



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: December 2016

School number: 0967
School name: VALE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
School Profile: Category 6

Vale Park is situated on Ascot Avenue, in the leafy suburb of Vale Park. We are part of the Town of Walkerville Council area. We enjoy a close association with the local council. The school is approximately 8 kilometres North East of the Adelaide CBD. The school has grown considerably in the last three years, increasing its enrolments by 150. There is now a high demand for enrolments and the school has had to restrict enrolments to its immediate catchment area. It is anticipated that the school will shortly be zoned.

The school's mission statement is
"Growing for the Future"

In 2014 considerable time and consultation was given to the new mission statement and the design of a new school logo. The school was opened in August 1964 and the original logo was a Tree which represented a huge gum tree on the grounds. This tree was removed several years ago and the community felt a new design was warranted. Our new logo represents "Putting Vale Park on the map". The logo is designed to show the school moving forward and sharing with the community exactly what Vale Park has to offer its community members.

Our school values are – Respect, Achievement and Participation.

- Vale Park is renowned for its Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program
- We are an approved site for IES- International Education program. We currently have 7 Korean students studying with us and we have an annual Korean School Study Tour each July/August.
- Vale Park is a STEM focus school. We have a strong emphasis on the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- We have specialist teachers in the areas of Physical Education, Music (The Arts) Science and Japanese.

Vale Park is part of the Morialta Partnership which is made up of the following sites:

Vale Park Primary	Vale Park Pre School
Trinity Gardens School	Trinity Gardens Children's Centre
Magill School	Magill Kindy
East Adelaide School	Hackney Kindy
Stradbroke School	Rostrevor Pre School
Norwood Morialta High School	Agnes Goodes Kindy

1. General information

- School Principal name: Anne Cannizzaro
- Deputy Principal's name: Jo Catsas-Maroulis
- Year of opening: 1964
- Postal Address: 40-56 Ascot Ave Vale Park SA 5081
- Location Address: 40-56 Ascot Ave Vale Park SA 5081
- DECD Region: Morialta / Eastern
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): eight kilometres north east of the Adelaide CBD.
- Telephone number: 08 8261 3733
- Fax Number: 08 8261 6221
- School website address: www.valeparkps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0967.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Happy Haven

	2014	2015	2016	2017(anticipated)
Reception	57	60	96	87
Year 1	55	59	61	98
Year 2	50	54	54	60
Year 3	42	50	58	55
Year 4	51	49	47	56
Year 5	32	46	48	46
Year 6	29	33	47	52
Year 7	28	26	32	39

Student enrolment trends: In the past three years the enrolments have changed considerably. We now have approximately 85% of students who attend Vale Park Kindy attend the school. There has been a considerable amount of interest and a

Registration of Interest has been established for students who live outside our proposed zoned area.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

23.6 FTE

0.8 Teacher Librarian

8 Hrs ACEO

0.2 AET

0.8 Special Education + EALD teacher

10hrs Grounds / Handyman

20 Hrs SSO 2 Kitchen specialist

15 Hrs SSO 2 Garden specialist

51 Hrs SSO 1 Student support

- Public transport access: Harris Road

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
 - Students of Vale Park come from a variety of language and cultural backgrounds as well as economic advantage.
- Student well-being programs
 - Our Pastoral Support worker has established a very positive profile in working with our students both in the yard and during class. She also runs a “What’s the Buzz” program for our students who need support with social skills.
- Student support offered
 - Students identified with needs are identified for support either through working with our Special Education teacher or with an SSO.
- Student management
 - Students at Vale Park are very well behaved and suspensions are rare. Every class establishes their class rules and work through the two week beginning of year program, “Growing for the Future” 2 Week Beginning of the Year program. This program covers anti bullying strategies, our school values, 5 Point Scale and Making A and B choices and discusses the use of a growth mindset.
- Student government
 - Each year our Year 7 students apply for the position of Student Ambassadors and Action Team members. The Student Ambassadors form the Executive group that meet fortnightly with the Principal and Deputy Principal to discuss school issues.

The Action Team leaders manage their team (from Year 3-7) who wish to support the work of the Action Team. We currently have action teams in Yard Play, Kitchen, Library, Community, ICT and Photo/Magazine.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

STEM – staff have committed to broadening their understanding and integration of STEM.

STEM is the practical application of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to design and solve situations through meaningful, engaging learning experiences. A successful STEM program integrates learning areas, whilst including:

- Higher order thinking
- Student collaboration
- Student creation
- Student communication.

At Vale Park, we aim to inspire students to:

- Be critical thinkers
- Be innovators
- Be global citizens who seek to improve the quality of life and benefit society
- Prepare for careers of the future.
- To be empathetic of others.

MATHEMATICS - We are continuing our work around mathematics, to improve staff expertise and formulating whole school agreements. Teachers working in teams discuss, moderate and assess student work collaboratively.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: All areas of the Australian Curriculum are covered.
- Open Access/Distance Education provision:
- Special needs:
Our Special Education Teacher works with a range of students who form our Wave 2 students. These students have generally been formally assessed but not verified. We provide support for these students via our Special Education teacher.
- Teaching methodology:
Students and teachers are encouraged to embrace a collaborative approach, critical thinking, higher order thinking, creativity and innovation in their teaching and learning.
Greater emphasis is placed on the process undertaken rather than just the final product.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting
Staff utilise a variety of assessment processes throughout the course of a year. Including self and peer assessment, the use of rubrics, teacher feedback, students set their own learning goals in Year 3-7.
PAT M, PAT R, PAT Sc, Pat Spelling are conducted in term 4.
Running Records are collected at end of term 1 and 3.

Relationship with Vale Park Pre School

We have and continue to have a strong working partnership with the Pre School. This is vital for the smooth transition of children from pre school to school. We encourage the Pre School to use the school facilities as much as they like to familiarise our future students.

The Pre School has worked with our Teacher Librarian, SAKG Gardener and we also invite them to our whole school events.

5. Sporting Activities

- :We have both afterschool and weekend sport. We offer students a range of activities including soccer, cricket, basketball and netball. We rely on the generosity and support of our community members to help out as coaches.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

We have 3 choirs – Junior 1-2; middle 3-4 and primary 5-7

The 5-7 Choir perform at the Festival of Music generally in term 3.

We offer a STEM Club for Year 5-7 at Norwood Morialta HS afterschool.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
:We have a core group of stable long term permanent staff. We also have a group of contract staff that are relatively new school.
- Leadership structure
:Principal Anne Cannizzaro
:Deputy Principal Jo Catsas Maroulis (no teaching role)

- Staff support systems
Staff are released in Year levels for one of their NIT times to allow the groups to meet for collaborative planning.
Where possible we have released teachers in these groups to facilitate additional professional learning in areas such as mathematics and STEM.
- Performance Management
Each staff member is expected to have PDP
Leadership would like to meet with each staff member a minimum of 4 times a year.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
In the past three years significant work has occurred to improve the grounds around the school. Garden beds have been planted with new trees and shrubs.
A new front fence was constructed with the new logo.
The upgrading of the sumps and stormwater and the replacement of the yard was a significant improvement in 2015.
Three new vegetable gardens were established including the SAKG orchard in 2014.
Two new transportables were delivered in July 2014 and another two were delivered in January 2017.
- Heating and cooling
:All classrooms have access to heating and cooling through reverse cycle air conditioners.
- Specialist facilities and equipment
We have a Library that was built in 2010 as part of the Building Education Revolution program
We have a SAKG Kitchen was was officially opened in April 2014 and is shared with the OSHC facility.
- Student facilities
Our canteen is operated by one of our parents who is a paid staff member. The canteen is operational for part of the week. Offering lunches on a Friday and snacks at recess and lunchtime from Tuesday – Fridays.
- Staff facilities
There is very little spare room in the school. A new meeting room has been established in the Administration area, which has eased some of the congestion around the school.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
 - Governing Council is made up of 12 parent reps, 2 staff members and the Principal.
 - The sub committees of Governing Council are:
 - Sports; OSHC, Grounds and Facilities; Canteen; Finance and Fundraising
- Regular publications
 - Fortnightly Newsletter is emailed out to parents
 - Other notices are emailed out
 - Facebook Page – Vale Park Primary School
- Other communication
 - :
- School financial position
 - :The school is in a solid financial position.
 - FAC continue to monitor the success of the program through its regular meetings and review of schools and OSHC accounts.
- Special funding

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
- Parent and community involvement
 - :The Fundraising group of the school continue to work hard each year raising considerable funds to support large projects at the school.
- Feeder or destination schools
 - A small number of year 6 and 7 move to a variety of private colleges for the continuation of their primary years.
 - Most of our students elect to go to several public schools.
 - Norwood Morialta; Charles Campbell, or Windsor Gardens HS
- Other local care and educational facilities
 - Vale Park Pre School share the same site
 - Trinity Gardens Child Care Centre
 - Cornerstones
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - :Marden

- Local Government body
:Town of Walkerville Council

12. Further Comments

We are located on a busy highway and this can bring significant noise to the front area of the school.

In 2016 a Debting group for students was established.