



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 05/2021

**School number:** 0906/ 1485/ 1582

**School name:** AVENUES COLLEGE

INCORPORATING AVENUES COLLEGE CHILDREN'S CENTRE FOR EARLY  
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND PARENTING,

AVENUES COLLEGE CENTRE OF DEAF EDUCATION

HOSTING WILTJA SECONDARY COLLEGE

## 1. General information

- School Principal name: ROBYN MCLEAN
- Year of opening: 2017
- Postal Address: McKay Ave, Windsor Gardens
- Location Address: McKay Ave, Windsor Gardens and Beatty Ave, Hillcrest
- DfE Region: TORRENS
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 10KM
- Telephone number: 8261 2733
- Fax Number: 8261 0827
- School website address: [www.avenuescollege.sa.edu.au](http://www.avenuescollege.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: dl.0906.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- A school based preschool program operates within the Children's Centre
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service:  
Yes, before and after school and preschool
- February FTE student enrolment:

FTE student enrolment = 529

School Card percentage = 60%

SWD FTE = 84

EALD FTE = 135

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) FTE = 104

Children's Centre enrolment =40  
Centre for Deaf Education (CDE) FTE = 6

2020 student enrolment FTE = 524  
2019 student enrolment FTE = 540  
2018 student enrolment FTE = 523  
2017 student enrolment FTE = 482

- Student enrolment trends:

Following the amalgamation of the Primary and Preschool with the Secondary school, numbers have remained steady.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

We have 85 staff members, a mixture of full-time and part-time staff  
28.7 Tier 1 FTE teachers, 20 FTE support staff, 1 ACEO, 1 ACETO, 1 Principal, 4 Senior Leaders, and 7.4 Coordinators

- Public transport access:

Bus services run along North East Road to the city and Tea Tree Plaza

- Special site arrangements:

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics:

Avenues College is part of the Torrens Partnership and is a category 3 site. The college supports Birth – Year 12 with a Children's Centre and Centre for Hearing Impaired located within the school. Our school is diverse with 32% of students from indigenous and NESB backgrounds. Students with Disabilities make up 14.07%. The college works hard to support individual students and families and seeks to establish supportive relationships as a fundamental part of ensuring students' wellbeing and success.

- Student well-being programs:

*Respect, Reflect, Relate: Assessing for Learning and Development* in the Early Years using Observation Scales

*PosEd, Berry Street Trauma Strategies* and *Restorative Practice* are key reference points used to support students.

*Kick Start For Kids* – providing healthy food across the two campuses, with volunteers supporting Community Breakfast each morning on our Beatty Ave site and two mornings each week at McKay Ave.

The local School Ministries group supports a Pastoral Care Worker two days each week, and hosts breakfast on Wednesday morning each week.

SMART strategies are implemented to support the high number of students experiencing/experienced complex trauma

(Pastoral) Care Group programs in the middle and senior school, House based and vertically grouped - support student organisation, behaviour management,

home/school communication, pathways planning and celebration of achievement.

The school curriculum is enhanced by accessing a broad range of activities including, but not limited to, a wide variety of sports, debating, academic games, etc

- **Student management:**

Restorative Practices underpin the site's practices. The Behaviour Education Policy – using wisdom, not force, to guide children in the development of positive social behaviour. Behaviour that assists learning, social harmony and the expression of culturally appropriate values is taught, practised reinforced and embedded.

- **Student government:**

Student Voice programs operate on both sites under the guidance of the Dean of Students.

- **Special programmes:**

The children's Centre has many parent education programs run throughout the year depending on need, updated programs can be found on the Website.

A school based preschool operates within Children's Centre.

The Centre of Deaf Education provides mainstream and specialist offerings for students from years 8 to 12.

### 3. Key School Policies

#### QUALITY TEACHING

- Global research confirms that teacher quality is the single greatest factor in nurturing student achievement. Our focus is on continually building teachers' capacity to deliver quality pedagogy supported by high expectations. Teachers exhibiting deep content knowledge and who base practices on current research are able to plan learning programs that reflect the diverse needs of learners.
- The school is currently focusing on:
  - Developing inquiry based teaching and learning in our classrooms
  - Improving student engagement and achievement by challenging students' learning through authentic learning tasks
  - Exploring and implementing digital technologies into the curriculum
- We aim to have students:
  - Engaged in learning environments that are supportive, creative, stimulating and challenging
  - Receive a broad and balanced curriculum
  - Improve literacy, numeracy and technological confidence
  - Both independent and collaborative learners
  - Develop social competence
  - Part of high-quality and in-depth preparation for the workplace and accredited vocational training
  - Understand the skills, attitudes and competencies necessary for successful participation in the workplace.
- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
  - External Review of Birth to Year 12 School completed in 2017; further review due in 2021
  - Preschool Review (NQF) completed in 2014, with an assessment rating "meeting the National Quality Standard"

### 4. Curriculum

Avenues College is a small school catering for students from Birth to Year 12, with a diverse curriculum to support rich learning options, within the Early Years Learning Framework, Australian Curriculum and SACE.

- Subject offerings:

Subjects are offered in accordance with the *Early Years Learning Framework*, the *Australian Curriculum* and *SACE*

The language offered from Preschool to Year 12 is Auslan

- Open Access/Distance Education provision:

Students have the opportunity to study subjects not offered on site at Mawson Lakes Campus through an agreement with Uni SA.

- Special needs:

The school caters for students with special needs in a variety of ways. These include classroom differentiation, in class support, small group support, targeted programs, liaison with external services and the integration of expert recommendations within the classroom

Our students with additional needs are supported through flexible learning options, delivered by staff with expertise in Special Education. All students with verified disabilities have a Negotiated Education Plan, developed in consultation with parents, students and staff.

- Special curriculum features:

Our school provides rich opportunities for vocational, academic, sporting and musical pathways; and supports students to choose subjects they enjoy and in which they are able to excel.

- Teaching methodology:

Avenues College supports flexibility in curriculum delivery, ensuring that teaching methods and practices are adapted to the learning needs of groups and individuals. All teachers are supported to develop the craft of teaching through professional learning opportunities and faculty moderation. Visible Learning methodology is embedded in the Primary Years, and staff members are developing an inquiry based approach to learning from Preschool to Year 10. ICT is integrated across year levels and curriculum areas. Students are supported in their learning through a strong home group system, and with non-teaching staff to assist deaf, hard-of-hearing and students with additional needs within mainstream and specialist classes.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting

A wide range of assessment and reporting methods are used across the school, including interviews, portfolios of learning, written reports and Learning Journeys. Achievement of our students is reported to families at least twice each year in writing, with early alerts to parents of staff concerns on a regular basis. Non-attendance is reported daily through phone calls on our Beatty Ave site and SMS on the McKay Ave site.

- Joint programmes:

Avenues College hosts a number of programs on the site, including the senior program of Wiltja Secondary School.

Avenues College is part of the North East Secondary Network, and shares responsibility for vocational education programs with other schools in the region. We are also supported by schools and staff within the Torrens Partnership of the Department for Education (DfE)

Local businesses support the school programs, with aquatic programs, and other industry partnerships enhancing the opportunities of our students.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Avenues College provides a range of sporting opportunities. These include Physical Education classes, lunchtime and after school competitions and clinics, Vista Sport (run cooperatively by schools in the district), Power Cup, as well as interschool competitions.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Avenues College has a long-standing cultural and sporting exchange with the Cheltenham Secondary College in Melbourne. The week-long exchange began in 1965 and provides the opportunity for involvement in friendly competition in musical, artistic, academic and sporting endeavours. Each year a squad of more than 80 students from Years 8 to 12 are selected to participate in competition, with other students contributing in a range of ways to the success of the venture.

Students participate in the Pedal Prix competition, Festival of Music choir, as well as performing arts opportunities in stage band, choir and Drama Club and the bi-annual Science Summit for years 8-10.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile:**  
Our staff team includes a range of very experienced teachers and support staff, and a growing number of newly graduated teachers offering innovative subject selections for our students.
- **Leadership structure:**  
Leadership Team – Principal, Head of Early Years, Head of Primary Years and Head of Secondary Years, Dean of Students Preschool to Year 12.
- **Staff support systems**  
The school has an active AEU membership, which supports staff members across the college.
- **Performance Management**  
Staff members are supported in their career development through regular observations and feedback by their line managers, using DfE procedures and aligned with the National Standards for teachers.
- **Access to special staff**  
Specialist staff are appointed to the school to work with students with disabilities, students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Students have access to specialist instrumental music teachers and In-school Psychologist.

The Children's Centre provides access to Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists and a range of Parenting programs supported by Learning Together, Family Support Coordinator and Community Development Coordinator.

## 8. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school operates as a B-12 site, with our Preschool, Family programs and Primary Years and the Secondary Years and Deaf education programs at McKay Ave in Windsor Gardens.

Refurbishment of our buildings has occurred during 2018 and 2019 to accommodate the Birth to Year 7 programs. It is anticipated that this work will be complete during the 2020 school year.
- **Heating and cooling**

Classrooms are heated and cooled by reverse cycle air conditioning, but some areas are quite aged.
- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

Our music, science and technology facilities provide opportunity for our students to engage in industry-ready learning.
- **Student facilities**

Our canteen operates each day and breakfast is provided by volunteer organisations five days a week; The Flexible Learning Centre provides support every day to a range of students. Our gymnasium is used by our students and hired by community groups.
- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

Elevator access is provided to upper storey classrooms in the main building. All other classroom areas are single story with ramp access as necessary. Sound field systems operate across the college to support children with Hearing and sensory processing difficulties.

- Access to bus transport  
The school owns two buses, which are heavily utilised to provide transport to camps, sporting and other excursions. The college is easily accessed by public transport.

## 9. School Operations

- Decision making structures  
Our Governing Council meets twice each school term, in weeks 3 and 8
- Regular publications  
Whole School newsletter is produced twice each term in weeks 5 and 10. The website and facebook page is used for frequent updates, along with the use of SMS and email contact with parents on a daily basis.
- School financial position  
The school is funded by Government funds, parent contributions, fundraising and community sponsorship of specific programs. The budget is prepared annually and overseen by the Governing Council.
- Special funding  
The school attracts grants and short-term funding for a variety of purposes, supporting students' access to innovative programs and curriculum development.

## 10. Local Community

- General characteristics  
The school is located in the north-eastern suburbs of Adelaide, and is located on a major traffic corridor. Nearby services include police, health services, and retailers.
- Parent and community involvement  
Parents are actively involved in our community programs, and volunteer regularly within our classrooms and in our breakfast program. Attendance at sporting, cultural and musical events is high, including extended families.
- Feeder or destination schools  
Our students come from a wide range of preschools and schools in the north-eastern suburbs.



- Other local care and educational facilities  
North East Community Child Care Centre operates nearby, in Hillcrest.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
The Gilles Plains Shopping Centre is close to the college. A wide range of small businesses operate in the area, including printers, auto-mechanics, bakeries, gymnasiums, recording studios and car retailers.
- Local Government body  
The school is located within the Port Adelaide/Enfield Council, and the seat of Torrens in the South Australian Parliament. Ms Dana Wortley, the local Member of Parliament, is an active member of our Governing Council.

## 11. Further Comments

Tours of the school are available by appointment. Members of the local community are encouraged to visit.