



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 23/07/2020

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 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 to almost 500 students. There is now a high demand for enrolments and the school has had to restrict enrolments to its immediate zoned area.

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

The school was opened in August 1964 and the original logo was a Tree which represented a huge gum tree on the grounds. In 2014 the school logo was redesigned and a new mission statement was established.

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 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, The Arts, Science and Japanese.

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

Vale Park Primary School	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: Fione Love
- Deputy Principal's name: Jo Catsas-Maroulis
- Assistant Principal's name: Ann Shepherdson
- Year of opening: 1964
- Postal Address: 40-56 Ascot Avenue, Vale Park SA 5081
- Location Address: 40-56 Ascot Avenue, Vale Park SA 5081
- DFE Region: Morialta / Eastern
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 8km
- 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: N/A
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Happy Haven OSHC
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Reception	83	72	47	42
Year 1	98	85	75	47
Year 2	60	105	83	72
Year 3	52	56	101	86
Year 4	55	54	57	93
Year 5	45	52	51	52
Year 6	48	43	53	50
Year 7	38	40	40	37

Student enrolment trends: Since 2017 our enrolment numbers have seen continued growth. A large proportion of students who attend Vale Park Primary School have come from Vale Park Preschool. Additionally, there has been a considerable amount of Registration of Interest for students who live outside our zoned area.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):
 - 3 Leadership Staff
 - 16 FT (1.0) Teaching Staff (inc 1x Literacy & 1x Numeracy Coach)
 - 13 PT (>0.9) Teaching Staff (inc EALD & Library)
 - 146.5 Hrs Admin Staff/Business Manager
 - 122.5 Hrs SSO Curriculum/Library Support
 - 22 Hrs SSO2 SAKG Kitchen Specialist
 - 15.25 Hrs SSO2 SAKG Garden Specialist
 - 15 Hrs Grounds / Handyman
 - 14 Hrs Pastoral Care Worker
 - 8.5 AEW
- Public transport access: Harris Road
- Special site arrangements: N/A

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 Care 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 whose social skills need support.
- Student support offered
 - Students identified with needs are identified for support either through working with our Special Education teacher or with a curriculum 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 “Growing for the Future” 2 Week Beginning of the Year program. This program covers anti bullying strategies, our school values 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 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 and Photo/Magazine.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
 1. Increase the number of students attaining and retaining Higher Band Achievement in NAPLAN Numeracy.
 2. Increase student achievement in writing.
 3. Increase student cognitive engagement in Years 4-7.

<https://www.valeparkps.sa.edu.au/uploads/files/VPPS%20Docs/SIP%202019.pdf>
- Recent key outcomes:

Please click below to view our 2019 Annual Report

<https://www.valeparkps.sa.edu.au/uploads/files/Annual%20Report/2019%20annual%20report.pdf>

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: All areas of the Australian Curriculum.
- Open Access/Distance Education provision: N/A
- Special needs: Our Literacy & Numeracy coaches work with a range of students. These students have generally been formally assessed but not verified. We provide support for these students via our coaches.
- Special curriculum features:

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.

- 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, and 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.
Joint programmes: We have and continue to have a strong working partnership with Vale Park Preschool. This is vital for the smooth transition of children from preschool to school. We encourage the preschool to use the school facilities as much as they like to familiarise our future students.
The Preschool works with our SAKG Gardener and we also invite them to our whole school events.
- 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. Additionally, we have a Sport Coordinator who is paid an honorarium for their services.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Junior and Primary Choirs.
The Primary Choir performs at the Festival of Music in Term 3.

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: Fione Love
Deputy Principal: Jo Catsas-Maroulis
Assistant Principal: Ann Shepherdson
- Staff support systems
Staff are released in Year levels for one of their NIT times to allow the groups to meet for collaborative planning.

- 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.
- Staff utilisation policies
N/A
- Access to special staff
DFE Instrumental Music teacher Luke Bairstow & Pastoral Care Work Bron Jory

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

N/A

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Significant work has occurred in the last three years to increase the number of classrooms with reconfiguration of our resource centre. Improvements the grounds around the school with new garden beds being planted, establishment of a Nature Play area, new trees and shrubs, installation of a rubberised Running track, creation of a shared learning space between the Primary & Preschool, installation of a cantilever gate to the staff carpark.
- 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 20 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 a paid staff member. The canteen is operational for part of the week. Offering recess and lunch on 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.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities
Access ramps to all buildings/classrooms.
- Access to bus transport
Public Transport – bus stop on Harris Road or hire of private buses from excursions.
- Other
Front Office CCTV and a fully secured site.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
Governing Council is made up of 14 parent reps, 2 staff members and the school leadership team. The local MP is also on our GC.
The sub committees of Governing Council are:
Sport, OSHC, Grounds and Facilities; Canteen; Finance and Fundraising
- Regular publications
 - Fortnightly Newsletter is emailed out to parents
- Other communication
 - Other notices are emailed out
 - Facebook Page – Vale Park Primary School
- 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
N/A

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
Medium/Low socio-economic area with lots of big box and small business retailers located at Marden Shopping Centre area and other local Shopping Centres. Lots of construction happening within Vale Park as 1960's homes are knocked down and town houses or sub divisions are created on the large blocks.
- 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
 Vale Park Preschool contributes a large portion of our reception students.
 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 nearby High School sites - Norwood Morialta; Charles Campbell, Avenues, Adelaide High & Adelaide Botanic.
- Other local care and educational facilities
 - Vale Park Preschool (share the same site)
 - Trinity Gardens Child Care Centre
 - Cornerstones
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 Marden Shopping Centre
- Other local facilities
MARS Sporting Complex & Marden Medical Centre
- Availability of staff housing
 N/A
- Accessibility
Easy access to surface road and (Klemzig) interchange bus routes for easy access to Adelaide CBD and surrounds. Public transport runs approximately every 15 minutes.
- Local Government body
 Town of Walkerville Council

12. Further Comments

We are located on a busy main road (Ascot Avenue) and this can bring significant noise to the front area of the school.