



HACKHAM WEST SCHOOL

Wangka Hackham Piipawardli

2025 CONTEXT STATEMENT

SCHOOL PROFILE

HACKHAM WEST SCHOOL INFORMATION AND MISSION

Hackham West R-6 School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment. We recognise the diverse lived experiences of our students and prioritise relationship repair and trauma-informed practices. Our school fosters a culture of kindness, presence, and striving for personal bests, guided by our values: **Be Present, Be Kind, Be Your Best.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Principal: Shannon Little

Deputy Principal: Julie Dunn

Year of Opening: 1979

Address: 50 Glynville Drive, Hackham West SA 5163

Phone: (08) 8382 0955

Website: hackwestschool.sa.edu.au

Email: dl.1131.info@schools.sa.edu.au

OSHC: Provided by YMCA

Public Transport: Bus stop to Noarlunga Interchange adjacent to school

STUDENT ENROLMENT TRENDS

Enrolment in 2024 was 120 students. The school remains stable with a Category 1 classification on the Department for Education Index of Educational Disadvantage.

2024 DEMOGRAPHICS:

- 33% Aboriginal students
- 53% students with disabilities
- 2% EALD funded background
- 8% children/young people in care

STAFFING (AS OF FEB 2024)

Leadership: 3 (1 Principal, 1 Deputy, 1 Special Ed Leader)

Teachers: 9

SSOs: 8

ACEO: 1

Indigenous Staff: 1 non-teaching

ATTENDANCE

We address attendance barriers through:

- Free school shirts and second-hand uniforms
- Subsidised canteen with \$30 weekly meal deals and emergency meals
- Free morning pick-up via a school-funded bus
- Centrepay options for families to manage school-related expenses

In 2024, our overall attendance rate was 83.5%, with Year 4 achieving the highest at 88.0%.

WELLBEING



We explicitly teach social and self-regulation skills using Boxall profiling. Our classrooms are grounded in nurture principles and trauma-informed practices, with a strong emphasis on attachment theory.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- **Drum Beat:** A rhythm-based program that builds resilience, teamwork, and self-expression through drumming circles. It helps students regulate emotions and develop a sense of belonging.
 - **Kimochi's:** A social-emotional learning tool using plush characters to help younger students identify and express feelings, fostering empathy and emotional literacy.
 - **Targeted Social Emotional Learning (SEL):** Delivered in small groups, this program focuses on building interpersonal skills, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution.
- Learning Environments

Classrooms are structured to support both academic and emotional development. Predictable routines, clear expectations, and strong adult-child relationships are central. We meet students at their developmental level across all domains.

LESSON STRUCTURE

We use 4-week responsive sprint cycles based on Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI). Lessons are designed with clear objectives, consistent routines, and regular assessment to ensure engagement and progress. There are 6 lessons per day of 50 minute length.

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR DEVELOPMENT

Hackham West School adopts a nurture-based, trauma-informed approach to student behaviour:

- **Behaviour as Communication:** Staff are trained to interpret behaviour as a form of communication, responding with empathy and support rather than punishment.
- **Emotional Learning:** Adults help students name and understand their emotions, using calm and safe interactions to guide behavioural repair.
- **Daily Social Skills Instruction:** Integrated into classroom routines, these lessons reinforce self-regulation, empathy, and respectful communication.
- **Restorative Practices:** Used to resolve conflicts and rebuild relationships, ensuring students feel heard and supported.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student voice is a valued part of school culture:

- **Young Leaders Program:** Students apply and are selected to represent their peers, lead assemblies, and support school-wide initiatives.
- **House Captains:** Elected from upper primary years, these students lead sports events, mentor younger peers, and promote school spirit.
- **Leadership Development:** Both programs include leadership training, public speaking opportunities, and involvement in decision-making processes.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Hackham West School offers a rich array of targeted programs to support diverse learning needs:

- **Heggerty:** A phonemic awareness program used in early years to build foundational literacy skills.
- **InitialLit, MiniLit, MacqLit:** Evidence-based literacy interventions tailored to different year levels and reading abilities.
- **Cows Create Careers:** A STEM and agriculture program connecting students with real-world science and industry.
- **Cooking:** Teaches life skills, numeracy, and teamwork through hands-on food preparation.
- **What's the Buzz:** A social skills program that uses role-play and storytelling to teach empathy, cooperation, and resilience.
- **Swimming:** Annual program promoting water safety and physical development.

KEY SCHOOL POLICIES

All policies are available on the Hackham West School website. Key policies include:

- **Anti-Bullying Policy (2021):** Outlines preventative strategies, reporting procedures, and restorative responses to bullying.
- **Attendance Policy (2021):** Emphasises the importance of daily attendance and outlines supports for families facing barriers.
- **Developing Positive Behaviour Policy (2021):** Reflects the school's nurture-based approach, focusing on proactive strategies and relationship repair.

CURRICULUM

Hackham West School delivers the Australian Curriculum with a strong emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS:

- **PE & Health:** Delivered daily by a specialist teacher, focusing on physical fitness, teamwork, and healthy lifestyles.
- **Science:** Hands-on, inquiry-based learning aligned with the Australian Curriculum.
- **Wellbeing:** Integrates the Zones of Regulation framework to help students identify, understand, and manage their emotions through structured, developmentally appropriate lessons.
- **Digital Technologies:** Digital learning tools, including virtual reality (VR), to explore and learn.
- **The Arts:** Integrated across year levels to foster creativity, confidence, and cultural awareness.
- **Kaurna Language:** Taught as the school's LOTE, reflecting strong ties to local Aboriginal culture.
- **Cross-Curricular Priorities:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Sustainability, and Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia are embedded throughout.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Hackham West School uses a consistent, research-based instructional model:

- **Nurture Principles:** Classrooms are structured around six principles of nurture, ensuring emotional safety, predictable routines, and developmentally appropriate expectations.
- **Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI):** Lessons are designed with clear learning intentions, modelling, guided practice, and frequent checks for understanding.
- **Trauma-Informed Practice:** Staff are trained to recognise and respond to the impact of trauma on learning and behaviour, creating calm, supportive environments.

RECENT KEY OUTCOMES (2024 NAPLAN)

Year Level	Domain	Exceeding	Strong	Developing	Needs Additional Support	Absent/With drawn	Total
Year 3	Reading	1	2	4	5	2	14
Year 3	Writing	0	2	4	6	2	14
Year 3	Numeracy	0	2	5	5	2	14
Year 5	Reading	1	8	7	8	1	24
Year 5	Writing	0	5	9	9	1	24
Year 5	Numeracy	0	7	8	9	1	24

ABORIGINAL LEARNERS (YEAR 5) NAPLAN DATA

Year Level	Domain	Exceeding	Strong	Developing	Needs Additional	Absent/With	Total
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					Support	drawn	
Year 5	Reading	0	1	2	5	–	8
Year 5	Writing	0	3	2	2	1	8
Year 5	Numeracy	0	3	2	2	1	8
Year 5	Grammar	0	2	3	3	–	8
Year 5	Spelling	0	3	3	2	–	8

FACILITIES

- 5 teaching units with wet areas and withdrawal rooms
- Resource Centre
- Small Hall (Culture Room, Breakfast Club)
- OSHC (YMCA operated)
- Full-sized Gymnasium
- Fully operational Canteen
- Accessible facilities for all

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- Collaborative decision-making via leadership, staff, and council meetings
- Newsletters (Weeks 3, 6, 9 each term)
- Communication via Seesaw, SMS, and newsletters

FINANCIAL POSITION

- Positive financial standing
- High IESP funding needs
- Receives socio-economic funding as a Category 1 school

LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Located in Onkaparinga Council area
- High rental and Housing Trust presence
- Strong community pride and resilience

PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Governing Council
- Welcome back breakfasts
- Termly events

- Fundraising and volunteering

FEEDER & DESTINATION SCHOOLS

- Feeder: Hackham West Children's Centre
- Destination: Christies Beach High School, Wirreanda High School

NEARBY FACILITIES

- Library, hospital, fire and police stations within 3km
- Noarlunga Interchange and shopping centre nearby

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

- Term 1 & 3: Learning Conferences
- Term 2 & 4: Written Reports

JOINT PROGRAMS

- Transition program with Hackham West Children's Centre

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- 2 PE lessons per week
- Participation in Sporting Schools Program