Highgate Happenings bulletin is sent out to the community. An R-6 newsletter is distributed once a term in electronic form. Class teachers also send home regular class newsletters. Structures are in place for parents to receive electronic mail for school communication.

Other communication: Support documents include Teacher Information and Procedures, WHS, and Parent Information folders, Parent/School Communication Pathways. Notifications are regularly sent through the SENTRAL Parent app.

School financial position: The school is supported by parents through school fees and tax deductible donations for library and building funds. Finances have been audited and found correct and the school is in a sound financial position.

The Highgate Parents & Friends supports community engagement through a variety of events. Fund raising supplements the school's resources for larger projects.

Special funding: Some additional allocation to resource the French Bilingual/binational program (Category 7 school)

11. Local Community

General characteristics: The school serves the residential areas of Highgate, Malvern, Urrbrae and Myrtle Bank. We also accept student enrolments from other areas if they have French speaking backgrounds.

Parent and community involvement: Parents support the school strongly in educational, social, fundraising and Working Bees. An informed and active Governing Council contributes to school management and oversees OSHC and the Canteen.

Feeder schools: Local Kindergartens are The Lady George, Bertram Hawker and Netherby but enrolments come from a variety of early childhood settings in the Unley Council area.

Local high schools include Unley, Glenunga and Urrbrae. A percentage of students go onto private schools.



Other local care and educational facilities: Students have access to Urrbrae wetlands and Waite Institute arboretum.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Highgate Village, Unley Rd and King William Rd shops are in the vicinity.

Other local facilities: Community Library, Unley Rd, Unley oval, Fullarton Park Community Centre.

Accessibility: Public transport is readily available.

Local Government body: City of Unley area grants available, joint grounds agreement City of Mitcham.

12. Further Comments

There has been continuous schooling at Highgate since 1923. A separate Junior Primary school was opened in August 1957. The two schools merged in 2012.

