

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/08

**School Name:** Balaklava Primary School

**School Number:** 0477

## 1. General Information

### Part A

School name	: BALAKLAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL	Courier	: Balaklava
School No.	: 0477		
Principal	: Dale Gathercole		
Postal Address	: PO Box 108, Balaklava 5461		
Location Address	: 29 Wallace Street, Balaklava 5461		
District	: Wakefield		
Distance from GPO	: 92 kms	Phone No.	: 08 88621660
CPC attached	: NO	Fax No.	: 08 88621009

		2005	2006	2007	2008
February FTE Enrolment					
Primary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
	Reception	17.0	34.0	15.0	35.0
	Year 1	19.0	21.0	32.0	18.0
	Year 2	30.0	23.0	23.0	33.0
	Year 3	23.0	29.0	21.0	22.0
	Year 4	33.0	29.0	31.0	25.0
	Year 5	32.0	36.0	28.0	32.0
	Year 6	42.0	37.0	35.0	31.0
	Year 7	32.0	46.0	40.0	36.0
Secondary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
	Year 8				
	Year 9				
	Year 10				
	Year 11				
	Year 12				
	Year 12 plus				
TOTAL		228	255	225	232
July total FTE Enrolment		243.0	257.0	235.0	241.0
Male FTE		128.0	124.0	101.0	121.0
Female FTE		115.0	131.0	124.0	120.0
School Card Approvals (Persons)		72.0	65.0	65.0	65.0
NESB Total (Persons)					
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		2.0	6.0	3.0	2.0

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.

## Part B

- Deputy Principal

: Barb Rodgers. Appointed until January 2011.

- Staff numbers

### **:Teachers**

16.09 FTE, includes 1.0 District PRT & 0.2 for our 2 Beginning teachers.

Composition – 13.915 Tier 1, 0.46 FIR, 0.42 Tier 2 (Special Ed),

0.52 School Counsellor- (school tops allocation up to 0.6)

Males: 2 full time, 1 part time (PRT).

Females: 10 full time, 5 part time.

### **SSO and GSE**

Male (Grounds) 1 Part time 12 hrs/wk

Female – 1 Full time 37.5 hrs/wk

– 1 Part time 44.5 hrs/wk

Total = 92.5 hrs/wk

**Additional SSO** -Special Education, ICT support, Behaviour Management, ESL & Literacy Blocks

Male 3

Female 8

Total = 70 hrs/wk

- Balaklava Primary is a locally managed school. We have 10 classes operating.

- Enrolment trends

: Numbers are in slight decline having held in the 250 range for a few years.

Previous trends indicated transience of approximately 50 students per year.

This certainly has not been the case this January.

- Special arrangements

:Current initiatives with Balaklava High School include a shared canteen, buses and use of bore water. The Middle School Public Speaking Event is held jointly each year. Curriculum continuity discussions with the BHS Science faculty and Balaklava Community Children's Centre are scheduled for this year.

The Reading Recovery programme has been operating since 2002.

- Public transport access

: The principal of the primary school manages 12 DECS buses. The buses provide transport for over 600 students to the pre-school, primary, non-government and high school sites daily.

DECS bus routes and travel arrangements are reviewed bi annually. The routes are due to be reviewed in 2009.

- Year of Opening

: 1877. Balaklava Primary celebrates its 131<sup>st</sup> year of delivering education.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
  - : Students are from a mixed farm, coastal and town background. A number of families have moved from northern metropolitan areas.
  - Currently 28% of the school population qualifies for School Card.
- Support offered
  - : Christian Pastoral Support Worker, Kathy Ottens has been appointed for 3 years. Kathy works 2 days per week.
  - : School Counsellor 0.6 position for 2 years
- Student management
  - : Student Behaviour Management Policy is under constant review, and includes use of Time Out and Buddy classes, with a strong emphasis on responsive, pro-active strategies which involve partnerships with families. As a staff we are investigating Restorative Practices to support student behaviour.
- Student government
  - : SRC structure is currently under review- Student Committees are being established with the younger students involved in JAG: Junior Advisory Group.
- Special programmes
  - : Special Needs including Early Assistance, Reading Recovery, LAP, Speech, Behaviour and Co-ordination programmes.

## 3. Key School Policies

BPS aims to provide quality-teaching programmes for all students to maximise learning outcomes.

- Our school motto was adopted late in 2006 and incorporated in a banner:



### Strategic directions

Literacy- writing and reading focus, Numeracy- staff professional learning and student engagement, Science- National trail school for Primary Science Connections and Student & Staff Wellbeing continue as our primary Strategic Directions in 2008. The learning development and welfare of our Aboriginal students will be monitored across the curriculum with a particular focus on Attendance.

Professional Learning and a focus on staff methodologies will enhance student engagement in these areas whilst analysing information and the data gathered to make informed decisions when planning. Our firm focus on Teaching and Learning will be reflected in our daily work through the use of the South Australian Curriculum

Standards and Accountability Framework, Assessment & Reporting and other whole school initiatives.

## 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

:The eight learning areas are provided with the provision of a specialist music curriculum.

Special curriculum features include:

:Indonesian LOTE provided R-7; with some classes accessing Visual Arts specialist teaching throughout the year.

Class based music provided R-7 – one lesson per week.

There is significant student involvement in Instrumental Music (15%).

School choir performs annually at the Primary Schools Music Festival and at local events. We also have a School Band and Vocal Ensemble.

- Teaching methodology

: Programmes based on SACSA framework with a 2008 focus on Student Engagement

- Assessment procedures and reporting

:Interviews Term 1 and optional Term 3; written reports Terms 2 & 4.

- Joint programmes

: Ongoing Transition programmes with Balaklava Community Children's Centre & Balaklava High School.

- Early Literacy Plan Strategies include:

: Implementing a Literacy Block R-7, including Guided Reading, flexible use of SSO staff in classrooms to support learning during Literacy Blocks, Reading Recovery Programme and Individualised programming for students with specific literacy learning needs. Design element focus this year includes the effective use of evidence & data; whole site commitment & focus and effective teaching & learning. We are fortunate to have a Literacy Mentor on-site. Through top up funding from the school, the Mentor has an R-7 brief.

- National Primary Science and Literacy project

: 2 staff are participating in National Primary Science and Literacy project which includes whole school implementation this year.

## 5. Sporting Activities

: The school is active in SAPSASA & local competitions covering netball, football, softball, cricket, golf, soccer, tennis, swimming (close proximity to community pool) athletics, lawn bowls and basketball.

## **6. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- General
  - : Religious Education Seminars held each term.
  - : Year 7 Production and Graduation
  - : Swimming Carnival & Sports day held annually.
  - : Middle School Public Speaking event.

## **7. Staff (and their welfare)**

- Staff profile
  - : Stable for the foreseeable future.
- Leadership structure
  - : Principal, Deputy and School Counsellor form the collaborative Leadership Team.
- Staff support systems
  - : Clustering of year level groups
  - : Teaching staff- Performance Management reviews with the Principal or Deputy Principal are conducted each term as are SSO reviews with the Principal and Administrator.
- Access to specialised staff through Wakefield District Office offers support in the following areas
  - : Student Behaviour Management, Speech, Hearing, Guidance, Special Education, Curriculum, Early Years, School Improvement, Attendance, Finance, Transition and Aboriginal Education.

## **8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

- Complexity placement points
  - : N/A
- Isolation placement points
  - : Nil
- Travelling time
  - : From Gawler – 40 mins; from Adelaide – an hour from the northern suburbs.
- Housing assistance
  - : Some government housing – managed by local real estate agent.
- Cooling for school buildings
  - : Refer to School Facilities section below.
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
  - : N/A
- Additional increment allowance
  - : Nil

- Designated schools benefits  
: Nil
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools  
: Nil
- Medical and dental treatment expenses  
: Available if claimed.
- Locality allowances  
: Nil
- Relocation assistance  
: Standard Department Removal Allowance.
- Principal's telephone costs  
: access to a school mobile- pay for personal calls

## **9. School Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds  
: Brick Open Space Unit for four classes, stone JP building for two classes, stone Admin building, DEMAC- middle schooling precinct, hardboard double and single classrooms, double room for Music, two doubles for the Library and Computing Rooms, and Atco building for Pre-loved Uniforms
- Cooling  
: Split Level Air-conditioning to most learning spaces.
- Specialist facilities  
: Computing room, Music suite and Indonesian room.
- Student facilities  
: Daily access to joint canteen on the high school site.  
: New JP Playground in 2003 & UP Playground in 2008  
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: New asphalt & paving laid in 2007-08 and new courts marked
- Staff facilities  
: Large Staffroom  
: Teacher work station in Open Space Unit  
: Large SSO workroom
- Access for students and staff with disabilities  
: Good. All main buildings have ramps  
: Open Space Unit Well not inaccessible
- Access to bus transport  
: School buses use a road within school grounds for drop off and collection of students each morning and afternoon

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
  - : Leadership, PAC, Administration, Staff meetings, Student Committees and Governing Council, including Parent Coordinating Committee
- Regular publications
  - : Newsletter fortnightly.
- Other communication
  - : Daybook
  - : Weekly staff notes
  - : Website: [www.balagr7.sa.edu.au](http://www.balagr7.sa.edu.au)
- School financial position
  - : Resource Entitlement of around \$1,600,000 per year
  - : Staff manage classroom and curriculum budgets
  - : Reserves to fund on-going curriculum initiatives such as Reading Recovery and ICT

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics
  - : Local shops service town, local and farm community of approximately 3000 people. Primary production area with supporting businesses. Wide range of active volunteer organisations and Christian churches.
- Parent and community involvement
  - : Governing Council, Parent Coordinating Committee, LAP, and each class has 2 parent representatives to support class/school activities.
- Feeder schools
  - : Balaklava Community Children's Centre. (BCCC)
- Other local care and educational facilities- After School Hours and Child Care based at B CCC with a local pick up on our site
- : Balaklava High School (approximate enrolment 402), Horizon Christian School (296). Also primary schools are located at Owen and Pt Wakefield, with a preschool also at Pt Wakefield.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  - : A supermarket, banks, post office, chemist, newsagent, two hotels, and a variety of shops including electrical, hardware, hairdressing and crafts.
  - : Two hay processing plants, abattoirs, numerous pig & poultry farms, ABB grain handling
- Other local facilities
  - : Hospital, helipad, medical centre, four doctors, visiting specialist services, St John Ambulance, dentist, aged care facilities. Local newspaper, town oval and Sports Club, Lions Club, CFS, Red Cross, art gallery, Community Arts Organisation, Economic Development Board, golf club, racing club, gliding club, football, netball and basketball club, tennis, hockey, table tennis, bowls,

croquet, swimming pool, rifle and pistol clubs, gardening and photography club, RSL, single squash court, caravan park and cabins plus others.

- Availability of staff housing
  - : Limited to a few houses. Private rental accommodation is generally available. Currently 2 new housing developments have opened
- Local Government body
  - : Wakefield Regional Council has its Head Office at Balaklava.

## **12. Further Comments**

: Balaklava is close enough to Adelaide for commuters, being an hour from Gepps Cross. It is also 50 minutes from the Clare Valley, Barossa Valley & the Yorke Peninsula

: A bus service to Adelaide operates daily

: Wakefield Regional Council has an active Economic Development Board encouraging development in the area

: School promotion, publicity and learning performance needs to be a focus with a non-government school adjacent that is providing strong competition for enrolments

: We have approximately 3.34 hectares with the Balaklava High School sharing one boundary fence, the Balaklava Community Children's Centre several blocks away and the Horizon Christian School across the road

: We welcome parent and community involvement and actively support local initiatives such as tree planting, Adelaide Plains Festival, Balaklava Agricultural Show, Balaklava Eisteddfod and other opportunities as they arise

: Staff form a collaborative, cohesive group who work well with an interested Governing Council and Parent Coordinating Committee