



Welcome to Blackwood Primary School

*An IB school valuing, supporting and inspiring
a community of lifelong learners*

Updated 2022



Government of South Australia

Department for Education

Blackwood Primary School

4 Seymour Street Eden Hills SA 5050

*An IB school valuing, supporting and inspiring
a community of lifelong learners*

Principal: Kris Robson



Telephone:	(08) 8278 5355
Fax:	(08) 8370 2602
e-mail:	dl.0565.info@schools.sa.edu.au
website:	www.blackwoodps.sa.edu.au

Blackwood Primary School

Principal's Welcome



A very warm welcome to Blackwood Primary School. We hope your association with our school will be a happy and rewarding one.

At Blackwood Primary School we provide a quality education for students from Reception to Year 6.

We offer a comprehensive educational programme delivered by a very dedicated and professional staff whose experience and expertise benefit all the students we teach.

We pride ourselves on high standards in education, sporting pursuits and our ability to provide each student with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for life-long learning and global citizenship.

Please do not hesitate to make contact with your child's classroom teacher or myself in order to closely monitor your child's educational achievements or to clarify any issues that may arise.

We look forward to working in partnership in the education of your children.

Kris Robson
Principal

CONTENTS

OUR SCHOOL

- School Vision, Values and Priorities
- Blackwood Primary School Overview

•

SCHOOL FACILITIES

- School Facilities
- Library/Resource
- Sporting facilities
- Ashby Hall/ Gymnasium
- Car Parking/ Buses
- Out of School Hours Care

•

SCHOOL INFORMATION

- School Times
- Enrolment Procedures
- School Fees
- School Responsibility for Safety of children
- Canteen
- Children School and Traffic
- Newsletters/ Communication
- School Uniform
- Term Dates

JUNIOR PRIMARY INFORMATION

- Transition from Preschool to School
- Your child's first weeks at school
- The first school day
- What your child should bring to school
- Preparing your child for school
- Canteen and lunchtime eating
- Learning
- Reading
- Library

•

THE EDUCATION PROGRAM

- International Baccalaureate
- Primary Years Programme
- Japanese/German
- PE/Sport
- Music
- Intervention Programmes
- Showcase Assemblies
- Student leadership
- Assessment/Reporting
- Pastoral Support Workers

•

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Governing Council
- Class Liaison Parents
- Voluntary Help

Our School

Blackwood Primary School is a school of approximately 400 students housed in solid construction buildings. The extensive grounds offer five hectares of shaded play area and playgrounds. The students at Blackwood Primary School come from a diverse range of backgrounds, are motivated to learn and enjoy opportunities to demonstrate leadership and initiative. Our staff take seriously their responsibility to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed, and programs are in place to support students who are disadvantaged.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Core Values

- Care, Harmony and Excellence
- Focus on:
 - Respect for others
 - Respect for self
 - Respect for teaching and learning
 - Respect for property and the environment



SCHOOL FACILITIES/SERVICES

Blackwood Primary School offers outstanding grounds and facilities set well back from main roads and housing. We border, and have private access to Wittunga Botanic Gardens and boast five hectares of tree studded grounds incorporating two ovals, the Gully, tennis/netball courts and three playgrounds.

Our buildings incorporate well appointed classrooms, a large gymnasium a fully equipped Music/Drama Room, Japanese Language classroom, and state of the art Resource Learning Centre. All Classrooms are equipped with sound field and Interactive white boards and are wirelessly connected to the internet and intranet with high speed data connectivity.



We also adjoin the Blackwood High School, which enables seamless transition for our Year 6 students and greater collaboration for our Primary Years Programme (PYP).

Resource Centre/Library

The Resource Centre is a modern fully automated library and is in constant use by staff and students. The stocks of fiction, non-fiction, audio-visual and Information Communication Technology (ICT) resources are extensive and are continually being updated. Students are encouraged to borrow on a regular basis. Information Communication Technology and Resource Based Learning is a focus for the Resource Centre, which is equipped with computers with up-to-date software and internet and e-mail access.



Sporting facilities

Tennis Courts

There are two surfaced tennis courts available for students.

Basketball / Netball

There is one full-sized basketball court on bitumen and one three-quarter court on parquet flooring in the Ashby hall. In addition there are several basketball goal posts for the students to practise shooting baskets.

Football, Soccer and Cricket

Our North Oval provides students with opportunities to play ball sports during recess and lunch and is used for PE Lessons and for weekend sport competitions. Our Southern oval is used for Athletics Day and sporting carnivals.

Adventure Playground

The Albert Fehlberg Adventure Playground is situated in a natural tree clad gully adjacent to the playing fields. Other playground equipment is located at various places in the school grounds.

The Bandicoot Burrow Parkour playground is situated at the back of the school near the netball courts.



Ashby Hall

Constructed in 1992, this building includes a gymnasium and hall area, canteen, uniform shop, multi-purpose room and OSHC. This complex provides an excellent venue for indoor sport and our student-run assemblies. The hall is used extensively for school activities and is hired out on a regular basis to the wider community.

Access to Blackwood Primary School

An overpass bridge across the railway line and a walkway from the Coromandel Railway Station behind the Wittunga Botanic Garden to the school grounds provides easy access for children living south of the school. **This rear access is less than 1km from Blackwood Park.** Access from the north is via Shepherds Hill Road where a school crossing is provided here for student safety.

Car Park

Off street parking is provided and is accessed through a one way system from Shepherds Hill Road with the exit being through Seymour Street. The Kiss and Drop area is a quick and easy facility for parents to drop off your children in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon without leaving the car. This allows for easy traffic flow. Wittunga Botanic Gardens also has car parking available with access direct from the gardens.

The school is serviced by trains, stopping at the Coromandel Railway Station and by bus, which stops directly in front of the school at Stop 38. Students living out of the area can use the buses, which service the high school next door. More bus information is available through Adelaide Metro Website.

Limited off street parking is available for visitors to the school.

Staff Parking area opposite the Kiss & Drop zone is for STAFF CARS ONLY.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)

Blackwood Primary School OSHC operates before and after school. This service is well resourced and incorporates many and varied activities coordinated by our Director, Kim Austin.

Students are supervised from:-

- 7.00am before school
- 2.30pm—6.00pm on Mondays
- 3.20pm – 6.00pm Tuesday to Friday.

We also provide Vacation Care during the holidays and Pupil Free Days.

For enrolment contact OSHC on 8370 2232

(7.00 - 10.00am and 2.30pm - 6.00pm) Monday to Friday .



School Responsibility for Safety of Children.

We take our duty of care seriously. To ensure the safety of your child(ren). We ask that you support us in the following matters.

Leaving School Grounds

For safety reasons, children are not permitted to leave the grounds during school hours without permission. It is highly desirable that parents/caregivers collect students if they have to leave early. If a parent/caregiver needs to take their child out of school, the student is required to be signed out at the Front Office.

Absence of Children

It is important for your child's safety if they are unable to attend school or are going to be late that you use the **STAR SCHOOL App** or **SMS Text 0427 016 460**. **Parents/ Caregivers will be notified by text for any students with an unexplained absence.** Students arriving late must sign in at the Front Office before going to class. Students leaving early must be signed out by a Parent/Caregiver before being collected from class.

Supervision of Yard and Grounds

The playgrounds are supervised from 8.30am until 3.40pm (2.50pm Mondays). Students are not permitted to arrive before 8.30am. If a child has not been collected by 3.40pm (2.50pm Mondays) they will be taken to the School Office. **In the interest of your child's safety we request that children are not in the grounds unaccompanied outside of these hours.**

Newsletters

Newsletters provide an excellent medium for school / home contact. A link to our Blackwood Primary School newsletter is emailed regularly throughout the year. Newsletters contain a balance of information, student work, community notices and sporting results. If you have anything you feel should be shared with the school community, this can be done through the newsletter. All newsletters are available at <http://www.blackwoodps.sa.edu.au>

School Uniform

Our school uniform policy is included in the enrolment pack. We require children to wear school uniform, as we believe it demonstrates pride and commitment to the school and helps to address the issue of peer pressure in regard to clothing. The school uniform is also a safety feature of our school, especially on school excursions. The uniform shop is open Monday 8.15-9.15am, Wednesday 12.45-1.30pm, Friday 8.15-9.15am and 3-3.45 pm. For all enquiries contact the Uniform Shop on 8350 7933.

Uniforms can also be purchased at Devon Clothing, 84 Daws Road, Edwardstown. Contact 8350 7903. Opening hours Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

TERM DATES 2022

Term 1: Monday 31 January - Thursday 14 April

Term 2: Monday 2 May - Friday 8 July

Term 3: Monday 25 July - Friday 30 September

Term 4: Monday 17 October - Friday 16 December

TERM DATES 2023

Term 1: Monday 30 January - Friday 14 April

Term 2: Monday 1 May - Friday 7 July

Term 3: Monday 24 July - Friday 29 September

Term 4: Monday 16 October - Friday 15 December

JUNIOR PRIMARY INFORMATION

Transition from pre-school to school

To ensure the smooth transition from pre-school to school, three orientation visits are offered in the Term 4 prior to commencing school. A letter is sent to each child inviting them to visit the school and informing you about what to expect during the visit. During these visits your child will visit their new class and meet with the teacher/s. This enables children to become familiar with the classroom setting, be introduced to new friends and the teachers, and helps to make the first experiences of school positive and relaxed. Parents/Caregivers are invited to an information session at the first transition visit. This is a time to find out information about our school and meet new families over a 'cuppa'. A 'New Families Meet & Greet' event is also offered in Term 4.

Reception Enrolments

There is one intake per year.

Child's birthdate:

from 1 January to 30 April - start school Term 1 of the year they turn 5

from 1 May to 31 December - start school Term 1 of the year after they turn 5

First weeks at school

New Reception students will start on the 1st day of Term 1. They start at 8.50am and generally stay the full day. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to monitor their child's level of fatigue and discuss this with the teacher. It may be convenient to arrange early dismissal with the teacher. It is important that your child feel rested and energetic if the school experience is to be a happy one.

The first day at school

Parents are encouraged to stay for a short time on the first day. When you collect your child at the end of the day, allow a few minutes to share the day's experiences with them. Sometimes your child may not wish to discuss their day immediately, so try to engage your child in discussion when they feel ready to do so.

What your child should bring to school?

School bag

Fruit/health eating snack

Recess/morning snack

Lunch in lunch box – lunches may be ordered from the Blackwood HS Canteen

School hat

Painting smock which could be an old shirt

Spare underwear to be kept in school bag if necessary

All individual belongings need to be clearly labelled.

Preparing your child for school

There are many things that you as a parent can do to prepare your child for school.

Assist them to :-

- Know their name, address and telephone number
- Put away play things and materials after using them
- Dress themselves, including trying to tie shoe laces
- Know the appropriate use of toilet and related hygiene
- Know who will be taking them home after school
- Talk to your child about school, their understanding of it, and what they can expect.

Above all encourage your child to be independent and responsible by giving them opportunities to develop these skills, e.g. allowing him/her to make choices, take risks, be responsible for little tasks around the home, carrying their own bag and completing their morning routine. Be patient, proud and encourage your child's achievements by having a special place to display work. Allow quiet time together for sharing. Talk to your child about starting school, making new friends, learning new skills and experiencing new challenges.

Learning

Learning is a continuous and active process that produces change. Children acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes as a result of many varied experiences.

Children learn in many ways due to personal preference and the nature of the task. This is influenced by the many interactions in the learning environment. Language is important to learning. As a result of thinking and talking about new experiences children are able to incorporate new ideas with existing knowledge. Play is an essential part of a child's development, as it is a way of understanding personal experiences. Through play and multi-sensory experiences we provide expanding opportunities for them to learn from their own actions and observations. Play also enables children to reinforce learning, set their own goals and build on social skills.

Self-esteem influences learning and a positive self-image enables children to feel confident in new situations. Children are more likely to learn when they are interested and the experience is relevant. It is vital that children experience success in their learning. This is most likely to happen if they work at their own level of ability and engage in challenging tasks where they are encouraged to take risks in their learning.

Children learn from each other. Working co-operatively develops positive relationships and provides opportunities for problem solving and decision-making. Children respond to encouragement and recognition in an environment, which values their achievements and provides opportunities for evaluation of their own work and also that of others.

Reading

Children start learning to read before starting school. They will have been exposed to writing in many forms, e.g. signs, labels, advertisements, books and magazines. They have probably seen you reading and writing and are able to recognise familiar signs and words. When children start school their expectations are that they will learn to read. Their experiences before school are vital to this process, and experiences at home will always be very important to their success. Reading to your children teaches them about reading. They will learn that reading is an enjoyable experience. They will also learn to recognise print, the language of books, and the relationship between words and pictures. The opportunity to read with a person they trust is a powerful learning experience. Some families make a special time or place for listening to reading. It is important for children to make connections between their own lives and what they are reading and, as parents know them better than anyone else, you can help them do this. Often children will want to read simple books and old favourites over again. This provides useful practice and builds confidence. All learners need to take risks and make meaningful predictions. Allow children plenty of time to do this and experiment. This is one of the most important things they have to learn about being a reader.

It helps if the child is reading a story you have read aloud first. Don't worry if the reading is not word perfect. Be relaxed and encouraging. Expect success but be patient. There are a variety of resources to help your child with Reading. Please inquire at the School Library.

Library

During first term your child will be involved in a library orientation programme. They will be visiting the library at least once a week and will have the opportunity to borrow books on a regular basis. Each child must have a library bag to ensure safekeeping of borrowed books. Please assist your child to develop good borrowing practice by providing a library bag and encouraging the prompt return of borrowed books.

THE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Curriculum

Blackwood Primary School is an International Baccalaureate World School. We have successfully been authorized to offer the Primary Year Programme (PYP) from Reception to Year 6. This programme supports the Australian Curriculum.

International Baccalaureate

Underpinning our programmes is the IB Learner Profile, a set of attributes displayed by an internationally minded person. These attributes serve not only as a guide for the kind of student that will graduate from our school, but for all the learners in our school community, students, teachers and parents/caregivers. Our students strive to be:

- Inquirers We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.
- Knowledgeable We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.
- Thinkers We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.
- Communicators We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.
- Principled We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.
- Open-minded We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the Experience.
- Caring We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.
- Risk-takers We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.
- Balanced We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives-intellectual, physical, and emotional-to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognise our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.
- Reflective We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) is designed for students between the ages of 3 and 12 years. It is an international, transdisciplinary programme designed to foster the development of the whole child, touching hearts as well as minds and encompassing academic, social, physical, emotional and cultural needs.

Six transdisciplinary themes provide the framework for students to engage in rich, meaningful inquiry. At Blackwood Primary School we have developed a Programme of Inquiry, engaging students in six units of inquiry (4 units for Reception/Year 1) each year. Covering each of the 8 subject areas, students develop an understanding of important concepts, acquire essential skills and knowledge, develop particular attitudes and learn to take socially responsible action.

Students in their final year of the PYP carry out the exhibition. Students demonstrate their understanding of an issue or opportunity they have chosen to explore. They undertake their investigation both individually and with their peers, together with the guidance of a mentor. Through the exhibition, students demonstrate their ability to take responsibility for their learning—and their capacity to take action—as they are actively engaged in planning, presenting and assessing learning.

The exhibition is a powerful demonstration of student agency, as well as the agency of the community that has nurtured them through their years in the PYP. The learning community participates in the exhibition, supporting and celebrating the development of internationally minded students who make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of others.

(The Learner, 2018, International Baccalaureate Organisation, pg.39)

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (JAPANESE—Reception to Year 6)

The Languages Learning Area aims to develop in all students:

- their communication potential in the target language
- an understanding of languages and how they work as systems, which contribute to their literacy development
- an understanding of cultures and identities, which contribute to a better understanding of themselves and others
- enhanced social and cognitive capabilities
- expanded general knowledge
- enhanced opportunities to participate meaningfully in voluntary, community paid/unpaid work and further education and training
- capacities to apply learning in languages to other Learning Areas, to live in the wider community and in accessing further education and training.

The benefits of learning languages and cultures extend beyond the individual to the development of a significant resource for communities, with the potential to contribute at both a local and an international level.

Japanese

Blackwood Primary School students learn Japanese as the additional language. Studying an additional language and its associated culture, provides students with the opportunity to inquire into, and make connections with, different cultures with the aim to become globally minded citizens. Learning an additional language leads to a deeper understanding of how language works and further develops our communication and thinking skills.

Our students are taught the Australian Curriculum for Japanese (F-10), which covers the strands of Communicating and Understanding. Students have the opportunity to develop the language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening by Learning Language, Learning About Language, and Learning Through Language.

(Japanese cont.) Hiragana and some kanji and katakana are introduced in the Early Years and students develop these skills through scaffolded learning throughout Reception to Year 6, with the aim being able to read and write independently in Japanese.

Japanese is integrated into the IB Units of Inquiry where applicable to strengthen the transdisciplinary nature of learning.

Students curiosity is sparked by inquiring into the traditions and culture of Japan. Using strategies such as Visible Thinking routines encourages students to deepen their understanding and make meaningful connections and comparisons with their learning beyond the Japanese classroom.

Each year there are opportunities for our students to authentically connect and use Japanese with visitors from Japan studying at Blackwood High School.

We have two Japanese teachers who split the teaching between Junior Primary and Middle/Upper Primary classes in two dedicated Japanese classrooms. The Japanese rooms are well equipped with regalia from Japan including clothing, toys and artefacts.

On alternate years the whole school is involved with a Japanese Sports Day or Culture Day.

PE and Sport

Participation in PE Classes:

In PE lessons, students explore their capabilities as they present themselves on the day. Through developing awareness of their changing capabilities students learn to work within and extend these capabilities.

Students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning through guiding them to be responsible for what they undertake in PE. PE lessons are inclusive of everyone no matter their physical skills. This is implemented through very open ended tasks that provide a range of challenges for different ability levels, games requiring a range of roles and skills which students are guided to take, and having everyone active at the same time ensuring no one feels they have to perform in front of others. Students are also guided to be aware of other player limitations and play inclusive of those players. Student activities are adapted and differentiated to ensure all abilities and needs are catered for.

To be able to provide a safe PE environment that accommodates student's needs and delivers the best PE experience possible parents need to keep the school informed of:

- Health plans ensuring they are up to date.
- New or temporary medical conditions explaining limitations and how long the limitations will be.

Appropriate Dress for PE:

For the safety of your child and others in their class please ensure your child has the appropriate uniform, hat, shoes and drink bottle at all PE lessons. On PE specialist days students are encouraged to wear the school culottes, shorts or pants as this allows for greater movement. Good fitting sports shoes, or sandals for footwear and a school hat are essential. Students also need to bring a drink bottle as they may require a drink during lesson time.

Science

Science is integrated through our IB Units of Inquiry and also taught as a single subject lesson where all students have a rich, hands on experience incorporating STEM methodology. All students from Reception to Year 6 have at least one 50min lesson per week.

Science as a single subject

Studying Science as an additional subject has given focus for students to experiment, wonder, foster creativity, ask questions and develop deep thinking skills through the Scientific Method. Students are encouraged to hypothesise, predict, evaluate their data, make observations, describe properties and to think like scientists.

The aim of Science at Blackwood Primary School is to develop a student's curiosity and willingness to explore and not be afraid to ask questions. The students at Blackwood Primary School are taught the Australian Curriculum through an inquiry IB lens.

The Australian Curriculum strands focus on Science Understandings of:-

- Biological Sciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Earth and Space Sciences
- Physical Sciences

The Science Inquiry Skills of:-

- Questioning and Predicting
- Planning and Conducting
- Processing and Analysing Data and Information
- Evaluating
- Communicating

and Science as a Human Endeavour

- Nature and Development of Science
- Use and Influence of Science

STEM

In Science, students have the opportunity to expand their thinking through STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths). STEM methodologies focus on developing students; problem solving skills, teamwork, digital literacy, innovation, independent thinking and critical analysis.

The Science Class has a 3D printer, coding robots, a maker's area (access to boxes, tubes and other construction material) laboratory equipment and a high use of technology such as; Makers Empire, digital microscopes, Scratch, Minecraft Education Edition to name a few.

In Science, students are encouraged to develop their own questions and to solve their own problems through a STEM thinking approach.

Music

PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts is a specialist subject at our school. The students are offered a wide range of skills and experiences across the spectrum of Performing Arts, including Music and Drama.

Classroom Performing Arts Program

Students are provided with many varied opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in Music and Drama. In their expressive arts lessons, students are offered learning experiences that involve movement, drama, speech, singing and instrumental work.

They are given the opportunity to:-

- create, make and perform
- critique peer and professional performances
- experience a wide range of genres
- learn about the history of performing arts.

Students are given opportunities to develop their musical and dramatic skills whilst also improving their teamwork, performance and audience skills.

In addition to the Classroom Performing Arts program, students may be able to participate in any of the following programs:

Instrumental Music

The school offers private instrumental tuition in piano, guitar, violin, brass, wood wind & percussion. Currently, over 80 students learn a musical instrument at school. Students get the opportunity to perform at assemblies and later in the year at our Instrumental Showcase Evening

The Senior Choir

The Senior Choir performs at the "Festival of Music", at whole school events and within the wider community. It is composed of interested and committed year 5-6 students. Our aim is to produce a choir of the highest standard possible where EVERY student who works hard and enthusiastically is able to participate. Blackwood Primary School is allocated student places in the Festival of Music Concert Series each year. Students learn a wide variety of songs, vocal warm-ups and singing skills. There are opportunities for students to solo, along with singing in unison and in parts.

The Middle Primary Choir - Mixed Berries

The Middle Primary Choir is composed of students from our year 2/3 classes and our year 3/4 classes. They perform at assemblies, whole school events and within the wider community. Students learn a wide variety of songs, vocal warm-ups and singing skills. There are opportunities for students to solo, along with singing in unison and in parts. Many of their songs are accompanied with choreography or are dramatised.

The Junior Primary Choir - Big Sing

Every 2nd week, the Junior Primary classes attend 'Big Sing' for an afternoon of singing, movement, dance and games. Students experience the joy of being part of a large ensemble and begin to learn about audience manners, performance skills and basic choral techniques. They have the opportunity to showcase their learning to each other and they perform at our school assemblies during the year.

Intervention Programmes

There are several programmes in place to ensure student success, especially in the area of literacy. We have a programme in Junior Primary, which provides assistance to students experiencing difficulty in literacy in the early years. This early intervention reduces the risk of students experiencing learning difficulties in future years and is conducted in pairs or small groups of children by an SSO (School Support Officer).

In the Primary years students are provided with some assistance in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

Showcase Assemblies

These are held at various times throughout the year and are student-run. Classes take it in turn to host the assembly. Parents/Caregivers are welcome to attend, and are especially invited if their child's class is hosting the Assembly.

Student Voice and Student Leadership

Purpose of Student Voice and Student Leadership

Builds relationships between students and their school community.

Allows students to give input into improving their class and school.

Improves students' skills in listening to others, respecting others' opinions/views/thoughts, communicating own points of view and problem-solving.

Builds students' awareness of how decisions are made and how they impact other people.

Develops students' leadership skills.

At Blackwood Primary School we have two school captains and each class has two SAT members (representative) per semester and Student Action Team (SAT) meetings take place once a week.

**We have two Year 6/7 House Leaders and one Year 5 Vice House Leader per house team.

Student Interest Groups are formed on a needs basis and examples may include an Environment Group, Safety Ambassadors etc.

Assessment/Reporting

The Principal and staff are always happy to meet parents/caregivers and to hold interviews by appointment arranged through the school office.

Early in Term 1 an Acquaintance Evening is held where teachers outline programs and expectations. This is followed by a 'three-way conference' between parents/caregivers, teacher and child later in the term to review the start to the year and set goals.

Student led conferences are held in Term 3.

At the end of Terms 2 and Term 4 the children receive a detailed written report.

Pastoral Support Workers

** The school has two part time Pastoral Support Workers. Their role is to support students, staff and parents to be part of a community which exemplifies the school values of *Care, Harmony and Excellence*.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council is a decision making body of the school community which works to provide direction, policy and support to assist the Principal to make the school a better place for learning.

The primary role of the Governing Council is the enhancement of student's learning through the cooperative efforts of parents, students, staff and others in the community

Meetings are held on the Tuesdays of Weeks 3 and 8 each term commencing at 6.00pm and concluding approximately 8.00pm.

Sub committees support the Governing Council and provide a broader decision-making base by involving more parents in the process.

If you have an interest in any of these areas please speak to the Principal who can provide you with information about meeting dates and times and the roles of the various subcommittees e.g. Finance, Grounds, Sport, Fundraising.

PARENTS and FRIENDS (P & F) COMMITTEE

The Parents and Friends are dedicated to building a sense of community within our school as well as fundraising to provide resources for the development of the school's facilities and teaching resources. We are also another connection between the leadership of the school and parents; raising and addressing general issues.

The P&F committee is a volunteer group made up of parents and teachers committed to the school and their children's education. We welcome and encourage any new members to join us. Meetings are held regularly and we would love to see new faces there, everyone is welcome.

VOLUNTARY HELP

Parental involvement is actively encouraged at Blackwood. We value the help given by parents in many areas - the Resource Centre, the class reading programme, on excursions and camps, in the Canteen, with sport, just to name a few.

Please contact the school to organise a Working With Children Check (WWCC) to volunteer at Blackwood Primary School. A current Covid Vaccination Certificate will also need to be sighted.

We trust that you will enjoy helping as much as we will appreciate your help. Your child (and many others as well) certainly benefit considerably.

If you would like to help just let your child's class teacher know.



Care Harmony Excellence



**Blackwood
Primary School**



Government of South Australia
Department for Education