



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2018

School number: 0905

School name: BLACKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

School Profile:

Blackwood High School's mission is to educate students to be inspired to achieve, to respect others, to learn about the importance of community and traditions, and to be responsible and active as local and global citizens.

The school has three agreed core values of care, achievement and respect articulated through the school motto of 'Inspiring Achievement and Respect'. We believe that young people learn best when they feel valued, listened to, challenged and, most importantly when they feel cared for and safe. We use restorative practices to support students in their interactions with each other. We value self-reflection as a tool for personal growth and development. Links to the community to broaden student opportunities are actively sought. This includes relationships with business, industry and the tertiary sector.

The school delivers a comprehensive curriculum through the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program and the SACE.

We deliver 21st Century learning by connecting our students to the global community. Staff utilise ICT to enhance student learning. This is supported through wireless access across the school and the Daymap learning management system which all staff, students and families have access to.

Students can apply for our Specialist Netball and Football programs. Also, students have the opportunity to participate in a range of co-curricular activities which include the Performing Arts, debating, sporting competitions and STEM related activities.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Mrs Sharon Goldman
- Deputy Principal name: Mr Jason Loke
- Year of opening: 1961
- Postal Address: PO Box 1075, Blackwood SA 5051
- Location Address: 4 Seymour Street, Eden Hills SA 5050
- DECD Region: Southern Adelaide
- Geographical location: 11km from Adelaide Centre
- Telephone number: 08 8278 0900
- Fax Number: 08 8278 0999
- School website address: www.bhs.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: blackwood@bhs.sa.edu.au
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Year 8	196	179	169	196.20	180
Year 9	146	209	175	175	209
Year 10	157	142	190	192.40	182
Year 11	158	161.8	145.2	215	187
Year 12	130	142	149	159	192
Sp	7	3	3	2	
TOTAL	794	836.8	831.2	939.60	950

School Card holders 102

NESB Total (Persons) 170

Aboriginal FTE Enrolment 12

Student enrolment trends: Stable

- **Staffing numbers** (as at February 2018 census):

<i>Principal</i>	1
<i>Deputy Principal</i>	1
<i>Assistant Principals</i>	3
<i>Senior Leaders</i>	4
<i>Coordinators</i>	9
<i>Teachers</i>	44.2
<i>Student Wellbeing Leaders</i>	2
<i>Librarians</i>	1
<i>EALD</i>	0.28
<i>Support Staff (BHS)</i>	694.5

- **Public transport access:**

A wide network of Adelaide Metro buses service the school. The buses stop within the school grounds and students are supervised at the bus stops by teaching staff. School buses have routes to and from Blackwood Station and Interchange, Marion via Flinders Medical Centre and Shepherds Hill Road, Belair (both Main Road and Kalyra Avenue), Hawthorndene, Flagstaff Hill, Reynella and Aberfoyle Park (via Black Road and then Murrays Hill Road or Main Road), and Coromandel Valley. There is a train service at Coromandel Station on the Belair Line.

Buses for excursions can be booked from a local contractor if Adelaide Metro and rail services are not convenient.

- **Special site arrangements:**

Blackwood High School is a member of the DECD Mitcham Hills Partnership which includes Belair, Bellevue Heights, Blackwood, Coromandel Valley, Eden Hills and Hawthorndene Primary Schools as well as six local preschools. The partnership manages the improvement of children and young people's learning and wellbeing outcomes through a networked approach to strategic leadership and learning.

2. Students (and their welfare)

Blackwood High School provides a diverse and inclusive international curriculum reflecting the needs of the local and wider communities and encourages all students to achieve their personal best in a safe and caring environment.

- **General characteristics**

The school community has high expectations for student learning and achievement. The internationally accredited International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program is delivered across Years 8-10 and the South Australian Certificate of Education for Years 11 and 12. Many opportunities exist for students to be involved in a wide range of co-curricular activities. Students take leadership roles within these co-curricular activities.

- **Student well-being programs**

A structured Year 8-12 Pastoral Care program exists with Positive Education embedded across all year levels. Year 8 students meet in teaching groups with one of their subject teachers who delivers the program to them. Students in Years 9 to 12 meet in groups with a teacher who remains with them, wherever possible, for the rest of their schooling. The program for Year 8, 9 and 10 students includes topics such as friendship and peer relationships, assertiveness, peer mediation,

harassment, learning how to learn and study skills. The Personal Learning Program (PLP) is delivered as part of the Year 10 Pastoral Care Program. At Year 11 and 12, study skills, time management, course counselling, career education and career pathways beyond school are some of the topics covered. In addition, there are age related sessions relating to safe driving and safe partying.

The school has a Pastoral Care Worker who assists with social and pastoral care activities.

The school has a relationship with SAMRHI and the Psychology Department of the University of Adelaide to develop and implement Positive Education and Positive Psychology.

- **Student support**

Students are supported by Care Group teachers, the Student Wellbeing Leaders, the Pastoral Care Worker, Year Level Leaders and the Executive Leaders Team. The Student Wellbeing Centre supports students with routine matters. Case Management teams monitor students' progress and provide support for students' academic and social-emotional needs. Additional learning support is provided through the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) where staff implement a range of strategies to support student learning and achievement.

- **Student management**

There is an expectation that all students have the right to learn and all teachers have the right to teach. A Student Wellbeing Team, led by an Assistant Principal, supports teachers in the management of student behaviour and in the development of student wellbeing programs. Case Management Teams at each year level, consisting of an Assistant/Deputy Principal, Year Level Leader, the Student Wellbeing Leaders and the Personalised Learning/VET Leaders, monitor the progress of all students.

- **Student government**

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is very active in the school and provides student 'voice' on most school committees contributing to school decision making. Also, the SRC is responsible for developing a variety of initiatives for students and is instrumental in raising money for selected charities and community projects. SRC members have the important role of hosting school assemblies and celebrations including the end of year graduations and ceremonies.

- **Special programs**

There is a house system at the school which recruits students into major leadership roles in a variety of activities, particularly sport. The houses of Madigan, Ashby, Mills and Russell enable students to participate and contribute to a house's achievements.

Year 9 students are involved as Peer Support leaders and lead a range of activities for Year 7 students (and their parents/caregivers). This program supports the primary school students with their transition to Blackwood High School.

2. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Our Purpose

Blackwood High School is an internationally accredited school whose purpose is to inspire respect for people, community and traditions and to position our students for achievement in the global community.

Our Values

The school has three agreed core values of care, achievement and respect articulated through Blackwood High School's motto of 'Inspiring achievement and respect'.

These values mean that we:

- Respect the potential, dignity and worth of each individual.
- Strive for academic excellence as the basis for developing individual potential and achievement.
- Acknowledge and value diversity that is embraced and respected.
- Promote active citizenship for a better world.

Our Aims

We aim to:

- Inspire and engage students to be all that they can be, to set demanding goals for themselves and make a positive difference in our world.
- Assist each student to develop as a well-balanced, open-minded, caring and principled human being.
- Educate students so that they understand the need for environmental sustainability and inspire them to take action.
- Enrich the learning experiences of our students through partnerships with the wider community.
- Encourage our students to take pride in themselves and their school.

The context for the Strategic Directions for 2018 – 2020 is in response to local, state, Australian and international education trends about the needs of 21st Century learners. This includes the Department of Education and Child Development Strategic Plan *Education for a Stronger Future*.

Blackwood High School staff are developing the new school strategic plan for 2018 - 2020. The desired outcome will be the development of high expectations and the achievement of excellent outcomes for all students. This will require a whole school approach with a targeted focus on pedagogical practice, task design, literacy and numeracy and intellectual stretch.

4. Curriculum

Middle School

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP), undertaken by all students in Years 8 to 10, provides a framework of learning that promotes intellectual challenge and connections between studies in traditional subjects and the real world. The program focuses on the development of those skills that support life-long learning. This includes the skills of communication, self-management, research and creative and critical thinking. The IBMYP also fosters intercultural awareness and understanding.

All Year 10 students complete the IBMYP Project as part of the IBMYP. The IBMYP Project is a self-directed inquiry chosen by the student. This project has a direct link in preparing students for the Stage 2 Research Project. Students also complete the SACE Stage 1 Personal Learning Plan (PLP) through the Year 10 Pastoral Care Program.

The school is the only school in the Southern Adelaide area to offer the Special Interest Netball program in partnership with the Netball SA as well as the Football (Australian Rules) Focus Program which offers specialist coaching.

Middle Years Curriculum Pattern

	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
Required Units of Study	Language and Literature 2 semesters	Language and Literature 2 semesters	Language and Literature 2 semesters
	Mathematics 2 semesters	Mathematics 2 semesters	Mathematics 2 semesters
	Science 2 semesters	Science 2 semesters	Science 2 semesters
	Language Acquisition 2 semesters	Language Acquisition 2 semesters	
	Individuals and Societies 2 semesters	Individuals and Societies 2 semesters	Individuals and Societies 2 semesters
	Health & Physical Education (required) 1 semester	Health & Physical Education (required) 1 semester	Health & Physical Education (required) 1 semester
	OR	OR	OR
	Netball A 2 semesters	Netball A 2 semesters	Netball A 2 semesters
	The Arts (required) 1 semester	Must choose one subject from The Arts 1 semester	Must choose one subject from The Arts 1 semester
	Design: Technology 1 semester	Must choose one subject from Design: Technology 1 semester	Must choose one subject from Design: Technology 1 semester
Choice Units	Select one subject from: Year 8 CHOICE subjects Design: Food Technology Design: Mechatronics Physical Education & Health: Physical Education Physical Education & Health: Football (Special Application) Physical Education & Health: Girls Football (Special Application) The Arts: Expressive Arts (Dance/Drama) The Arts: Expressive Arts (Music Performance) The Arts: Visual Art	Select one further subject from: The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Design: Home Economics or Technology	Select three further subjects from: Language Acquisition, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Design: Home Economics or Technology and/or Extension Mathematics Extension Science Big History

Senior School

Students who successfully complete their senior secondary education achieve the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). The SACE is an internationally recognised qualification that paves the way for young people to move from school to further education training and/or employment and is designed to enable students to gain the skills they need for their future, as citizens and employees.

The certificate is based on a two year program of study and achievement: SACE Stage 1 is normally undertaken in Year 11 and SACE Stage 2 in Year 12. Subjects offered from year to year are based on student choice.

The SACE has been strengthened to ensure it meets the needs of students, families, higher and further education providers, employers and the community. The SACE provides a greater clarity about the skills and knowledge which students need to succeed in their chosen pathway and provides greater flexibility for students to combine school, study off campus and work to successfully achieve their goals.

SACE Stage 1 and Stage 2

The school offers a comprehensive range of SACE Stage 1 and Stage 2 subjects.

Further details are available on the Blackwood High School website, www.bhs.sa.edu.au

There are subject options in each of the Curriculum Areas of the Arts, English, Physical Education and Health, Science, Mathematics, Languages, Technology and Humanities.

Open Access/Distance Education provision:

Open Access may be accessed by students wishing to study a subject, which is not offered by the school. Students may also gain access to the curriculum offerings at nearby schools for this purpose.

Blackwood High School has a Special Interest Netball Program. Up to twenty-five students are accepted each year for the Year 8 intake of the program. Netball South Australia conducts the selection trials. The program provides an elite development in the sport as part of the school curriculum in Years 8 to 11.

A Football Focus Program was introduced in 2010 also enabling elite development in this sport from Years 8 to 11. From 2017 the Football Focus Program will encompass Year 8 and 9 girls.

Personalised Learning:

The school has a significant focus on meeting individual student learning needs with one of the school's leadership positions providing high level leadership in this area. Students with identified learning needs are offered extra class support. Acceleration, enrichment and extension are offered to those students who are identified, by teachers and parents/caregivers, as being gifted and talented.

International Student Program:

The school conducts a highly successful international program with students studying at Blackwood High School for periods ranging from a term up to five years. Students from Asian and European countries enrol in the school. There is an active program for short and long term stays and exchanges through DECD International Education Services, particularly with Asian countries.

Vocational Education & Training (VET):

Students in SACE Stage 1 and 2 can be involved in a broad range of programs that support the transition from school to the workplace through TAFE SA and private training providers.

Blackwood High School is the lead school of the Southern Trade Training Centre. Trade Schools of the Future through which the students can access a range of Vocational Programs from Certificate I to Certificate IV traineeships and Australian School Based Apprenticeships. The school offers Certificate II Electro-technology leading to tertiary studies and apprenticeships.

Structured Workplace learning opportunities are also provided through regional organisations. A broad range of courses are offered to students to allow the SACE to be completed, while employer based training is begun in partnership with TAFE and other private providers. School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships are offered and supported through the DECD Career Pathways Manager in conjunction with the school's VET Leader.

At Year 10, through the Personal Learning Plan (PLP), students are given the opportunity to participate in the school's Work Experience program, allowing them to delve further into their future career options and experience first-hand the world of work. In preparation, students complete online WHS qualified and preparatory seminars and workshops and listen to guest speakers who offer advice on preparing for life after school, safety at work and finding employment.

The school has an increasingly extensive Vocational Learning Program, offering Workplace Practices at SACE Stage 1 and 2 for students studying school based or regional VET programs. The Advanced Technology Centre delivers the VET Electro-technology competency based curriculum. The school also offers certificates in Dance and Music. These VET courses provide students with the flexibility and curriculum relevance necessary for success at the senior years.

Extension Studies:

Year 12 students may access Extension Studies topics at Flinders University which count towards their Australian Tertiary Achievement Rank (ATAR). The school is involved with The University of Adelaide Early Entry Program for Year 12 students studying mathematics and science.

An additional support to these students is the ongoing development of the Daymap Learning Management System which offer blended learning opportunities and flexible options for students who need to complete their studies outside of traditional school hours.

• Teaching methodology:

Teachers are encouraged to use a wide range of teaching methods to suit all students. In the Middle School Year 8 Care Group teachers teach their care group for at least two subjects (where possible). This approach enables the development of positive and affirming relationships with a significant adult which supports students (and their parents/caregivers) in their transition to Blackwood High School.

All students have access to the internet and the school intranet. Through the support of parents/caregivers, students have access to laptops enabling a 1:1 ratio of computers for students. The school provides teachers and curriculum based support staff with a laptop. Classes use the Daymap Learning Management System to enhance teaching and learning and to support home-school communication

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

Every subject at all year levels has an assessment plan which is issued to students and parents/caregivers within the first four weeks of each semester via DayMap. Staff use DayMap to provide ongoing feedback to students about key assessment tasks identifying strengths and areas for further development to improve student learning.

All staff in the Middle School use the IBMYP criterion referenced assessment. Currently a mid-semester progress and end of semester report is issued for each subject resulting in four reports across the year for Years 8 to 11. In Year 12 three reports are provided - at the end of Term 1, 2 and 3. Teaching staff use the Accelerus reporting software to produce reports.

Parent/Teacher/Student conferences are held twice a year at the end of Term 1 and Term 3.

Students, in conjunction with their Care Group teachers, develop student improvement plans each term.

- **Joint programs:**

As part of the Mitcham Hills Partnership, Blackwood High School collaborates with Coromandel Valley Primary School to deliver the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program.

Blackwood High School runs a number of programs with Year 6 and 7 students within the Partnership.

Blackwood High School is a partner school of the Advanced Technologies Program, launched in 2010, This program is designed to provide students with mathematics, science, engineering and technology knowledge and skills with a view to entering Engineering and Advanced Technologies courses at university as well as Engineering and Technology related training streams.

Also, the school is a partner school for the Inner South Curriculum Alliance which offers students access to a Career Pathways Manager and programs designed to help them access school-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

5. Sporting Activities

The school has a strong sporting focus, fielding teams in a large variety of sports in a diverse number of competitions. These include state-wide zone, knock-out as well as many special events. A high proportion of students in the school are selected for state teams. Teachers are encouraged to help coach and supervise sports teams.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Each year a large number of Performing Arts students from across the disciplines of Music, Drama and Dance participate in school and public performances. The school also is involved in the National Dance Stars Competition.

Debating, literacy competitions, Science, Technology and Mathematics competitions and the History Bee and Bowl are other examples of the many activities in which students participate.

Students have extensive opportunities for involvement in student exchange programs both in and out of the school. Special programs exist in the learning areas of Japanese, Spanish and German.

Year 10 students have the opportunity to attend a week-long Snow Trip in Term 3 of each year.

Student leadership opportunities exist through the SRC. House leadership roles and the Peer Support Program, which supports student transition from Year 7 to 8, are further opportunities for student leadership.

Students in Year 10 and 11 have the opportunity to participate in the World Challenge.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

Most staff choose to remain at the school for long periods of time. However, given the size of the school and the profile of the staff, there is an ongoing comprehensive induction program. Blackwood High School has staff that are highly experienced in both curriculum and leadership and a high proportion of teachers accredited at the Advanced Skills Teacher level.

Leadership structure

A Principal, Deputy Principal, three Assistant Principals, a Business Leader, two Student Wellbeing Leaders, six Curriculum Leaders, an IBMYP Leader, a VET/Career Education Leader, a Personalised Learning Leader and Year Level Leaders lead the various functions of the school supporting teaching and learning as well as student wellbeing.

Staff support systems

All staff are encouraged to participate in structured professional learning activities after school hours. A professional learning program is delivered through staff meetings. Developing innovative and cutting edge pedagogy, exploring SACE and the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, Intervention and Support and restorative justice are some of the areas of professional development. Inservicing on the use of a range of ICT applications, including the Daymap Learning Management System, is ongoing for staff new to the school.

Performance and Development

Blackwood High School encourages staff to work with each other to improve performance. *Collaboration Time* is scheduled each week in the school's meeting structure. Staff work with a mentor/line manager to support their performance and to assist them in the achievement of their professional goals. Three performance conversation weeks are scheduled in the school calendar culminating in written feedback.

Staff utilisation policies

The school aims to deploy teachers in their field of expertise. Staff are also encouraged to broaden their fields of expertise.

Access to special staff

The school has an entitlement of DECD instrumental music lessons. The school liaises with all DECD personnel involved with Aboriginal students, students with disabilities and Flexible Learning Option (FLO) Case Managers.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

The school does not attract any additional support or award conditions for staff.

9. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds

The school is located in the Adelaide foothills which provide an attractive backdrop to the surrounding sports fields.

The majority of teaching areas are of solid permanent construction, organised in a compact arrangement on the school site. The school has a lift, ramps, shower and private toilet facilities for students with disabilities. All areas of the school are air-conditioned.

The staffroom is reserved for social activities and all staff have office/work space in other locations in the school. Staff have either stand alone or networked IT access in all staff work areas. Teaching staff are provided with a school laptop to support communication processes, curriculum planning, teaching, assessment and reporting.

The school has a comprehensive IT network facility with full wireless connection to support teaching and learning throughout the school.

The school utilises a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program to enable a ratio of 1:1 computers for students. Short and longer term borrowing of laptops is available from the Resource Centre. Specialist subjects such as Technogym and Photography provide student access to specialised IT applications to support learning.

Specialist facilities include the:

- state of the art Performing Arts Centre completed in 2001 with outstanding support from the local community
- \$3M, four room, Visual Arts Centre opened in April 2004.
- co-located Blackwood Community Recreation Centre located on the school site which opened in February 2004. This facility has two indoor courts, one specifically for school use with school male and female change rooms and a separate office connected to the school network to accommodate all Health and Physical Education staff.
- Advanced Technology Centre, previously the Technical Studies area which was redeveloped as part of the Trade Training Centre initiative. The Blackwood High School Trade Training Centre supports the delivery of regional Electro-technology and Advanced Technology.

Significant site funded works were completed during 2017 to support student learning and wellbeing. This includes:

- a multi-purpose courtyard
- restructuring the front of the school to provide shelter for students along the school bus way
- a shelter connection between the Resource Centre and the Senior Learning Centre
- a new Resource Centre
- a new Student Wellbeing Centre
- a flexible teaching and learning space.

The school received \$2.5M STEM Works funding in 2016. Building is currently underway with a planned completion date of June 2018. This new facility will bring together Science, Mathematics and Technology to support changes in curriculum and pedagogical practices.

Also, in 2017 the school received \$7M as part of the Building Better Schools Program. Initial planning for future facility development is currently underway.

Student facilities

There is a canteen for all students. Senior School students have a Senior Learning Centre specifically for their use. This space supports independent study with a kitchen specifically for Year 12 student use.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

Decision making is based on consultation, negotiation and participation by those affected by the decision. The decision making process, therefore, does not rest in the hands of a few, but is participatory and strives for consensus. It rests on the premise that effective communication is required for informed participation. Individuals can influence decision making through committees and working parties, curriculum areas, year level teams, leadership, staff meetings, Governing Council and the SRC.

Generally the School Leaders team, which is comprised of the Executive Leaders, Senior Leaders, Curriculum Leaders, and Year Level Leaders determines or approves decision-making processes for broad policy decisions. The Principal is involved in all key school decision making and accepts responsibility for making decisions on behalf of DECD.

The Governing Council is very supportive. Its subcommittees include Finance and Facilities, and Canteen.

Regular publications

The school newsletter is published three times each term, promoting achievements and school/community activities and events. The newsletter is posted on the Blackwood High School's website. A Curriculum Prospectus, Staff Handbook and Student Information Brochures are published annually. Copies of the Student Information Brochure (SIB) are sent to feeder primary schools for distribution. They are also available from the school. The school's website www.bhs.sa.edu.au is another source of information about the school. The Cambium (school year book) is published each year with contributions from students and staff.

Other communication

The school holds a number of parent information evenings throughout the year. The school has a practice of returning, where possible, all calls and emails to parents within 24 hours on working days. Posted on the school website are the email details of all teaching staff. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to make contact with the school in order to clarify information or to resolve concerns.

11. Local Community

General characteristics

The local community is both supportive and impactive in all aspects of running and promoting the school. The Hills community has a mixture of country and city influences. Preservation of and planning for environmental awareness and responsibility is a focus. There is strong support for the school in the local community. Rotary has a high profile in providing support for a number of programs, including career education, support for Youth projects and an annual Art Exhibition. The Rotary Club and other service clubs contributed towards the refurbishing of the Performing Arts Centre.

The school facilities are regularly hired to local sport, religious and cultural groups.

Parent/Caregiver and community involvement

Blackwood High School has benefited from strong, active support from the parent body. There is high, well informed participation from the Governing Council, and various committees and working parties. Parents' and caregivers' voices are seen as critical in determining curriculum and facilities and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Feeder or destination schools

Most of the students who enrol at Blackwood High School come from the local feeder primary schools: Blackwood, Belair, Bellevue Heights, Coromandel Valley, Eden Hills and Hawthorndene, with a significant number from Craighburn and Flagstaff Hill Primary Schools. Recent trends show a large number of students from other areas applying for Blackwood High School. Due to the shared boundaries between Blackwood High School and Blackwood Primary School there is a significant relationship between the two schools.

Local Government body

Blackwood High School is in the City of Mitcham local government area and enjoys significant, ongoing support from the Council and the local Member of Parliament.

12. Further Comments

Blackwood High School has strong traditions of excellence in academic, sport and the Arts. There are high expectations that teachers will involve themselves in a professional learning community that values lifelong learning, positive relationships, and pedagogical practices that reflects 21st Century skills and learner capacity building. The integration of digital learning as a tool to enhance learning outcomes for students is valued and supported through a climate of shared practice and inquiry. Students and parents/caregivers are articulate and make their educational needs known. There is strong parental support for any activity involving their children.

A changing profile of students has meant an increasing need for staff to be flexible in their teaching approaches. The school offers a range of subjects that lead to tertiary pathways, training and employment.