

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 5/16

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 / Wrattenbully	Phone No.	: 08 87551 177
Distance from GPO	: 228 kms	Fax No.	: 08 87551 618
CPC attached	: No		

February FTE Enrolment

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Foundation	41.0	45.0	48	47.0	31.0	25.0	27
Year 1	34.0	25.0	27	37.0	26.0	30.0	27
Year 2	26.0	34.0	26	29.0	37.0	29.0	31
Year 3	31.0	29.0	34	25.0	28.0	38.0	29
Year 4	24.0	32.0	26	38.0	26.0	27.0	39
Year 5	28.0	25.0	30	24.0	38.0	28.0	26
Year 6	40.0	29.0	23	28.0	24.0	36.0	28
Year 7	24.0	41.0	27	24.0	31.0	23.0	34
Secondary							
Year 8	23.0	23.0	35	26.0	23.0	29.0	23
Year 9	22.0	25.0	18	32.0	26.0	22.0	24
Year 10	13.0	23.0	19	15.0	28.0	22.0	14
Year 11	20.5	13.0	13	18.0	16.0	26.0	22
Year 12	11.8	16.00	15	9.0	17.0	15.0	21
Year 12+							
TOTAL	338.3	360.00	322.00	351.00	351.0	350.0	345
July total FTE	329.3	351.00	341.00	339			345
Enrolment							
School Card	63	53	53	40			26
Approvals							
(Persons)							
NESB Total	3	3	0	2			0
(persons)							
Aboriginal FTE	2	4	2	4			3
Enrolment							

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**

Daren O'Neill

- **Staffing numbers**

	Female	Male
Principal		1
Deputy Principal		1
Coordinators	3*	0
Teachers tier 1	16	6
Teachers tier 2	2.5	
Librarian	0.5	
SSO	260 hours	
GSE		30 hours

*all 3 Coordinator positions expire end of 2016. These will be consolidated into a Primary Assistant Principal and Secondary Assistant Principal

- **Partnerships 21 status**

Local Management through Governing Council.

- **Enrolment trends**

Numbers have fluctuated between 340 to 360 for the past 5 years. Approx. 70% in our primary (F-7) and 30% secondary 8-12.

- **Special arrangements**

Strong relationship exists between Kindergarten and the school with transition programmes run each term for new intakes.

- **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 daily 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 Year 8-12 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 a number of innovative programmes to support students in the area of well-being, including regular bully audits, an 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 currently have one PCW worker who is employed through Federal Government funding and has additional hours contributed through the support of the local churches. Our well-being coordinator and PCW worker work closely together in an area affectionately known as the hive. This has become a drop-in secure area, where students feel welcome and can be supported.

- **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.

Our Behaviour Management Policy undertook a significant review in 2015 and continues to be a focus to ensure teachers, students and parents are aware of expectations and both positive and negative consequences and/or interventions.

- **Student government**

There are 2 SRC groups, representing F-7 and 8-12 students. The SRC has developed a range of committees that involve other students to support a range of school activities. They are developing their role in the school, and as student leaders. Students are currently represented on school council and other formal groups. They are also involved in organising assemblies, school socials, and fundraising for selected charities.

- **Special programmes**

A small number of students take instrumental music from DECS teachers, mainly by DUCT and video conference. A Drama production has been offered on alternate years. There is also Choir, and an Enviro Club. A BIL/ACE (Boys in Leadership) group operates works directly with our local council and in partnership run our local cinema.

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 eight areas of the SACSA framework. Year 10 also provides a

transition into the South Australian Certificate of Education requirements. These are complemented by a growing number of Vocational Education and Training options. LOTE (Indonesian) is offered face to face for F to 7 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, F-12, including Mentoring Programme
- 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:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Culture
- Data

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

<http://www.keithas.sa.edu.au/pages/home/school-information/site-improvement-plan.php>

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

F-10 in line with SACSA. Indonesian has been chosen as the LOTE F-7. Students have Music & Indonesian 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. An area has been established to cater for students with disabilities. 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 the Levelled Literacy Intervention programme for reading intervention and the Quicksmart Maths intervention programme.

- **Special curriculum features**

Dual accreditation in VET areas at senior school.

Keith Area School has well equipped sport, technology and Home Ec facilities. Our Home Ec and Tech facilities have received upgrades in recent years.

- **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 group includes Meningie, Tintinara, Coomandook, Karoonda, Coonalpyn. Strong local swimming club supports school program. SAPSASA and SASSSA participation.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- **General**
A major Drama production (Yr 10-12) is run on a yearly basis.
- **Special**
N/A

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**
There are many experienced teachers who have been at Keith for much of their career. This is particularly the case in our primary years with a higher percentage of secondary staff being in their first 2-6 years of their career. We tend to experience a higher turnover of specialist, secondary teachers than primary teachers. In the last few years, we have had an increase in turnover of staff with a larger than usual number of staff retiring, accessing long-service leave or relocating or taking on leadership positions.
- **Leadership structure**
The leadership group is developing a 'learning community' ethos for its own operation, and this is being shared with all staff. Each section of the school has a leader with leadership and management roles. The Principal and Deputy Principal support across both Primary and Secondary.
- **Staff support systems**
Induction is based on partly on 'buddy' system, while the performance management process picks up other school related issues. This is a formal process with meetings held every term. Informal support is strong for new staff members willing to be involved socially with the staff and community.
- **Staff utilisation policies**
PAC represents all staff and most recently have been working on a 5 year staffing profile.

- **Access to special staff**

Regular visits from DECD support teachers. Instrumental music is delivered by DUCT 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 DECD 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 in the last 3 years 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.
- An upgraded senior secondary area, completed with new SS staff office and media suite.
- A large outdoor sporting facility (COLA) which contains a large multipurpose court suitable for netball, basketball and volleyball.
- Upgrades toilets and shower facilities for physical education. -A fully upgraded technology centre, which includes an upgrade of all machinery and a large purpose built area to enable us to run Cert 1 and 2 course in automotive.
- Upgraded multipurpose rooms for Yr F-2 Art as well as Year 4-6 Technology.
- Fully upgraded entrance, and SSO work area
- A new administration office area, staff work area and staff room. Completed in 2014
- A new, stand alone, community library complex. Completed in 2014
- The upgrade of teaching classrooms, from Yr F-10.
- An home economics facility with newly renovated commercial and domestic kitchens
- The upgrade of the schools agriculture facilities (due to be complete mid-late 2016)

- **Specialist facilities**

Agricultural area is in the middle of a major upgrade. This will be an important focus over the next three years, to establish a centre of excellence for agriculture. This will be partly funded through the establishment of a 'cattle and sheep' fund, where local farmers are currently stocking school

animals (ewes and heifers), with the profit from the sale of off spring coming directly back to the school.

The school has excellent IT facilities. Students are encouraged to BYO laptop or access one of the two computer rooms available. Both computer rooms were completely upgraded in 2016. All secondary teaching rooms are equipped with IWB's and primary rooms are equipped with interactive televisions.

- **Student facilities**

Canteen – run 2 days per week, Thursday & Friday

- **Staff facilities**

All staff have defined work areas. Staff room and activities room 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 (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/Wrattonbully Cluster, linked with 16 other sites in our region. This starts as far south as Lucindale and includes the sites around Naracoorte, Bordertown and the smaller towns throughout. Keith is the most northern site in this cluster grouping, which will be administered from the District Office based in Murray Bridge.

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 electronic 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 an web-based student management system called Xuno. Parents are contacted on a daily basis through a text message if there 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**

No, however a number of senior secondary students travel from Tintinara to complete year 11 and 12.

- **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. The school had undertaken to begin an Out of School Hours Care service in 2016 however we unable to recruit a OSHC Director. Very limited OSHC places are available via the local childcare centre.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

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

- **Other local facilities**

- Private hospital with some public access, medical centre, dentist, vet.
- Good local sporting facilities, including excellent 18 hole golf course with greens, indoor basketball stadium.
- 24-hour roadhouse and takeaway.
- Craft shops and craft cooperative.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Is available.

Government rentals are slightly lower than private rentals. A number of staff have chosen to rent privately, either in town or on farms, where rents are cheaper. A significant number have purchased their own homes.

- **Local Government body**

Tatiara District Council.