SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 5/15

School number: 1673

School name: ABERFOYLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL

General Information

School name: ABERFOYLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL
School No: 1673  
Courier: N/A
Principal: Liz Mead
Deputy Principal: Greg Rolton
Postal Address: Taylors Road East, ABERFOYLE PARK 5159
Location Address: Taylors Road East, ABERFOYLE PARK 5159
District: Southern Adelaide Region
Partnership: South Valley Precinct
Distance from GPO: 24kms
Phone No: 8270 4455
Fax No: 8370 5819
Website: www.aphs.sa.edu.au
Email: info@aphs.sa.edu.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February FTE Enrolment</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1089.5</td>
<td>1051</td>
<td>1004</td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>1013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Card percentage</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>18.26</td>
<td>19.12</td>
<td>15.45</td>
<td>11.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NESB Enrolment percentage</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>12.27</td>
<td>12.94</td>
<td>11.36</td>
<td>10.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Enrolment</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staffing numbers

The school currently has 62 teaching staff plus 16 leadership positions, 18 SSO staff, 2 groundsmen and a Chaplain.

Enrolment trends

The enrolment numbers have been stable over the last few years.

Special arrangements

The school has a unique design, integrating educational and community services. It is situated next to the Hub Centre that provides local government, recreational, significant retail and other commercial facilities, and a wide range of professional and semi-professional services. The school facilities including a Performing Arts Centre are available for community use, generally outside of school hours. The school has significant partnerships with the Onkaparinga City Council through several joint use facilities:

- The Library is comprehensive and is open to the public during and beyond school hours.
- The school/community indoor recreation complex is managed by Belgravia and shared during school time.
- The Happy Valley Sporting Complex enables us access to a soccer oval, football/cricket oval, tennis courts, Bowling Green and BMX track.
Partnerships
The school is part of the South Valley Precinct, which is a partnership of seven Preschools, six Primary Schools and Flinders University. We are also the Advanced Technology lead school for Southern Adelaide and have a strong partnership with Flinders University through the Science Maths Academy at Flinders University (SMAF) program.

Year of opening
1984

Public transport access
Bus routes 212, 218, T219, 219X, 618, 690, 696, 697, 698, 699, 737 and 727. A bus service departs Colonnades at 7.43am to APHS with the return service leaving APHS at 3.25pm (School bus A & B). A Departmental transport service brings students from near country areas.

Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics
The retention rate is good. In 2015 enrolment details are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>227.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>197.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In many families, both caregivers work during the day. Young people are expected to assist around the home and consequently develop a fair sense of independence. This is reflected in their confidence with adults and their knowledge of their rights. A significant number of students, particularly senior students, are often engaged in part time employment outside of school hours. The school maintains an extensive co-curricular program that assists students to develop specific skills and generic skills such as teamwork as well as a sense of responsibility and community. Both students and caregivers provide strong support for sporting, athletics, music, drama, dance, outdoor education, and other such activities.

Student Well Being Programs
The school works closely with feeder primary schools through a range of collaborative initiatives that ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary school. From the start of year 8 an induction and ongoing transition program offers a variety of both in class and year level programs to ensure students feel welcome and develop a sense of belonging. Home Groups across all year levels are organised on the basis of educational need. Our Big Brother and Big Sister Peer Support Program consolidates the year 8 induction. Home Group teachers form a pivotal link between home and school and assist students with organizational matters, and provide support and encouragement to become involved in the life of the school. Further support is provided by Counsellors, Youth Workers, Chaplain, Middle and Senior School Teams and members of the Executive Team. The Student Counsellors manage a range of programs that provide opportunities for leadership and mentoring of vulnerable students and those who are new to our school. We also have a Psychologist onsite one day a week.
**Student Voice**
The Student Voice (SV) is a network of student leaders working to strengthen their capacity to speak and take action on behalf of fellow APHS students. The SV advocates for the students of APHS, by regularly seeking student ideas and opinions while both contributing and participating in the decision-making processes of the school. Members of the SV are on the Uniform Committee, Environment Group and Governing Council. In addition the SV look to make improvements within the wider and global community by fundraising to support those less fortunate and addressing issues relevant in our school community. The SV also offers opportunities for student leadership and initiative.

Students can also nominate to be an APHS Ambassador and support the school through their role with visitors, parents, new students, prospective students, International students and visits to Primary Schools. Student voice is valued at APHS.

**Support offered**
The school has a Pathways Assistant Principal, two Student Counsellors appointed at Coordinator level, two Youth Workers (1.6FTE) and a Chaplain. This team has a strong focus on proactive programs, personal and crisis counselling, course counselling, career education, TAFE/Work/University options and Students At Risk.

**Student management**
The school has sound student management policies and practices. Our school values (Respect, Care & Compassion & Honesty) and the processes of Restorative Practice underpin our student behaviour management strategies. The Middle School and Senior School Leaders and Executive team members support students and teachers and liaise with parents and DECD referral teams as necessary.

**Special programs**
We have many extra-curricula offerings including:
- Ambassadors program
- Leadership conferences
- SRC
- Children’s University
- Environment Group
- World Challenge
- Western Front Tour
- Spanish/Japanese Study & Cultural Tours
- International Buddy Program
- International Music & Art Cultural Tour
- Overseas Exchanges
- International competitions
- Sound & Lighting Crew
- Film Unit
- Dance Club
- Debating
- Poetry Club
- Surf School
- Interschool Sport
- Knockout Sport
- Sports Day
- House Activities
IGNITE
Aberfoyle Park High School is one of three DECD funded IGNITE secondary schools in South Australia. The IGNITE program for Gifted and Talented students incorporates both acceleration and enrichment. The IGNITE student body comprises nearly 25% of the school’s student cohort. The IGNITE program offers an accelerated Middle School curriculum that enables a broad range of choices in the Senior Years.

Most of the teaching staff have undergone training in gifted education to ensure that quality IGNITE programs are being offered. Gifted methodology focuses on the principle of differentiation; consequently, the benefits of the program have a positive effect on teaching practice in all areas of the school.

ICT
APHS is recognised for its creative, innovative and “cutting edge” work in ICT and has been awarded the “Apple School of Excellence” and “Apple Distinguished Program” status. The school has a comprehensive network infrastructure to all buildings that includes a wireless network. Students have access to computer suites housing both PCs and Macs and work with a variety of software whether it is programming, CAD or computer applications, design, music, word processing, power point, spreadsheet, database, desktop publishing and multimedia. The school has implemented a parent purchase 1:1 iPad program since 2013 to enable all courses to be available 24/7 via iTunesU, iBooks, Moodle and other e-forms.

Advanced Technology Lead School
APHS is the lead school for the southern region in Advanced Technology and provides students in Years 8-10 exciting Problem Based STEM curriculum and many extra-curricula STEM opportunities.

Science Mathematics Academy @ Flinders University (SMAF)
APHS is the lead school in collaboration with six other Southern Schools for students of SACE Stage 2 Chemistry, Physics and Specialist Mathematics to undertake their studies at Flinders University. Students are instructed by specially selected teachers from the participating schools and have access to Flinders University facilities and student mentors. This program forms a positive part of student’s transition to University.

Extension Studies
This program enables students to commence their university studies at Flinders University while still in Year 12.

Key School Policies
Our Vision Statement:
Aberfoyle Park High School promotes Creativity, Innovation and Excellence.

The School Values are:
Honesty
Care and Compassion
Respect

Fundamental School Beliefs:
Our School:
Strives for and celebrates excellence
Is dynamic, innovative and creative
Is safe, positive and caring
Our Staff are:
Committed to the school
Committed to ensuring students achieve their personal best
Professional in all of their undertakings

Our Students:
Achieve their personal best
Are an ongoing source of pride

Aberfoyle Park High School is working towards being a highly effective professional learning community (PLC) with young people at the centre of everything we do. Our Site Learning Plan guides the development and consistent implementation of our whole school efforts to improve learning outcomes and to ensure that all students achieve to a high standard.

Curriculum
The Australian Curriculum and SACE direct Aberfoyle Park High School curriculum and we offer multiple pathways as students progress into Senior School. Please see our curriculum wiki for further details: http://www.aphs.sa.edu.au/curriculum-handbook

At Year 8 students are provided with a broad and balanced curriculum including a choice of two languages (Japanese or Spanish), the option of Specialist Music (full year) and Visual Art and Drama or Dance or General Arts that includes a term each of Visual Art, Dance, Drama and Music.

Year 9 and 10 students are provided with all Australian Curriculum entitlement subjects and a diverse range of electives to meet student strengths and interests.

Senior School offerings are described as Pathways to assist students in making effective course decisions. We offer a wide range of subjects combined in the following Pathways that we describe as SACE PLUS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Pathways</th>
<th>Vocational Pathways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Arts</td>
<td>Community Services – Children’s Services Certificate II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
<td>Doorways 2 Construction – Construction Certificate I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics</td>
<td>Electrotechnology – Certificate II In Electronics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sport &amp; Recreation – Certificate II Sport &amp; Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vocational courses through the Southern Adelaide &amp; Fleurieu Trade School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment Pathway

Students are provided with additional support by our expert Special Education Teachers and School Support Officers through our Learning Support Centre, in class support, Literacy Intensive Flexible Teaching (LIFT) class, The Academy and QuickSmart Literacy and Numeracy and case management.
**Sporting Activities**

A wide range of sporting activities is available to students. Aberfoyle Park High School is regularly involved in:

- SSSSA and School Sport South Australia Championship events including Football, Netball, Soccer, Rugby and others depending on student numbers each year.
- Strong Sports Day involvement with the introduction of a ‘House’ system in 2011 and a sound Athletics tradition.
- 100km, 50km and Ekiden relays as well as State Cross Country Championships.
- A wide variety of sports in either knockout Competitions or “come and try” Lightning Carnivals.
- Recreational and competition volleyball by entering beach volleyball events. Teams compete in the Volleyball SA State Junior League and at the SA and Australian Schools Cup Competitions.
- Girls surfing, with “come and try” days and regular coaching sessions.
- Regular ski trips to Victoria.

**Tennis Academy**

- APHS offers student athletes with a high quality, personalised tennis and education program.

**Other Co-Curricular Activities**

**General**

We have a range of international excursions that value adds to our curriculum offerings that run every two to three years including:

- Spanish Language and Cultural trip to Salamanca Spain
- Japanese Cultural trip to Japan
- Western Front Tour to London, France, Belgium
- Arts and Music Cultural Tour to Europe
- World Challenge to Asia
- Singapore International Science Challenge

**Staff (and their welfare)**

**Staff profile**

Staff at APHS is very stable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator Band B1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Leader Band B2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal Band B3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Band B5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Worker</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSOs</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSE - Groundsperson</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Leadership structure – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPAL</td>
<td>Liz Mead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPUTY PRINCIPAL</td>
<td>Greg Rolton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECTORS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Middle School / Ignite</td>
<td>Jenny Johns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Senior School / International</td>
<td>Warren Eaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pathways</td>
<td>Dale Hoffman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Science, Maths, Advanced Research &amp; Technology</td>
<td>Russell Johns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Timetable / Daily Ops and Data</td>
<td>Maurice Akele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSINESS MANAGER</td>
<td>Carolyn Vowels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR LEADERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- English / Ignite (PR) / Middle School</td>
<td>Janine Easton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- HASS / Ignite (Student Management) / Middle School</td>
<td>Claire Forsyth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COORDINATORS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Arts</td>
<td>Vicki Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- HPE</td>
<td>Richard Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ma/Sc</td>
<td>Kate Berry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Special Education</td>
<td>Sally Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>- SACE</td>
<td>Brian Stratfold</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Counsellors</td>
<td>Leigh Charlesworth</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Special Education</td>
<td>Carol Davey</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM</td>
<td>Jo Jaensch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM</td>
<td>Nina Mlynowskyj</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Staff support systems
- A comprehensive induction program is conducted
- Personnel Advisory Committee
- Step 9 planned and implemented and reviewed
- Professional Learning Community structure
- Usually two pupil free days are held each year to provide specific Professional Development and opportunities for staff to plan and update their programs and skills
- Clear Grievance procedures
- Strong line management and buddy support structures
- Many other Professional Development opportunities are made available within the school, such as new SACE, AC, IGNITE and IT
- Information about externally run Training and Development is freely accessible.
- Staff are encouraged to present at various professional development days both within and outside the school
- In school time is made available for PLCs to meet each week
Performance and Development
The staff participates in whole school performance and development as per DECD Policy and Practices. Staff are expected to plan and evaluate their performance and development based on the Australian Standards for Teachers. At least two meetings of individual staff members and Line Managers per year are held, usually one in Term 1 and the other in Term 4. Time release is available to ensure meetings can take place and for Line Managers to complete a written feedback report for each staff member annually.

Staff utilisation
The majority of staff teach in their areas of expertise. Time allocation for specific duties is negotiated through the Personal Advisory Committee and is within the requirements of the current Enterprise Agreement.

Access to specialist staff
A number of Instrumental Music teachers teach students throughout the year.

School Facilities
Buildings and grounds
Aberfoyle Park High School has a unique, open design, integrating educational and community services. It has a pleasant natural landscape with many trees, hundreds of which were planted by students. General classrooms are carpeted and air-conditioned; many are housed in brick duplexes, with their own toilets. There is a specialist performing arts centre and a number of outstanding computer suites. There are approximately 900+ computers throughout the school. Sporting facilities include a large oval, tennis and basketball courts and access to the Happy Valley oval and facilities for soccer, netball, tennis, and lawn bowls. The school has a strong community of support for developing Information and Communication Technology and has been well resourced in this area.

Cooling
The whole school is air-conditioned.

Specialist facilities
Specialist facilities include: a Community Library with extensive information technology resources, 2 x Gymnasia, Performing Arts Centre, multiple e-Learning commons, Curriculum IT laptop pods, Apple TV and data projectors or TVs in each room, Sound Studio, Dance Studio and Design Studio.

Student facilities
Canteen, counselling suite, senior school study centre, student services centre, sick room, large shaded areas, outside seating.

Staff facilities
Individual or small group offices based on curriculum areas; large staff lounge; access to IT including a MacBook Air and iPad/teacher, access to gymnasium for activities as well as access to phones, email, internet.

Access for students and staff with disabilities
There are ramps to library, sloping pavements to accommodate undulating terrain, toilets for disabled. Students with mobility difficulties are timetabled for downstairs lessons because there are no lifts. The undulating grounds do not lend themselves easily to wheelchair access.

Access to bus transport
A departmental transport service is available for the Kangarilla area and the school is very accessible by public transport.

Other
Large, comprehensive shopping centre, two kindergartens, preschool, medical and dental services and Aberfoyle Park Park Community Centre are adjacent to the school.
School Operations

Decision making structures

- The Governing Council is representative of parents, students, staff and other local community interests and provides overall governance.
- The Finance and Facilities Committee is representative of parents and staff and reports to Governing Council.
- The Curriculum Leaders group makes recommendations re subject offerings, assessment and reporting and curriculum which is then discussed and confirmed by Staff Forum and/or PAC.
- PAC is responsible for the effective deployment of human resources consistent with the current Enterprise Agreement. Members of the PAC are required to consult with and represent all staff in relation to human resource matters.
- WHS committee meets regularly to ensure compliance with all WHS requirements.
- All staff belong to a relevant Professional Learning Committee.
- Other task groups are formed as required.

Regular publications

e-Newsletter, curriculum wiki, 7-8 transition package, e-staff hand book, daily bulletin, Stop Press

Other communication

APHS web site, meetings, minutes of meetings, phone calls, parent interview nights, open night, principal tours, informal teacher-parent telephone calls / emails and DayMap student and parent portals.

School financial position

Current spending priorities are: ICT, learning areas, maintenance and replacement program for facilities and financial support to the school priorities.

Special funding

Additional funds come from a small group of international full-fee paying students and short-term international student visits.

DECD funded projects include IGNITE and Special Education.

Local Community

General characteristics

Aberfoyle Park High School is in the City of Onkaparinga, which was incorporated in July 1997. The school is located in the southern foothills of the metropolitan area, 25kms from the city centre, with most homes in the district being built over the last 25 years. Generally households could be described as having middle-income levels with some pockets of low income. Many students in the IGNITE program travel from outside the area.

Governing Council, Year 8 and year 12 acquaintance nights, parent teacher interviews, parent forums, open night, curriculum information days/nights are all well attended. IGNITE Parent sessions are held regularly, parent support evenings are held to inform parents about various aspects of the school including Pathways, SACE and VET. Parents are regularly informed re development of school policies and initiatives. The school has established grievance procedures.

Feeder schools

The main feeder schools are Flagstaff Hill, Craigburn, Thiele, Aberfoyle, Happy Valley, Clarendon, Kangarilla, Braeview, Our Saviour, Pilgrim and Nativity. However APHS currently has 40+ primary schools represented in our Year 8 cohort, due in part to our IGNITE program.