

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT – 2017

School Name: Renmark High School

School Number: 0794

1. General Information

Part A

School name	: RENMARK HIGH SCHOOL	
School No.	: 0794	Courier : R28/1
Principal	: Mr Mat Evans	
Postal Address	: Thurk Street, Renmark 5341	
Location Address	: Thurk Street, Renmark 5341	
District	: Riverland	
Road distance from GPO	: 250 kms	Phone No. : 08 85866974
CPC attached	: NO	Fax No. : 08 85866950

Overview

Renmark High school was established in 1925 and has a proud history of serving the local Renmark and Paringa community. In 1980 the school moved from its original site to the current site on Thurk Street in the town of Renmark. The school draws students from 3 public primary schools and one independent primary school.

Enrolments

Enrolments have been relatively stable since 2010. In 2017 there is a total enrolment of 550, FTE students, including approximately 54 students enrolled in FLO programs. Approximately 30% of the student profile is from a Non English Speaking background and 40% are on school card, some of whom present with significant socio economic complexity. Renmark High School is a DECD Internationally Education Services accredited school and has a small number of International enrolments.

Part B

Deputy Principal

: Mr David Crouch,

Assistant Principal

: Mrs Kirralee Baldock

Staffing numbers:

Tier 1: 34.3 FTE

Tier 2: 2.0

338 ancillary hours per week

Leadership positions: Principal
Deputy Principal
Assistant Principal
Coordinator – Health and PE
Coordinator – Society and Environment
Coordinator – Languages
Coordinator – Mathematics
Coordinator – Science
Coordinator – SACE
Coordinator – Student Wellbeing Officer
Coordinator – Student Wellbeing Officer

Teacher librarians: 1 @ 1.0

Pastoral Support Worker.

OSHC

: Not at the school, but available at Renmark Primary School (adjacent to the high school).

Enrolment trends

: Enrolment is anticipated to remain steady for the foreseeable future.

Year of opening

: 1925. The school was completely re-built on a new site in 1980.

Public transport access

: There is limited public transport within the Riverland. Renmark is served by daily Stateliner bus service to and from Adelaide.

2. Students and their welfare

General characteristics

: Many ethnic groups are represented in the district, with the largest numbers of students from non-English speaking backgrounds being of Greek or Turkish descent. The ethnic profile of the school has changed significantly with large numbers of Afghani students arriving over the last 5

years. The school has a small number of Aboriginal and Islander students and occasionally some adult re-entry students. The student enrolment spans a very wide range of socio-economic groups and family structures.

Support offered

: Pastoral care is provided by Care Group teachers via morning Care Group and through a comprehensive pastoral care program 'Beyond Tomorrow'.

Student management

: The school has a comprehensive Student Development Policy, which is detailed in the staff handbook issued to every staff member. There is a strong support structure in place for positive relationships between staff and students to flourish that is underpinned by a restorative practices approach.

Student government

: There is an active Student Representative Council with representation from all year levels and led by elected year 12 Student Leaders.

Special programmes

: There is an Adaptive Education programme for students with disabilities. A New Arrivals Program caters to students who require intensive oral and written language instruction.

3. Key School Policies

Contextual influences

: Renmark High School is a medium sized, country secondary school. It provides schooling throughout the normal South Australian secondary range, Years 8-12.

The school serves a culturally and economically diverse community. Many different ethnic groups are represented in the community, a significant proportion of which has a non-English speaking background. The community also encompasses the entire socio-economic range, with a significant proportion of the school's enrolment eligible for School Card assistance.

Student absence is above the State average retention is below the State average.

The diverse community results in a wide range of parental support for students and the school.

Core business

: Teaching programs in all Years 8-10 subject units are based on the Australian Curriculum. Middle schooling and 21st Century learning methodologies are incorporated into the learning program through integrated units of learning that assess learning from across several learning areas and address the general capabilities. Students must study a Language other than English, either French or Modern Greek, in Year 8. Four strands of The Arts curriculum area – Drama, Music, Multimedia and Visual Art – are offered.

The Year 11 and 12 curriculum is based on the SACE, the South Australian Certificate of Education. The school offers all of the compulsory subjects for the SACE and strives to provide its students with a wide choice of subjects, within available resources, in each area of the SACE curriculum pattern. There is a heavy focus on VET learning with the number of students completing the SACE with a VET component regularly being twice that of the state average.

Our Vision

“Renmark High school is a leader in education. We develop the academic, physical, emotional and spiritual skills, knowledge and attitudes within students to enable them to meet future challenges as responsible, proud and respected people.”

Our Values

- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Trust
- Respect
- Fun.

2017/18 Priorities

As documented in the schools Site Improvement Plan:

- Meaningful Learning, incorporating projects in Literacy, Numeracy, Growth Mindsets, Personalised Learning and 21st Century Learning
- Wellbeing
- Positive Culture

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

: The school offers a broad curriculum. In Years 8-10, a curriculum pattern based on the Australian Curriculum applies. Year 8 students have a choice between French and Modern Greek for their Language learning.

The degree of choice is increased in Year 9 and Year 10, with the requirement that students choose at least one semester unit from each of the learning areas of the Australian Curriculum (excluding Languages).

The Year 11 and 12 curriculum is based on the SACE. The school offers all of the compulsory subjects for the SACE and strives to provide its students with a wide choice of subjects, within available resources, in each area of the SACE curriculum pattern.

Vocational Education & Training programs

As part of the Riverland Trade Training Centre cooperative over 20 vocational learning programs are offered to students of Renmark High School. As part of this cooperative, Doorways to Construction and Production Horticulture are delivered at Renmark High School.

5. Sporting Activities

: Sport has a significant place in the school and in the Riverland as a whole. The school participates in three swimming and three athletics carnivals in the first term each year (inter-house, Riverland inter-school and SASSSA). It enters Knockout Cup competitions in a wide range of sports and has achieved significant success in volleyball and hockey at the national level. It has won the Howard Mutton Shield for sports participation and achievement by a country secondary school eleven times.

The school has extensive sporting facilities, which include a football and hockey oval, an indoor gymnasium and a covered outdoor learning area (COLA). The school also takes advantage of the many existing sporting and recreational facilities available in the community.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

: Music has been a significant feature of the school curriculum with a school production occurring annually. Other ensembles are also formed according to the interests and skills of students and teachers.

Instrumental tuition is provided by DECD instrumental music teachers.

7. Staff (and their Welfare)

- Staff profile
 - : The teaching staff comprises a blend of early career and experienced teachers. A small number of teachers have been at the school in excess of 20 years.
- Staff support systems
 - : Staff are recognised as being very supportive of one another on an informal basis. More formally, all teaching staff are assigned to Learning Areas under the leadership and management of a Coordinator. The Coordinator is responsible for providing guidance, support and feedback to each member of the Learning Area.
 - In addition there is a comprehensive induction programme for staff new to the school. The Deputy Principal manages this programme, with input from many other staff.
- Staff utilisation policies
 - : Staff are given the opportunity to request particular teaching assignments each year and these requests are accommodated where appropriate. Staff are encouraged and supported to extend the scope of their teaching

expertise so that they can offer additional subjects or take classes at higher year levels.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Housing assistance
 - : Teaching staff automatically receive a rental subsidy if they occupy Government housing.
 - Staff appointed to the school are eligible for the Country Conditions allowance as specified in the current Industrial Agreement.
- Relocation assistance
 - : Permanent and contract teachers are eligible.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
 - : The school was completely re-built on a new site in 1980. All the buildings are of brick construction. Through an ongoing maintenance program they provide mostly very adequate facilities for students and staff. Recent developments have focussed on the development of middle school and senior school learning spaces conducive to 21st century pedagogies and learning styles.
 - The extensive grounds are well treed and grassed. They provide a pleasant working environment together with good provision for sports activities.
- Cooling
 - : All school buildings are cooled except the Technology Studies workshop and the gymnasium.
- Specialist facilities
 - : Specialist facilities include 5 laboratories, gymnasium, COLA, music suite, drama suite (located in the Chaffey Theatre, the regional performing arts centre which is adjacent to the school), art, home economics and technology studies areas and resource centre. Every classroom has access to a data show or an interactive whiteboard.
 - The school also has an extensive Farm Management Centre situated approximately 4 kilometres from the school planted with almonds, grapes, various stone fruits and native foods. This is supported by a small Agriculture block located adjacent to the main site. A number of animals are kept at these facilities.
 - All learning areas are supported with wireless Wi-Fi and trolleys of netbooks and or laptops for student use. There still remains a small number of specialist computer rooms. Students are encouraged and supported to bring their own device and this is supported by a progressive mobile devices policy.

- **Staff facilities**
: Each classroom and specialist facility building contains staff work rooms, in which every member of the teaching staff has a 'base'. The staffroom in the administration building is spacious; that building also contains staff showers and toilets.
All staff are issued a laptop and an iPad for their professional use.
- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
: All buildings are single storey, on a level site. There is wheel chair access to every building in the school.
The school is served by six DECD bus routes.
The school hires buses from local school bus contractors for excursions and sports trips.

10. School Operations

The school uses DayMap software to manage attendance, communication, record keeping and reporting. DayMap also has a learning management system that is used extensively by teachers and students in their learning.

- **Decision making structures**
: School decision-making is committee based. Many of the committees have governing council, staff and student membership. They include policy review, canteen, school pride, and finance.
- **Regular publications**
: Publications include daily staff and student bulletin via DayMap, a staff handbook, weekly newsletters, information booklet and curriculum booklets, which outline subject offerings and course requirements.
- **School financial position**
: The school is in a sound financial position. Materials and Services Charges are set at the maximum enforceable level.
- **Special funding**
: The school receives funding under the Rural & Isolated Index. This is used to offset the cost to students accessing educational programs and excursions.
- **Social media**
: The school promotes events and student learning through a Facebook page.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**
: The main economic base for the community is horticulture and viticulture in the irrigation areas surrounding the town. Tourism is an important supplementary activity. The town is also the service centre for surrounding dry land farming areas.

- Parent and community involvement
 - : Many parents take a strong interest in the school progress of their own children but in many cases this does not extend to participation in school affairs. A small proportion of parents are heavily involved in the school.
 - In general the wider community supports the school very generously. This is most notable in respect of VET in SACE work placements (mentioned above under Curriculum), work experience placements, Australian Business Week and sports provision but also extends to support in many other ways.
- Feeder schools
 - : There are 4 feeder primary schools, 3 government and 1 non-government. The largest, Renmark Primary School, is immediately adjacent to the high school.
- Other local care and educational facilities
 - : Renmark West and Renmark North Primary Schools both have CPCs. There is also a pre-school kindergarten very close to the high school. OSHC is provided at Renmark Primary School, which is adjacent to the high school.
 - The Renmark-Paringa Public Library has a good selection of books; titles held in other public libraries can be obtained using their internal system.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - : Renmark is well served by a wide range of businesses. There are two large supermarkets, a Big W, a plaza and many speciality shops.
- Other local facilities
 - : Renmark and the Riverland generally provide a wide range of social, arts and sports activities and organisations. There is some difficulty accessing medical and dental services. There are limited services offered at the local hospital with the nearest fully operating hospital located in Berri.
 - : Government housing is available. In addition flats and houses are available for private rental. Many staff members have purchased their own homes in the Renmark Paringa District. Small numbers of staff live outside of the local area.
- Local Government body
 - : Renmark Paringa Council. For information contact 8580 3000.