



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: Sept 2024

School number: 0453/7786

School name: Victor Harbor Primary School

1. General information

- School Principal name: Jess Morris
- Deputy Principal's name: Emma Foot
- Year of opening: 1874, school moved from previous site [Woolworths] to the current site in 1986.
- Postal Address: The Parkway, Victor Harbor
- Location Address: The Parkway, Victor Harbor, SA 5211
- DECD Region: Fleurieu
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 84km
- Telephone number: 08 8552 1166
- Fax Number: 08 85525068
- School website address: <https://vhps.sa.edu.au>
- School e-mail address: dl.0453.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: An Out of School Hours Care Program is run by YMCA and is located on site.

February FTE student enrolment Mainstream & Disability Unit

2021	548 (last year of year 7's)
2022	459
2023	484
2024	467

Our enrolments at the Feb 2024 census were 450 enrolments, 467 after our mid-year intake. This includes 42% school card, 3% Non-English Speaking background, 11% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and 21% Disability.

Student enrolment trends

Enrolments have been relatively consistent since the year 7's moved to high school. Two non-government R-12 schools also operate in the town. The majority of our reception enrolments come from Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten and most of our year 6 students will go to Victor Harbor High School.

Staffing number

- The school has 17 mainstream classes, including the mid-year class.
- The Disability Unit has 2 classes.
- 1.0 A6 Principal
- 1.0 B4 Deputy Principal
- 1.0 B2 Senior Leader for the Disability Unit
- 1.0 B1 Wellbeing leader
- 1.0 B1 Intervention & learning support coordination
- 1.0 B1 TfEL coordinator (0.8 classroom)
- 21 FTE (including 3.6 FTE NIT & 0.4 AET) 32 Teaching staff [including part-time]
- Approx. 50 SSO's (including part time), 1 full-time GSE [groundsman], 1 part-time ACEO , 1part-time PCW.

Public transport access

Students living in outlying areas more than 5km away have the option to be transported to and from school each day free of charge on DFE buses. A community bus service also operates within the town and serves our school.

Special site arrangements

- Two schools were formed on the current site in 1992. The schools underwent an amalgamation in 2013 to become one school.
- There is a Disability Unit on site with a capacity of 24 students (3 classes).
- On-site pool. DfE aquatics operate from the site.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

Victor Harbor Primary School currently has a student population of approx. 470. The School Card population makes up about 42% of the total school population. The Index of Disadvantage is 4. There are approximately 95 students with a One Plan, 90% of our student population has been included in the NCCD data collection and 45 Aboriginal students and a small number of non-English speaking background students. An Aboriginal Education Teacher supports students in literacy and numeracy and an Aboriginal Community Education Officer supports students and families. The school has a Disability Unit on site.

Student well-being Support & Programs

The school has a full time Wellbeing leader and a 0.6 Pastoral Care Worker who are based in Student Services with our ACEO and AET who support our Aboriginal students and families. We have an intervention and learning support coordinator who supports students requiring wave 2 & 3 intervention. They are based in our Tidal room (regulation room).

Our school values of Respect, Safety, Honesty, Responsibility & Trust underpin the behaviours that are positively promoted and explicitly taught. Supportive individual, small group, whole-class and whole-school programmes are provided both separately and with support. A range of supportive and pro-active programs are implemented across the school including:

- Trauma Informed practices BSEM
- Zones of regulation & interoception
- Tidal room
- Restorative practices

- What's the buzz
- Grow your mind
- Lunch time play clubs/activities
- Social skill groups

Student management

There are high expectations for classroom behaviour and yard behaviour based on our school's values: Respect, Safety, Honesty, Responsibility & Trust. Comprehensive and effective Student Behaviour Management and Anti-Bullying policies and practices are in place, and consistently adhered to across the R-6 site.

Student Leadership

The Student Representative Council is currently co-ordinated by our Wellbeing leader and AET. The SRC meet several times a term to discuss and proactively address student raised issues, events, and priorities that are then communicated to the student body. SRC also make up several working parties to manage core areas in the school, e.g. sport, grounds, fundraising etc. The SRC are involved to a high degree in school decision making and actions.

3. Key School Policies

In partnership with the Victor Harbor Primary School Community, our purpose is to:

- Provide all children with a solid foundation to build life skills, and make their learning journey relevant, consistent, fun and memorable.
- Develop the whole child [emotional, physical, educational, wellbeing, spiritual]
- Provide opportunities for each student to reach their individual potential.
- Develop relationships based on mutual respect between all stakeholders – students, teachers, families and the community.
- Foster students a curiosity, creativity and an enthusiasm for the world they live in and a joy and love of lifetime learning.

Victor Primary School has developed a set of clear policies which have been approved by our Governing Council.

All policies have been developed to support our shared values of:

- ***Respect***
- ***Responsibility,***
- ***Safety***
- ***Honest***
- ***Trust.***

Students are expected to adhere to these as they are designed to support and maintain our positive learning environment.

These policy include:

- Attendance policy
- Behaviour support policy
- Dress code policy
- Mobile phone policy
- Sun smart policy

ESR Directions:

- **Direction 1:** Develop **clear structures and processes** which strategically and explicitly connect, drive and **support the improvement agenda** and provide opportunities for continuous **monitoring, evaluation and review**.
- **Direction 2:** Ensure all students receive **differentiated learning** with appropriate **stretch and challenge** through **collaboratively** strengthening teachers' capacity to incorporate individual **student data in learning design**.
- **Direction 3:** Refocus on **wave 1 teaching and learning** to refine targeted intervention strategies for individual students and cohorts
- **Direction 4:** Provide a cycle of regular **focused observations** with explicit **feedback on pedagogy** to **build consistency** and further **improve teaching and learning**

Recent key priorities:

- 2024- Consolidate high-quality wave 1 practices in literacy, numeracy & wellbeing
 - Data informed targeted teaching & development of data informed learners
 - Wellbeing Area of Impact
- 2022- Reading focus
- 2023- Maths focus

4. Curriculum

Our vision is for a dynamic, forward thinking school continuing to develop children's skills in numeracy, literacy, information technology and social skills. At Victor Harbor Primary School we pursue and promote success for all learners within our unique learning environment. We encourage students to achieve their potential, actively promote self-esteem, present quality learning experiences and value our community.

Subject offerings

Specialist subjects offered:

- Indonesian
- PE
- The Arts (Music, Drama, Dance, Media Arts)
- Technologies (Design & Digital)

All other Australian Curriculum subjects are covered by the classroom teachers.

Programs used at VHPS to support the AC include:

- Initialit R-2
- Heggerty R-2
- Sound Waves 3-6
- Maths Pathway 5-6

Special needs

At Victor Harbor Primary School, we cater to the diverse needs of our students through specialised programs and support services tailored to different age groups and abilities. Additionally, we are committed to inclusivity and ensuring that every student has access to quality education. As part of this we are proud to have a Disability Education Unit as part of our school and are dedicated to supporting and providing specialised support and resources to students with moderate to severe disabilities. Through individualized education plans and a team of dedicated staff, we empower these students to reach their full potential and participate fully in school life.

Special curriculum features

Through the Student Services Team, a detailed and systematic exercise identifies and allows prioritisation of students with special or specific needs. These targeted students' needs are addressed via specific funds and programmes. Literacy and Numeracy support for identified students is implemented. Individual student and family support programmes; access to psychological and other DfE services as appropriate. A number of students qualify for various levels of teacher and SSO support through the IESP (Inclusive Education Support Program). This is supported by our Intervention and Learning Support Coordinator. We also have an 0.2 AIT who supports our autistic students and families.

The school has a TfEL coordinator, Numeracy and Literacy Focus teacher to support the teaching, learning and achievement in literacy and numeracy.

An Aboriginal Cultural Exchange Program [with Fregon Anangu School] incorporating camps, operates annually. A Flinders Camp is also undertaken annually. Other camps are held from Reception to Year 5. Students have been actively involved in sustainability programs with community groups.

Teaching methodology

At Victor Harbor Primary School, our day is split into 6 x 50 minute lessons, with a break for recess and lunch time. Our approach is one that has high emphasis on student engagement and balances explicit instruction in new learning, with guided collaboration and independent practice of skills, and opportunities to think critically and creatively. Teachers differentiate for the individual needs of students and personalise learning wherever possible, with the intention of offering an inclusive and adaptable classroom environment that responds to student needs.

Play also underpins learning in all curriculum areas in the Early Years classroom and children become active participants in their learning. The learning becomes personalised to the child, which allows the teacher to scaffold, extend and build on the child's skills, knowledge and interests. Teacher's carefully plan for intentional play investigations that align to the Australian Curriculum, as well as the needs and interests of the learners.

Student assessment procedures and reporting

Reporting procedures comply with State and Commonwealth Government requirements. Written reports are sent home in term 2 & 4, will parent teacher interviews offered in term 1 & 3 (optional).

Joint programmes

The school works closely with Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten and Victor Harbor High School to ensure a smooth transition from Kindy to School and from primary school to high school. This includes parent information sessions, school visits and tours, student/teacher visits, information exchange between the two education settings.

A DfE Aquatics Unit is on site and accessed by schools across the state

5. Sporting Activities

The school and its students are active in an expanding range of sporting and physical activities.

We participate in a range of SAPSASA sports including athletics, football, netball, basketball, swimming, tennis, hockey, cricket, and mountain biking.

Swimming and aquatics are also part of our program. Inter-school surfing is also offered.

The school has four sports 'houses', and there is a very popular annual inter-house sports day.

A range of local clubs offer extensive choices in sporting activities. Many Victor Harbor Primary School students participate and are members of these clubs.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- A choir is coordinated by our The Arts Specialist teacher which meets weekly and performs regularly at school & community events. The school regularly coordinates & performs school musicals for the community.
- Instrumental Music lessons and band is offered to students from years 3-6.
- We offer various lunchtime activities in our tidal and Nunga room.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

VHPS staff team have a mixture of part-time and full-time staff, most of who live locally on the Southern Fleurieu. There are 8 Reception - Yr 2 classes and 9 Yr 3-6 classes. We have two LOTE Indonesian teachers (1.2), Music (1.0), Technologies (0.6), PE (0.8). The canteen has one manager. Aquatics has an instructor in charge of the aquatics team. We also have a part time AET, ACEO and PCW. We have a full-time grounds person.

Leadership structure

The leadership structure consists of Principal, Deputy Principal, Student Well-Being Leader, Senior Leader for the Disability Unit, TfEL Coordinator and Intervention and Learning Support Coordinator.

Staff support systems

There are weekly staff meetings, PLC's, regular meetings with line managers; DfE Complaint Resolution procedures; funded individual staff T&D budgets; and feedback procedures associated with site priorities and direction. Members of the Leadership Team make every effort to meet the needs of staff members through negotiation and consultation. Funds are allocated for the employment of IT support, and SSO time is provided for in class support.

Staff training programs are coordinated by the Leadership Team. The school has an AEU branch, PAC and Governing Council. A School Improvement Plan [2017-19] has been developed. Leadership staff are responsible for priority budget lines and each teacher manages their own class budget. Volunteers work throughout the school and are co-ordinated by an SSO.

Access to special staff

The School has access and regular visits from a range of DfE Support Services. Instrumental music teachers visit the school to run instrumental lessons for our 3-6 students. Non-educational services providers work with students and families on-site.

Performance Development

Regular meetings are held between line managers and staff members to discuss teaching and learning programs, Performance Development plans, and any workplace issues.

Staff utilisation policies

Issues relating to staff utilisation are discussed by the Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) and recommendations taken to staff, unless determined by fixed policies or regulations.

9. School Facilities

Building & Grounds

Victor Harbour Primary School is a relatively new school on this site, having been relocated to the Parkway site 30 years ago. Buildings are made up of a mixture of permanent structures, and one demac building. A new Middle school building was opened in 2017.

The school facilities include- A Gymnasium, a Swimming Pool – heated and enclosed, a Large Admin/Staff building, Art Rooms, Science room.

Specialist STEAM building was opened in 2023. Student Services area, Nunga room, Tidal room, canteen, Disability Unit (Regional) and Aquatics Unit (State-wide program).

Two LOTE Specialist areas (Indonesian).

A new gymnasium/hall and library were completed in 2011 as part of the federal government's 'Building the Education Revolution' initiative.

Information & Communication Technology has been an important development. The school has been cabled with fibre optic cable linking all areas of the school to a file server. A computer suite has been established and is being used as a teaching area. Classrooms have links to the network and Wifi installed across the school.

The grounds [5 Ha] are extensive with:

- large grassed play areas/oval
- hard play areas
- nature play areas
- grassed courtyard area with adventure playground
- exersite [play/fitness equipment].

A Grounds and Facilities committee made up of Governing Council members, staff, students and parents, provides advice regarding facilities and grounds development.

Cooling/Heating

Air-conditioning is provided throughout the school.

Specialist facilities

The school has a multi purpose gymnasium used by the school community and a heated and enclosed swimming pool also accessed by the community.

We have a new STEAM building that was purposely built to support the Arts & Technology learning.

Student facilities

The Canteen is managed by a sub-committee of Governing Council and is open daily. The school has extensive sporting fields and access to specialist athletics equipment and gym. The school also has a well-resourced library and access to specialist arts and technology spaces and equipment.

Staff facilities

A new admin. building was completed in 2004. A new gymnasium and library and an update to the Disability Unit occurred in 2011. All classroom spaces were refurbished in 2017 when the middle school building was completed.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

Ramps are located on site & toilets have been modified.

Access to bus transport

A 14-seater bus is available and used to support attendance.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

The school has a decision making policy based on participation & consultation with majority and consensus decisions. The school is strongly supported by a hard-working and dedicated core of volunteer members of Governing Council with a Finance, grounds, fundraising sub-committee. Other decisions are made through staff meetings and sectional meetings, PAC, student services and School Services Officers. For students, forums of Class Meetings and SRC exist to support the decision making process.

Regular publications & Communication

Whole school newsletters are produced 3 x per term. These are available on our website, in addition to being distributed to families on request. Staff members receive a weekly bulletin of information, and daily notices are communicated through Sentral. All class and whole school information is also shared through Class Dojo. SMS via Sentral and our Facebook page is also used to communicate with families and the community. Class newsletters are sent home at the beginning of each term. Whole School Assemblies are held every 3 weeks. Parents and caregivers are welcome at these events.

School financial position

The school currently utilises one global budget based on 2 Resource Entitlement Statements and is in a sound financial position.

Special funding

The school applies for and attracts a range of grant fund.

11. Local Community

General characteristics

Victor Harbor Primary School is nestled in the breathtaking seaside city of Victor Harbor on the stunning Fleurieu Peninsula, where our school strives to be a beacon of educational excellence in this picturesque coastal community. Located just 80 km south of Adelaide, South Australia, Victor Harbor boasts a population of around 15,000 residents and serves as the largest population centre on the peninsula. Our city thrives on a diverse economy, rooted in agriculture, recreation, tourism, and various other industries.

School community

The school is an Index of Disadvantage Category 4, and services struggle to keep up with growing population and demand. The local population is diverse and whilst it has had a reputation as a retirement centre, recent growth indicates that the population demographics are rapidly changing. Transience in the community is increasing.

Parent and community involvement

There is a high level of parental & carer involvement in the school through a variety of groups including Governing Council, volunteer support in the library, classrooms, canteen, camps, excursions, sports and literacy intervention.

Feeder or destination schools

The town has a high school of approximately 700 students and most students move from the VHPS School to this school at the end of year six.

Most of our students attend Victor Harbor Kindergarten prior to their enrolment at school. (A small number each year comes from Pt Elliot Kindergarten, or surrounding childcare centres)

Other local care and educational facilities

The school forms part of a cluster and has close ties with the following schools & preschools: Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten, Port Elliot Kindergarten, Pt Elliot Primary School, Goolwa Primary School & Victor Harbor High School & Goolwa Secondary College. There are also two childcare centres in the town and two private R-12 schools.

Commercial/industrial, shopping & local facilities

Essential services and shopping facilities are available either in Victor Harbor or near by Port Elliot or Goolwa. There has been steady growth in the size and range of industrial and shopping facilities available. The area has an upgraded medical centre and is well-served by a wide range of sporting, cultural, and service organisations.

Availability of staff housing

There is no designated staff housing. There is a wide range of rental housing available privately along the Southern Fleurieu coast which has become much sort after in recent times.

Accessibility

The school is located approx. 80km south of Adelaide and is accessible by car and bus services- the availability and frequency of bus services is still limited compared to other areas of Adelaide.

We have several local bus services that service the local school area to ensure students can get to and from school.

Local Government body

Victor Harbor City Council

12. Further Comments

Victor Harbor Primary School offers a rewarding environment with strong community engagement, a focus on student wellbeing, and innovative educational program. Staff benefit from a collaborative teaching culture, professional development opportunities, and the chance to work with diverse student needs. The school's connection to the local history, including Indigenous culture and its scenic coastal location, enhances the teaching and learning experience. Victor Harbor's rich heritage, tourism, and passionate community further make it an attractive and fulfilling place for our students and staff to be a part of.