

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: December 2024

**School number:** 0666

**School name:** Darlington Primary School

## **School Profile:**

Darlington School is a rich and diverse educational community. Contemporary practice continues to be implemented to provide a supportive, purposeful learning community. High expectations and quality learning opportunities ensure the development of expert learners.

Instrumental Music and the Arts have a strong tradition within the school with a high percentage of students learning a musical instrument.

An Intensive English Language Program is an integral part of the school. The program provides intensive English language help for students who are from a language and cultural background other than English. These students are either newly arrived in Australia or come from remote Indigenous communities.

Darlington is a Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) pilot school. PBL is a whole school framework which helps schools to create positive and engaging learning environments.

The school community has developed three school wide behaviour expectations. These are:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Resilience

These school expectations guide the behaviour of everyone in our school: staff, students, parents and community members. These expectations form a strong foundation to promote success for all.

## General information

**School Principal:** Scott Megson

**Deputy Principal:** Amy Sym Choon

**Year of opening:** Darlington School was opened in 1953. Darlington Junior Primary was later opened in 1965. The Primary and Junior Primary Schools amalgamated in 1986. Intensive English Language Program commenced in 2012.

**Postal Address:** 9-11 White Crescent Seacombe Gardens SA 5047

**Location Address:** 9-11 White Crescent Seacombe Gardens SA 5047

**DECD Partnership:** Marion Coast

**Geographical location:** 15km south of Adelaide

**Telephone number:** (08) 8296 3318

**Fax Number:** (08) 8298 3672

**School website address:** [www.darlingtonps.sa.edu.au](http://www.darlingtonps.sa.edu.au)

**School email address:** [dl.0666.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0666.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

**Kindergarten or Child Parent Centre (CPC) Facilities on site:**

Darlington Children's Centre is a co-located/stand-alone centre which adjoins Darlington Primary School. The leadership teams from the Children's Centre and the Primary School have been working on a shared and collaborative leadership focused on promoting high quality teaching and learning in partnership with families and the wider community.

**Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service:**

Students attending Darlington Primary School (5 years +) have access to after school care run by Our Patch at Stella Maris Parish School which is located at the rear of the school.

**February FTE student enrolment:**

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Detain n	IEL	Total
2018	17	14	24	19	23	17	23	18	0	41	196
2019	17	19	16	25	20	24	16	26	0	46	213
2020	22	21	23	24	21	19	24	16	0	56	226
2021	25	21	23	20	25	25	22	25	0	48	234
2022	19	24	30	22	23	25	24	0	0	92	259
2023	20	14	20	27	15	23	26	0	0	87	232
2024	17	12	18	27	27	16	20	0	0	63	200

**Student Population Groups:**

Aboriginal Students: 12.43%

Non-English-Speaking Background: 70.6% Students in Care: 2.48%

Students with Disabilities: 2.98% School Card: 34.8%

**Student enrolment trends:**

Enrolments have remained steady since 2018. However, variations have occurred in 2024 due to families in the Intensive English language program relocating from the Southern suburbs.

**Staffing numbers (as at February census):**

FTE comprising:

Principal 1.0

Deputy Principal 1.0

IELP Leader 1.0

Student Wellbeing Leader 1.0 Mainstream

Teachers 8.0

EALD Teacher 0.5

Mainstream Non-Instruction Teachers - The Arts, Spanish and Physical Education 1.2 Intensive English

Language Program Teachers 5.0

Intensive English Language Program Non-Instruction Teachers- Visual Arts, Music and Physical Education 1.0

**Ancillary staff includes:**

Finance Officer 37.5 hours

Front Office Staff 30 hours

ACEO 22 hours

Classroom and Individual Student Support Officer 62.5 permanent hours with additional hours provided on a termly basis according to need.

Grounds person 19 hours

Bilingual Student Support Officers 45.5

The school is funded for a Pastoral Support Worker, who is employed through the School Ministry Group.

**Public transport access:**

Buses access the City & Westfield Marion. Oaklands Railway Station is also accessible.

## Students (and their welfare)

**General Characteristics:**

Darlington School has a diverse and rich culture. Students come from an 8km radius and from a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Students in the IEL program come from further afield and most come by specially organised minibuses.

**Student Management:**

Student Wellbeing for learning is a strong focus and is supported by the school values of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility. Behaviour Education is supported by the Positive Behaviours for Learning framework.

**Student Governance:**

At the end of the year, four students that will be in Year 6 the following year are elected to become Student Guides. Students must submit an application with endorsement by their families and a teacher. Students then present a speech to the student body and are then voted in by students from years 3-6. The new student guides for the following year are announced at the end of year concert. Student Guides role is to:

- Represent the school at school events (MC at assemblies, school concert etc)
- Represent the school at community events (ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day etc)
- Raise and lower the flags
- Run and support with lunch activities
- Support and guide younger students with day to day concerns
- Support the running of Student Voice meetings

Each fortnight a Student Voice meeting is held by the Wellbeing leader with support from the Student Guides. Two students from each R-2 class and one student from each 3-6 class come to the meeting to represent their classes. They bring ideas from class meetings, discuss issues relevant to the school and provide feedback. The ideas are used to improve our school and give voice

Each team (with between 8-10 members) meets with a member of the leadership team once a fortnight to work through actions and to review feedback and ideas feeding in from class meetings Reception to year 6. The ideas are used to improve our school in that focus area in the school.

#### **School Ambassadors:**

Year 6 students are elected to become Ambassadors for the school. Their role is to Represent the school at whole school events (e.g. Welcome guests to the school, MC at School Concert etc.).

- Attend Governing Council meetings
- Co-ordinate Special assemblies and events
- Welcome new students to the school on their first day.

## Special Programs

#### **Breakfast Club:**

The Breakfast Club is run twice a week (supported by social work students, Wellbeing Leader, Pastoral Care Worker and volunteers) on a Tuesday and Thursday. Where additional volunteers are available,

All families are invited to attend. The breakfast program is supported by Kickstart for Kids and Foodbank.

#### **Instrumental Music:**

The school has a large number of students involved in the instrumental music program. Instrumental music is run one day per week.

#### **Intensive English Language Program:**

Intensive English Language Program and New Arrival Program Centers provide intensive English language help for students who are from a language and cultural background other than English. These students are newly arrived in Australia or come from remote Indigenous communities.

Newly arrived students of primary school age are catered for in small classes within designated mainstream schools, of which Darlington is one. Classes are organised by age, and enrolment may take place from a learner's fifth birthday at any time during the school year.

Classes are staffed by specially trained English as an additional language or dialect (EALD) teachers and students are taught all areas of study in English, in order to prepare them for exit to mainstream classes appropriate to their age and ability. Whilst in the program, continuous assessment is undertaken and the mainstream teacher and school receives an exit report for each child.

Students who have been in Australia for less than 12 months (18 months for students in reception and year one) are eligible to enrol in the Intensive English Language/New Arrivals Program. It is strongly recommended that eligible new arrivals attend an IELP/NAP.

# Key School Policies

## Site Improvement Plan includes:

Target: To increase student achievement in Reading R-6

To provide a safe and inclusive environment where students are empowered to be resilient, persistent learners.

## Key Pedagogical Practices:

Success criteria is clear, known and students can judge their work against it to students

Feedback

Differentiation of task, entry points, exit points

## Other Policies:

Assessment and Reporting Policy

Inclement Weather Policy

Sunsmart Policy

Emergency Management Plan

Grievance Policy

Mobile Phone Policy

Attendance Policy Volunteer's Policy

# Curriculum

## Subject Offerings:

From a curriculum perspective planning, programming, assessment and reporting are informed through the learning outcomes and standards within the Australian Curriculum.

Site improvement in this area has focused on the implementation of all areas of the Australian Curriculum.

## Darlington School offers specialist programs in:

Spanish, Performing Arts and Health and Physical Education

## Intensive English Language Program offers specialist programs in:

Visual Arts, Music and Health and Physical Education

## Inclusive Education:

Extensive valid data collection and analysis informs and monitors all students across the site including those students with specific learning needs.

Individual planning and differentiation of curriculum support the scaffolding of students through to success. Interagency case management of these students informs and supports individual planning.

The following staffing ensures leadership and specialised support is provided to students and their families:

Student Wellbeing Leader

Assistant Principal Intensive English Language Program

Specialised Intensive English Language Teaching Staff and Bilingual School Support Officers  
School Support Officers  
EALD Teacher  
Aboriginal Community Education Officer

**Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

A data schedule determines which assessments and screeners are implemented by teachers and when. Assessments include the PAT-R and PAT-M test, Phonics Screening Test, NAPLAN, Dibels, and the Literacy Guarantee Unit phonics teaching cycle assessments. Data gathered informs teaching plans and the differentiation of learning opportunities. Parent-Teacher interviews are held at the end of Term 1. Written reports are generated in Terms 2 & 4.

**Joint programs:**

A transition program supports students moving from Darlington Children's Centre to Darlington Primary School.

A transition program is also in place for the successful transition of students from Darlington School to Seaview High School as well as other High Schools.

## Sporting Activities

Annual Sports Day  
SAPSASA events  
Physical Education lessons  
Specialist coaching throughout the year

## Other Co-Curricular Activities

End of Year Concert, String Ensemble and Instrumental Music Lessons, School Choir, Festival of Music, School Garden, Annual musical, and Lunch time clubs.

In 2022 Lunch time clubs were introduced, which are run by staff who volunteer their lunch times to support students to participate in learning a new skill. Clubs are developed based on student interest. They include yoga and dance, performing arts, karaoke/singing, card making, Tom Boy, Latch Hook and Cards/Warhammer.

## Staff (and their welfare)

**Staff profile:**

18 permanent teaching and leadership staff (full and part time) & 6 contract teachers (full and part time). Ancillary staff comprises 8 permanent & 1 contract SSO, 2 permanent BBSO's & 2 temporary BSSO's, 1 ACEO, 19 hours Grounds person. IT Services are outsourced.

**Leadership structure:**

Principal  
Deputy Principal  
Assistant Principal Intensive English Language Program  
Student Wellbeing Leader

**Staff Support Systems:**

Pastoral Support Worker, Instrumental Music teachers, Aboriginal Education Community Officer, EALD teacher.

Regional support personnel - Inclusive Educator, Speech Therapist, Behaviour Support Educator, Psychology,

**Performance Management:**

Staff develop a personal development plan in line with the Improvement Plan and Department for Education policy. Staff meet with their line manager to discuss their progress against their performance development goals and their programs.

Staff provide a copy of their program to their line manager each term and receive written feedback on the plan.

## Incentives, support, and award conditions for staff.

N/A

## School Facilities

**Buildings and grounds:**

Classrooms are situated in 2 buildings.

A 2-story building containing 6 classrooms, Student Wellbeing Leader's office, Visual Arts classroom, Performing Arts classroom, Resource Centre, Community Room, Administration offices & staff room.

A single-story building refurbished to accommodate 6 classrooms and an Early Years Play area.

Other buildings include a Canteen, Hall & Darlington Kindergarten located on school grounds, which opened in 2014.

**Heating and cooling:**

Wall-hung reverse cycle units in most classrooms

**Specialist facilities and equipment:**

Resource Centre equipped with a teacher resource room.

Performing Arts room and Visual Arts room.

Interactive TVs are all classrooms & specialist rooms.

There are 3 kitchen & art areas that are accessible to all classrooms. PE equipment & Hall.

**Student facilities:**

Staff operate the Canteen which is open every day for recess.

**Staff facilities:**

Staffroom, 4 staff preparation areas & Resource room attached to the Resource Centre.



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

Wheelchair access to all buildings, toilet & shower facilities for disabled & lift in main building.

**Access to bus transport:**

Private buses & public train used for excursions.

Intensive English Language Program transport brings children from areas extending from Port Noarlunga to Somerton.

**Other:**

Hall and oval are hired by a variety of community groups.

## School Operations

**Decision making structures:**

Governing Council meets twice a term.

PAC meets twice a term or as required.

Staff meetings are held weekly. Training component is weekly and comprises of a blend of Professional Development sessions.

**Regular publications:**

Newsletter published twice a term via Sway. Link sent to all families and staff via ClassDojo.

ClassDojo for communication from staff to parents weekly or as required.

Sentral (Learner Management System) for daily information and emails as required.

**Other communication:**

Enrolment Information packs and TRT Information folders

**School financial position:**

The school is in a sound financial position.

**Special funding:**

Category 2 funding



## Local Community

### **General characteristics:**

A diverse cultural & socio-economic community comprising both rented & owner-occupied housing. Work is available in a number of local industries including many families connected to Flinders University.

### **Parent and community involvement:**

Community involvement through a range of school activities & Governing Council.

### **Feeder or destination schools:**

Most children come to school from Darlington Children's Centre with a small number coming from other pre-schools / Childcare Centres in the district. On transition to High School most children move to Seaview High.

### **Other local care and educational facilities:**

Flinders University  
Darlington Children's Centre & several local Childcare Centres  
Cultural Centre & Library

### **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:**

Westfield Marion

### **Other local facilities:**

Range of sporting facilities available including the Aquatics Centre  
Flinders Medical Centre & the Marion Domain

### **Availability of staff housing:**

N/A

### **Accessibility:**

Bus & train available

### **Local Government body:**

Marion City Council