



## **SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT**

Updated: 01/03/2021

**School number:** 0903

**School name:** MITCHAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

### **School Profile:**

Mitcham Girls High School is a progressive learning community dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities for girls.

Through focus on inquiry, research, innovation and student leadership, Mitcham Girls High School aspires to develop independent, resilient and globally responsive young women.

The school community champions equality for young girls and women; through our curriculum and leadership programs girls are empowered to become strong and compassionate leaders now and in the future.

We are passionate about providing a rich, challenging and secure learning environment to help every girl reach her potential. We follow all research on girls' education and reflect on our own practice to ensure our teaching pedagogies are engaging and relevant. Enquiry-based learning is gaining momentum at Mitcham thus maintaining curiosity, collaborative approaches and positive risk taking.

Mitcham Girls High School is the only unzoned, public girls' school in the state of South Australia, attracting students from all suburbs across Adelaide and nearby country towns. Many students travel considerable distances to come to a school which offers them opportunities in an environment that is academically challenging, calm, friendly and caring.

## 1. General information

- School Principal: Nathan Cini
- Year of opening: 1964 (Previously Unley High School 1918 – 1963; Kingswood High 1914-1917)
- Postal Address: Kyre Avenue, Kingswood SA 5062
- Location Address: Kyre Avenue, Kingswood SA 5062
- DECD Region: Mitcham Plains Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 6KM
- Telephone number: (08) 8272 8233
- Fax Number: (08) 8373 3013
- School website address: <https://www.mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au/>
- School e-mail address: [dl.0903.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0903.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: N/A
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: N/A
- Public transport access: The school is easily accessible by bus and train.
- Student enrolment trends:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Year 7	0	0	0	0	158	113
Year 8	126	123	127	125	191	207
Year 9	94	112	121	121	125	172
Year 10	105	85	98	113	107	104
Year 11	108	102	89	102	101	107
Year 12	91	94	85	81	86	95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>795</b>

- Staffing numbers (as at February 2021 census):  
**Leadership Structure:**  
The leadership structure at Mitcham Girls High School consists of the following:  
**Senior Leadership Team**  
1 Principal  
1 Deputy Principal (B4)  
1 Assistant Principal of Middle Secondary (B3)  
1 Assistant Principal of Senior Secondary (B3)
- **Leadership Team**  
7 Curriculum Leaders  
3 Wellbeing Leaders

<b>Teachers</b>	<b>67</b>
FTE	55
PT	12
Male	17
Female	50
<b>Ancillary</b>	<b>16</b>
FTE	12
PT	4
Male	4
Female	12

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

### General characteristics

Students enrol from a wide geographical area and bring with them diversity in background and culture. Approximately 38% of our students are School Card holders and 14% are from Non-English-Speaking Backgrounds. 1% of our students are Aboriginal students.

### Student wellbeing programs

Students are organised into Care Groups on a year level basis for Years 7, 8 and 9, and as integrated senior groups for Years 10, 11 and 12. The Care Group teacher is a contact and support person who provides learning and social support and liaises with parents. The school has a Care Group program which is undertaken by all students. This program develops group and social skills and explores post-school options and issues relevant to the wellbeing of young women.

### Student support offered

There are three Wellbeing Leaders who work with students and staff in a supportive capacity liaising with parents/caregivers and outside agencies. Course counselling occurs at each year level in preparation for subject selection for the following year. There is a strong emphasis on the broadening of post-school options and alternative career pathways.

### Student management

The Student Behaviour Management Policy was developed by a task group of teachers, parents and students. It promotes a school environment in which participation in all areas of the curriculum is valued and the right of every student to learn is protected. Relationships between all members of the school community are based on respect and recognition of each other's rights and responsibilities.

### Student leadership

Through our leadership program students are provided with a wide range of leadership opportunities involving decision making, special projects, curricular and many co-curricular activities. Our Care Group program provides students with support and positive role models and fosters a commitment to global citizenship. – Student Representative Council an active Student Representative Council operates within the school. Office bearers are selected from both the Middle and Senior School. Priorities for action are established each year. Student representatives contribute to all school committees, including the Governing Council. Fundraising by the SRC is conducted throughout the year. Funds raised are used to improve student facilities at the school and to support nominated charities. – Peer Leaders Program Year 10 and 11 students are trained in

interpersonal and peer leading skills and have the opportunity to nominate to be Peer Leaders. In Year 11 these students may assist in running Care Group activities, participate in Year 7 camps and support Middle School students. Some Peer Leaders provide tutoring for Year 7 and 8 students. This is another way that students can develop leadership skills and take responsibility.

### **Assemblies**

Students are involved regularly in speaking and performing at whole school, year level and special purpose assemblies that further support their development, confidence and communication skills.

### **Special programmes**

Mitcham Girls High School is a specialist school in:

- Girls' Education
- Gift Dance
- Gifted and Talented Programs (Gift) Academic with a focus on STEM

#### **Gifted and Talented Program (Gift) Dance**

Entry to the Gift Dance Program is through auditions and it is offered to students in Years 8, 9 and 10. Students who gain entry into this program develop creative, technical and physical understanding and an appreciation of dance as an art form. With intensive and skilful coaching students become successful performers.

Our Gift Dance Leader is recognised as a leader in Dance Education. She is the 2015 recipient of the Education and Arts Minister's Award for Excellence in arts teaching and leadership at secondary level, an award which allowed her to visit the United States for professional development opportunities.

#### **Gifted and Talented Program (Gift) Academic, with a focus on STEM**

Gift classes are offered in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 to students who meet the criteria for selection across the subject areas of Maths, Science, English and Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prior to the commencement of the school year, students also have the opportunity to participate in the testing program run by the school which identifies students who are gifted in Science and Mathematics and/or English and Humanities and Social Sciences.

Students selected to be in the Gift Academic Program are encouraged to participate in activities within the school that will extend their learning. These students may also participate in special Gift co-curricular activities. Acceleration in particular subjects may be available.

### **Students from Non-English-Speaking Backgrounds**

English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes are available to students in Years 7 to 12 who meet the criteria for selection into this subject. Students from Non-English-Speaking Backgrounds are supported by a specialist EAL teacher.

### **Students with Special Needs**

Our procedures are aimed at the integration of all students into a mainstream setting. Negotiated Education Plans are developed to assist students with disabilities, which may affect their learning. Support staff are available to assist students with learning needs and teachers cater for students with a range of abilities within each classroom.

### **International Students**

The school works closely with International Education Services to provide opportunities for international students to study at Mitcham Girls High School. Students come from many different countries: Germany, France, Italy, Korea, Vietnam, China, Japan, Indonesia, India and Brazil. They are encouraged to participate in activities within the school that will extend their learning. These students may also participate in our Gift programs. Acceleration in particular subjects may be available.

### Academic Support

We aim to develop students' skills so they can become independent, self-motivated learners with enquiring minds who can achieve excellence in a range of areas. Students in the Senior School have a dedicated study room and timetabled study lessons with a view to further developing independent study skills and responsibility for their own learning. Care Group teachers and Wellbeing Leaders are available to provide extra support for students experiencing difficulties in the management of their workload. Maths support is provided at lunch time. Intensive, short term support is also provided for students who are at risk of not achieving academic minimum standards.

### 3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies: [Site Improvement Plan](#)

### 4. Recent key outcomes:

#### SACE

The school is proud of the achievements of students. In 2020 97.5% of students (81 out of 83) achieved their SACE.

Stage 2 Grade distribution demonstrates steady improvement since 2016. In 2020, 33.2% of results achieved at A- and above compared with 30.4% in 2019 and 28.5% in 2018.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	% of Results					
A	18.65	16.49	23.13	23.43	25.42	30.92
B	37.21	37.67	41.01	40.88	36.97	39.51
C	35.97	34.2	28.45	28	28.84	24.7
D	5.20	6.63	4.99	5.01	5.54	3.65
E	2.64	4.69	2.16	2.5	2.47	1.22
N	0.33	0.32	0.25	0.18	0.75	0

5 merits were awarded to MGHS students in 2020 in Biology, Physical Education (2), Indonesian and English as an additional language.

## **NAPLAN**

NAPLAN was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid 19 implications. However, historically the school is proud of the continuous improvement made, particularly in the Year 9 NAPLAN results. Over the years students have been achieving mean scores well above State and National averages in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar. Numeracy scores have been above state and regional averages.

## **5. Curriculum**

### **Subject offerings:**

The Curriculum Guide (attached below) outlines the varied subject offerings MGHS are proud to deliver. The guide below gives an overview of the curriculum as students progress through the years, demonstrating what is offered students in each subject area.

[MGHS 2021 Curriculum](#)

### **Open Access/Distance Education provision:**

Some subjects are offered through Open Access College when necessary.

### **Special needs:**

Students are integrated into the mainstream classes with teacher or SSO support allocated from Tier 2 staffing. Staff are also supported to differentiate the curriculum to address student needs.

### **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

The school year is divided into four assessment periods of approximately 10 weeks each. During each period, formal tests, oral work, assignments, research and homework assignments are set to assess a student's ability in each subject. Both formative and summative tasks are valued as part of the learning process. Assessment and reporting are crucial elements to our teaching and learning programs. At Mitcham, student achievement is reported in the form of written reports and parent/teacher interviews. The reports provide information on achievement and areas requiring improvement.

### **Mitcham Plains Partnership Alliance programs:**

An Alliance between Unley HS and Urrbrae Agricultural HS offers students in Years 11 and 12 the opportunity to access additional subjects not offered onsite at Mitcham Girls HS. Additionally, students from Unley and Urrbrae have

reciprocal access to subjects taught at Mitcham. Students who enrol in these subjects may have to travel to one of these schools to attend classes.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Sporting activities and fitness are encouraged. We are proud of our high level of participation and achievement in sport. The following sports are available:

- Netball
- Swimming
- Badminton
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Cricket

Physical activity is encouraged through programs such as team sports and lunch time activities.

The school gymnasium is used for a variety of sports within the Health and Physical Education program, for intraschool and interschool sport and by the local community. The swimming pool is open at lunch times in Terms 1 and 4. The well-equipped Fitness Centre is also accessible at lunch time.

Swimming Carnival and Sports Day are held annually and are designed to encourage participation as well as the achievement of personal best.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

### General

At Mitcham Girls High School, we believe that a student's education involves much more than simply what takes place in the classroom. We offer our students a wide range of opportunities and experiences that help them develop as confident and creative young women with skills in teamwork, leadership and problem solving.

There are a number of co-curricular activities provided for the interest and involvement of our students. These include Debating, Art and Fringe Festival activities, Sustainability, Primary School Ambassadors, Oliphant Science Awards, Science, Maths and English Competitions, Amnesty International, Choir, Concert Band, First Lego League, Advanced Technology projects and a wide range of inter-school sporting events.

### Special

Our Pastoral Care Worker works three days a week within the school, supporting students with their spiritual needs, wellbeing and assisting with supervision on a

range of excursions and special projects across all year levels. A prayer room is available.

## **7. Staff (and their welfare)**

### **Staff profile**

The staff are a very committed, competent group of professionals who have an excellent relationship with students and parents. Over the last few years, the greater majority of permanent teaching staff have been appointed through a merit selection process.

### **Leadership structure**

All areas of curriculum are managed by a coordinator and all staff are encouraged to undertake leadership roles in curriculum, co-curriculum activities or administrative aspects of the school.

### **Staff support systems**

Staff are supported by the Principal, the Deputy Principal and the Assistant Principals of the schools, Faculty Leaders, AST2s and Year Level Managers. Staff engage in professional development activities organised by a committee and/or curriculum leaders.

### **Performance Management**

At Mitcham Girls High School the Performance Development process aims to support individuals to: affirm areas of strength and achievement; improve classroom and work skills; determine and enhance staff performance by supporting personal and professional development; enable staff to become increasingly more effective in their current roles; provide opportunities to develop skills to initiate future role changes; provide a positive and supportive working environment and improve staff morale.

### **Access to special staff**

Instrumental music teachers support over 80 students (other students have private teachers). We have an excellent relationship with our Guidance Officer and access a range of other specialist staff as required.

## **8. School Facilities**

### **Buildings and Grounds**

The school has a variety of buildings; some completed or refurbished recently, while others date back to the early 1900s and are heritage listed. Newly developed refurbished buildings include:

- STEM Centre
- Collaborative, flexible learning spaces
- Science Centre
- Dance Studios
- Swimming Pool (25m long)
- Performing Arts Centre
- Resource Centre
- Administration Centre

### **Heating and Cooling**

All rooms within the school are fitted with effective and efficient reverse cycle air-conditioners.

### **Specialist facilities and equipment**

The school is equipped with a half Olympic sized swimming pool, gymnasium, fitness centre and three tennis/netball courts. There are specialist areas for Art, Ceramics, Drama, Music, Science, Photography, Home Economics, Technology Studies and a Performing Arts Centre.

### **Staff facilities**

All staff have their own office space and are usually co-located with their working teams. All teachers are provided a laptop.

### **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

The school has a 3-storey building with a lift installed. Students with physical disabilities are able to access all curriculum areas.

### **Access to bus transport**

Three bus stops, directly outside the school, prove to be extremely convenient for most of the students. Students step off the buses and into the school. Students who travel from the Adelaide Hills enjoy a five minute walk to/from Cross Road. Mitcham Train Station is close by.

## **10. School Operations**

### **Decision making structures**

A participatory and consultative decision making process exists. Decisions are made, after consultation, at many levels:

- Staff meetings
- Leaders' meetings
- Middle and Senior School meetings
- Faculty meetings
- Professional Learning Teams (PLT)
- Year Level meetings
- Personnel Advisory Committee
- Working Parties
- Governing Council and its associated sub-committees

### **Other communication**

Regular contact is made with feeder primary schools. Parent Forums are held regularly. Information evenings on future education to assist parents and students

with future educational planning, e.g. SACE, tertiary entrance and course selections, are held each year.

## **11. Local Community**

### **General characteristics**

Families come from throughout the metropolitan area. There is, therefore, a diverse cultural and socio-economic mix.

### **Parent and community involvement**

Mitcham Girls High School offers many avenues for parental involvement and participation. We welcome and value parental involvement in their daughter's education and in the life of the school.

### **School Governing Council**

The Mitcham Girls High School Governing Council Inc. is comprised of elected parents, student representatives, the Principal and staff members elected by the staff. The Council assists and advises the Principal in matters relating to the development of the school.

Sub committees of the Governing Council include Canteen, Finance, ICT, Physical Resources and Uniform.

### **Parent Volunteer Groups**

#### **Canteen**

The Governing Council operates a well-equipped canteen. The canteen manager is supported by a roster of parents and student volunteer helpers. The canteen provides a wide range of nutritious, healthy foods at competitive prices.

#### **Resource Centre**

The Resource Centre welcomes help on a regular or occasional basis. There are many tasks ranging from book covering to using computers.

#### **Sports Coaching**

Parents with sports skills are invited to coach or assist with the coaching of our school's sports teams.

All volunteers who work directly with students in the school are required to pass a Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Child Related Employment Screening check

#### **Feeder or destination schools**

The school draws students from over sixty primary schools.

#### **Other local care and educational facilities**

Kingswood Pre School Centre is directly across the road from Mitcham Girls High and Mitcham Primary School is situated in Hillview Road, Kingswood, also extremely close to our school. The closest secondary schools are Unley High School and Urrbrae Agricultural High School.

#### **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Mitcham Council Library  
Unley Council Library  
Various ovals  
Various parks

**Local Government body**

Mitcham City Council  
Belair Road Kingswood SA 5062  
Telephone: (08) 8372 8888

**State Electorate**

Waite Shop 2 / 212 Belair Road  
Hawthorn SA 5062  
Telephone: (08) 8271 6448

**Federal Electorate**

Boothby (Nicolle Flint) Level 1, 724 Marion Road  
Marion SA 5043  
Telephone: (08) 8374 0511