

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 5/2023

School Name: Keith Area School

www.keithas.sa.edu.au

**School
Number: 0757**

1. General Information

Part A

School name	: KEITH AREA SCHOOL	Courier	: Keith
No.	: 0757		
Principal	: Mr Tobias O'Connor		
Postal Address	: Tolmer Terrace, Keith 5267		
Location Address	: Tolmer Terrace, Keith 5267		
Partnership	: Tatiara	Phone No.	: 08 87551 177
Distance from GPO	: 228 kms	Fax No.	: 08 87551 618
CPC attached	: No		

February FTE Enrolment

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Foundation	21.0	22.0	25.0	23.0	18.0	19.0
Year 1	30.0	23.0	20.0	22.0	21.0	15.0
Year 2	29.0	32.0	24.0	21.0	23.0	21.0
Year 3	32.0	31.0	35.0	23.0	18.0	24.0
Year 4	34.0	33.0	30.0	33.0	21.0	19.0
Year 5	29.0	32.0	34.0	31.0	33.0	24.0
Year 6	37.0	28.0	32.0	31.0	30.0	33.0
Year 7	27.0	36.0	28.0	31.0	30.0	34.0
Year 8	27.0	26.0	32.0	27.0	31.0	31.0
Year 9	29.0	26.0	25.0	28.0	27.0	33.0
Year 10	14.0	25.0	15.0	21.0	22.0	21.0
Year 11	14.0	14.0	20.0	15.0	17.0	20.0
Year 12	10.0	13.0	12.0	17.4	10.0	7.0
Year 12+						
TOTAL	333.00	341.0	339.0	324.4	302.0	301.0

School Card Approvals (Persons)	55	39	55	40	63	60
NESB Total (persons)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	17	14	16	17	16	15

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'.

Part B

- **Deputy Principal**

Jennifer Culley

- **Staffing numbers**

	Female	Male
Principal		1
Deputy Principal		1
Assistant Principal	2	
Coordinators	1	1
Teachers tier 1	12	6
Teachers tier 2	2.5	
Librarian		
SSO	15	1
GSE		

- **Partnerships 21 status**

Local Management through Governing Council.

- **Enrolment trends**

Numbers are trending downwards.

- **Special arrangements**

- **Year of opening**

The first school in this district was the Mount Monster School and the date of the first admissions was 16th June 1889. It was a small weatherboard building and all that remains to show where the first school was are a few pepper trees. The School was situated on the Naracoorte Highway, halfway between Mount Monster Station and the railway cottages. It was known as a provisional school. The name of the School was changed from "Mount Monster" to "Keith" in October 1907 and was moved to a small room at the back of the Keith Institute, now known as the C.W.A. Rooms. It remained in operation at these Rooms until 1913. Keith Higher Primary was reclassified in 1957 to Keith Area School

- **Public transport access**

There is a regular bus service to and from Mt Gambier, Adelaide and Melbourne.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

Students are very cooperative and supportive of each other and the staff. Many travel by bus, and this impacts on after school hours activities. Senior classes are often small. The academic aspirations and performance of many students is very high. Likewise the sporting participation and performance of many students is high.

- **(Pastoral) Care programs**

The Child Protection Curriculum is an integral part of the pastoral care programme in Year F-10. Students in secondary have a weekly home group lesson to cover aspects of the CPC curriculum as well as look at general issues around well-being.

Primary school classes run several innovative programmes to support students in wellbeing, including regular bully audits, and annual well-being survey.

- **Support Offered.**

A Pastoral Care Worker operates at the school, over all year levels. The PCW support students, staff and parents in a range of school activities and personal issues.

We have a wellbeing teacher who heads up our Wellbeing Team and supports staff, students, and families. Typically, we fund our wellbeing leader above entitlement to 0.6FTE.

- **Student management**

While this is not a major issue, the school has a defined Behaviour Policy which is based around restorative practices. Our Deputy Principal oversees behaviour management and works with Home Group teachers, coordinators and parents to support positive and proactive behaviour interventions.

- **Student government**

There are 2 SRC groups, representing primary and secondary students. Students are currently represented on Governing Council and other formal groups. They are also involved in organising assemblies, school socials, and fundraising for selected charities. Wellbeing Ambassadors also support a number of wellbeing initiatives such as White Ribbon.

- **Special programmes**

A small number of students take instrumental music from DfE teachers, mainly by video conference technology. There is also Choir, Lego League, and an Enviro Club.

3. Key School Policies

- **Core business**

The core business of Keith Area School is to organise learning and teaching for personal excellence within a safe and supportive environment, and to prepare senior secondary students for tertiary study and the world of work.

- **Required Areas of Study**

The F-10 curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum framework. Year 10 also provides a transition into the South Australian Certificate of Education requirements (SACE). These are complemented by a growing number of Vocational Education and Training options.

LOTE (Indonesian) is offered face to face for F to 8 students together with HPE & Digital Technology.

- **Supportive environment**

The core business of the school is supported by:

- the consistent application of the behaviour management policy
- a comprehensive transition program from pre-school into Foundation. This involves school and Children's Services staff, with parental involvement
- targeted intervention programs
- effective parental involvement
- effective assessment and reporting processes
- staff training and development that is focussed on school priorities
- a performance management structure that includes all staff
- a decision making structure in which the participation of staff, students and parents is valued

- equitable distribution of all resources, F-12
- appropriate allocation of resources to support the school priorities as detailed below.

- **Current Priorities**

Achievement in:

- Reading
- Numeracy
- Writing

A copy of our Site Improvement Plan can be located on the school website

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

F-10 in line with Australian Curriculum. Indonesian has been chosen as the LOTE F-8. Students have Indonesian, Science and HPE as part of NIT provision. Secondary students have access to a wide range of SACE subjects, both face to face and with distance education support (Open Access). Traditionally, our senior students have performed very well with a high number of A and B grades in Stage 1 and 2.

- **Open Access**

Supplements senior curriculum, and is also available for other students in some specialist areas. Students receive teacher support in their Open Access courses.

- **Special needs**

Catered for by tier 2 staff. Grants provide extra SSO support for students. Students experience a range of integrated and withdrawal activities.

The school is investing heavily in intervention and has a number of programs aimed to support targeted students. Currently we use MiniLit and MultiLit programme for reading intervention and Scaffolding Numeracy in the Middle Years and Too Smart Maths intervention programmes.

- **Special curriculum features**

Keith Area School has well equipped sport, technology and Home Ec facilities. Our Home Ec, tech and agriculture facilities have received upgrades in recent years. The school completed a capital works building program (completed end of 2014) and STEMworks building program (completed beginning of 2019). All facilities are modern and well maintained.

- **Teaching methodology**

Varies with the teacher, students and subject area. Teachers take responsibility for a group of students through home group and at least two teaching areas.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

Combination of formal written reports and three way conferences with students, parents and teachers.

5. Sporting Activities

A wide range of traditional sports. Local district swimming and athletics and sports competitions/carnivals. There is very strong local sporting opportunities (out of school) in Football, Netball, Cricket, Netball, Hockey, Tennis and others. The local clubs provide invaluable support

with our school sports competitions through coaching and assisting.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- **General**
- **Special**
N/A

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

There are a small number of experienced teachers who have been at Keith for much of their career. An increasing number of staff are in the early stages of their career (2-6years). Staff turnover is quite minimal.
- **Leadership structure**

Our school has a B2 Primary Assistant Principal, B2 Secondary Assistant Principal, B1 Reading and Intervention Coordinator, B1 5-9 Learning and Engagement Coordinator, B3 Deputy Principal and A5 Principal.
- **Staff support systems**

The school invests in a well-developed early career teacher program and has good induction processes for new staff. Early career teachers are assigned a mentor. A structured performance development process is in place to support staff with their career goals and objectives. Regular feedback is provided by line-managers in a coaching/mentoring manner.
- **Staff utilisation policies**

PAC represents all staff.
- **Access to special staff**

Instrumental music is delivered by Teams for a number of students.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Complexity placement points**
2.5
- **Housing assistance**

Yes.

- **Cooling for school buildings**

All of the main school buildings are cooled and heated.

- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**

Yes, after 7 years.

- **Medical and dental treatment expenses**

Yes, within DfE limits.

- **Relocation assistance**

Yes.

- **Principal's telephone costs**

Yes. A mobile phone is provided

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and Grounds**

The school has extensive lawn and hard play areas. All teaching rooms are now accommodated within the permanent brick buildings. The school has undergone significant upgrades and can now boast:

- A modern hall with new acoustic ceiling and upgraded audio and lighting facilities. This performance area is used for drama, gymnastics and school assemblies.
- Upgraded early years, primary, middle school and secondary learning areas.
- Upgraded art rooms (primary and secondary) & science lab (completed 2018).
- New common areas, a STEM room in primary and advanced manufacturing lab in middle school (completed 2018).
- A large outdoor sporting facility (COLA) which contains a large multipurpose court suitable for netball, basketball and volleyball.
- A fully upgraded technology centre, which includes an upgrade of all machinery.
- A new administration office area, staff work area and staff room (completed 2014).
- A new, stand alone, community library complex (completed 2014).
- A home economics facility with newly renovated commercial and domestic kitchens
- Upgraded agriculture facilities (completed 2018).

- **Specialist facilities**

The school has excellent IT facilities. Students in years 4-9 are provided with a 1:1 device (Chromebook) and students 10-12 are encouraged to BYO laptop or access one of the two computer rooms available or computing pods in common spaces. All secondary teaching rooms are equipped with large TV's and primary rooms are equipped with interactive televisions.

- **Student facilities**

Lunch orders can be made 5 days a week and are provided by our local bakery. A student led canteen service (ice blocks/drinks) was established in 2021.

- **Staff facilities**

All staff have defined work areas. Staff room, common areas and the hall are used as meeting venues.

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

In all areas

- **Access to bus transport**

The local contractor has buses for hire for school excursions at a competitive rate. These can be hired with a driver, or on a self-drive basis.

The school has a 11 seat bus which was generously donated by the Variety Club SA in 2020.

The school (through the GC) currently owns a passenger vehicle. This is available for use by all staff for the purpose of school business, including: excursions, meetings and training and development.

- **Other**

The school is now part of the Tatiara partnership, linked with 5 other sites in our region. This includes the pre-school and school sites from Bordertown and Mundulla.

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

Staff are members of a sub-school team (Primary or Secondary) and all are members of a professional learning community.

Leaders meet weekly and in addition to their own professional learning community.

Decisions are generally made via consensus and via committee structures (school and Governing Council sub-committees).

- **Regular Publications**

Regular school newsletter, Facebook page or via our smartphone app (SkoolBag). Copies are available for community members from the School and Community Library or local Newsagent.

- **Other communication**

The school has just implemented a web-based student management system called DayMap. Parents are contacted on a daily basis through a text message if their child is absent or late from school. This system enables us to quickly and effectively get a message out to all families in the case of an emergency.

- **School financial position**

Good.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Farming community, but with more variations than many other rural areas. Growing irrigation industry has enabled diversification into crops such as olives, onions, potatoes, and vines in the south. These are supported by local service industries.

Sport is the major social basis of the community.

Many people use the Coorong or nearby beaches for fishing and camping.

Strong Christian ethic in a large section of the community.

- **Parent and community involvement**

Strong interest and support by parents and community.

Community groups such as Lions and Apex support school projects and students.

- **Feeder schools**

None

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

Kindergarten, playgroup, occasional care, several registered carers. Childcare is somewhat of an issue in Keith with parents reporting difficulties accessing local care at times or for certain days.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Rural service industries, all basic shopping and banking services available.

- **Other local facilities**

- Medical centre, dentist, vet.
- Good local sporting facilities, including golf course, indoor basketball stadium, netball, football and hockey.
- 24-hour roadhouse and takeaway.
- Craft shops and craft cooperative, hardware and supermarket.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Subsidised government employee housing is available.

- **Local Government body**

Tatiara District Council.