

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 08/18

School number: 1008

School name: Gawler East Primary School

1. General information

Part A

Schoolname : GAWLER EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No. : 1008 Courier : Barossa
Principal : Mr Alec Tibbitts
Postal Address : Finch Road, Gawler East 5118
Location Address : Finch Road, Gawler East 5118
Partnership : Greater Gawler
Distance from GPO : 44 kms Phone No. : 08 85222688
CPC attached : No Fax No. : 08 85230497

		2015	2016	2017	2018
		FEB	FEB	FEB	FEB
FTE Enrolment					
Primary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
	Reception	53	48	46	52
	Year 1	42	52	50	47
	Year 2	59	44	54	46
	Year 3	53	52	46	54
	Year 4	51	56	52	46
	Year 5	45	51	54	54
	Year 6	45	43	51	48
	Year 7	64	44	41	45
	TOTAL	423	390	394	392
Feb total FTE Enrolment		423	390	394	392
Male FTE		207	184	188	182
Female FTE		216	206	206	210
School Card Approvals (Persons)		126	97	100	102
NESB Total (Persons)		2	9	6	5
Guardianship		7	3	7	5
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		12	12	15	13

Part B

- **Staffing numbers**

2016 Staff:

Tier 1 – classroom teachers: 16 female

LOTE 1 female

Drama (NIT) 1 male

SSO hours: 160

Groundsperson: 20 hours per week

Teacher Librarians: 1 female

PCW: 1 female

The leadership team consists of:

Principal

Senior Leader (B2) - Curriculum

Senior Leader (B2) - Special Education

Senior Leader (B1) – Student Wellbeing (0.8)

OSHC

Before School Care is from 7.00am and After School Care is until 6.00pm. Vacation Care is also offered and students come from the wider community in Gawler.

- **Enrolment Trends**

The school numbers have recently begun increasing after a number of years of declining enrolments.

- **Year of opening**

The school opened in 1964 on Lyndoch Road, Gawler and transferred to the current school site in October 1985 at Finch Road, Gawler.

- **Public transport access**

Public transport (bus) is now available in Gawler, however it has limited coverage.

Private charter buses or Gawler & District College school buses must be engaged for transport on excursions, with train transport occasionally being utilised. However, the railway station is approximately 2km from the school.

There is a local bus service (Barossa) which transports school children and connects with DECD buses at the High School. Very few students use this service as there is a delay in the after school pick up times.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **Wellbeing**

As a part of the Greater Gawler Partnership we use Positive Education. This brings together the science of Positive Psychology with best practice teaching to encourage and support individuals, schools and communities to flourish. Positive Education focuses on specific skills that assist students to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, enhance personal resilience, promote mindfulness, and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

At GEPS we provide a safe, caring, orderly and productive environment for learning. We achieve this by having clear responsibilities for the whole school community. We expect that all members of our school community practise our core value of “Respect” at all times. Our school’s vision and mission statements challenge us to create a positive learning community in which everyone feels valued and respected.

With some support from the Department for Education, the school funds an interoception programme for students who struggle to self-manage their behaviours. The Nest is a room where students can come to learn interoception.

Dress code

The school has a Dress Code policy and all students are expected to wear school uniform.

New enrolments are provided with a complimentary school polo shirt and hat.

A Year 7 t-shirt, with students’ names is also made available for purchase.

Classes are provided with sunscreen as part of the solar policy.

- **Special programmes**

There is a LAP programme where trained parent volunteers work one on one with identified students to raise confidence and basic skills levels.

Lunchtime electives/ programs are available:

Library

Gym

School choir.

Guitar lessons are available for students in years 5, 6 and 7 at no cost to parents.

3. Key School Policies

Our Vision

To develop a community of independent learners who are able to contribute as active members of society.

Our Mission

To provide a safe and positive learning environment that engages, challenges and empowers students to flourish.

The focus area for the Site Improvement Plan for 2018 is Numeracy.

4. Curriculum

At Gawler East Primary School the Australian Curriculum: History (F-7), Maths (F-7), English (F-7), Science (F-7), Languages (F-7), Health and Physical Education (F-7), Technologies (F-7), Arts (F-7), Civics and Citizenship (3-7), and Enterprise and Business (5-7) provides the core content of the curriculum and are guided by the learning principles in the South Australian Teaching for Effective Learning Framework (TfEL) [Click here to view document](#). Our Indonesian program is

supported by a school based specialist teacher. We also offer instrumental music lessons for students in Years 5-7.

A detailed description of our curriculum is available by accessing the [Australian Curriculum Website](#).

Literacy

To promote and support literacy development there is dedicated time in the mornings to provide targeted support and resourcing for staff and students. The Junior Primary classes are using Jolly Phonics as an approach to support literacy development.

Numeracy

To promote and support numeracy development staff have been trained and implement Natural Maths and Back to Front Maths strategies.

In 2015, staff worked on and accepted a whole school *Numeracy and Literacy Agreement* which outlines curriculum planning and programming expectations from Reception to Year 7 and will guide and direct staff training and development and performance management for the coming years. The school continues to examine data relating to Numeracy and Literacy skills (NAPLAN, Running Records, PAT M and PAT R). This information has informed planning classroom programs and special education programs to support students with identified needs.

ICT

There is an ongoing commitment to the use and further student and teacher understanding of ICT to enhance learning through the use of the internet, wireless devices (e.g. three full class sets of laptops) and appropriate software and hardware eg beebots, 3Dprinters, digital cameras and I pads.

- **Specialist**

LOTE language – Indonesian R-7.

Drama/Music/Dance is offered as a NIT subject, provided by an R-7 specialist teacher.

- **Open Access**

N/A

- **Special needs**

Special Education

Students with a disability are verified by DECD support personnel and then a Negotiated Education Plan (NEP) is developed with goals and strategies identified to address the specific learning needs of the student. This plan addresses their individual learning needs in each subject area, accommodations and the strategies required to achieve outcomes.

Classroom teachers are responsible for implementing the plan with support from the Senior Leader, DECD support services, parents and any relevant outside agencies. The students receive School Service Officers' (SSO) support to assist in

meeting the goals of their NEP. NEPs are constantly reviewed and updated as outcomes are achieved and new ones are identified and included.

- **Special curriculum features**

Drama/Music specialist for Years R-7. In the last few years this has been an outstanding development in the school with several large performances being held.

Other specialist programmes are negotiated through identified needs and the skills of the available people involved.

Resource Centre

There is a well-stocked, newly refurbished Resource Centre/MakerSpace and the library staff members work in conjunction with class teachers on Resource Based Learning, Literacy Skill development and the planning of activities. The Resource Centre is a focus of displays in the school. Five computers are networked for cataloguing and browsing. A class set of laptops and the creation of our new MakerSpace allows increased access to the Internet and individual research and creation/design of products.

Choir

Year 6/7 students can join the school choir, which participates in the Public Schools Music Festival. Approximately 45 students take part in this function, which is led by staff members.

- **Teaching methodology**

Teachers employ a wide range of teaching strategies, in line with current departmental expectations.

Teachers are encouraged to maintain high student involvement in curriculum, and develop their teaching and learning program incorporating current thinking on how children learn best. This may be through Constructivist approach, learning through themes, students initiated programs, using thinking skills, etc. The Upper Primary section of the school is encouraged to use Middle Schooling philosophies when working with students.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

Staff are undergoing professional development related to the Australian Curriculum and are implementing and reporting in line with the DECD guidelines. Programming, methodologies and assessment and reporting have been aligned with the Teaching for Effective Learning Framework. Staff use the Australian Curriculum for their programming, planning, assessment and reporting. Continuous assessment and reporting processes are essential to ensure that parents and students are involved in ongoing review and evaluation.

Early in the year there is a Parent Information night. Classrooms are open for parents to visit and to meet the teachers.

Interviews are held at the end of term two (or beginning of term 3) and then later in the year if requested to coincide with the Mid-year and End of Year reports. Three way interviews are used by a number of staff.

Work sample folders are used in most classes.

Early communication around any concerns is encouraged.

Joint programmes

There is a liaison programme with the Gawler East Pre-School. This is where many of our new Reception students begin their education.

Pre-schoolers visit the school facilities regularly. They are also engaged in a transition program before beginning their Reception year.

There are transition visits to local high schools to enable the smooth transition to secondary education.

Gawler East Primary School is involved with the ATSL Learning Frontiers Project working in a Hub of 16 innovative schools across SA to embed innovative and best practices.

5. Sporting Activities

The school endeavours to work in conjunction with local sporting bodies in the provision of sporting activities rather than duplicating activities. The school enters SAPSASA events through the Gawler District.

The school is pro-active in encouraging participation of all students in sport at all levels.

We now have a whole school sports day involving all students from Reception to year 7.

All Junior and Middle Primary students are involved in swimming lessons Upper Primary students participate in an aquatics camp every second year.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- **General**

Guitar lessons are provided free of charge by the Department for Education through their music programme to students from years 5 to 7. Numbers are limited by capacity.

- **Special**

Biannually, there is an End of Year Concert presented by the Junior Primary section of the school for Senior Citizens and parents.

On occasions, our specialist drama teacher produces a major performance, involving either the Middle or Upper primary section of the school. This is presented to parents, other classes and visiting schools and community members.

Visiting cultural groups are invited to perform at the school, as the distance to Adelaide is a limiting factor for excursions. The size of the school allows us to attract performers into the district.

With a focus on Environmental Education, students are also given the opportunity to be involved in school litter and bin management, gardening, recycling and Waterwatch programs.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

Staff members bring to GEPS a range of expertise and experience from a diversity of teaching experiences.

Specialist support services are accessed through Gawler Office.

The role of School Service Officers is continually changing as the use of temporary hours for specialist support increases. Various funding grants are used to employ SSO staff to work individually with students with identified special needs.

Leadership structure

We have a Principal (1.0) and 2 Senior Leaders (0.4 teaching/ 0.6 admin). Leadership take responsibility for a sub school/ year level – Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary. Year level meetings occur fortnightly. These are predominately of an administrative nature and also include some curriculum sharing and training.

Performance management occurs through line managers in each section of the school.

Staff members are encouraged to work collaboratively in groups or teams, to share expertise and support each other.

Training and Development

Throughout the year, there are many training and development opportunities offered to staff members. Many of these opportunities occur on site, utilising the expertise of the staff. Some training and development occurs as a whole staff, as an integral part of weekly staff meetings. Staff are also encouraged to operate as part of a PLC (Professional Learning Community) where they can select additional training and development sessions, relevant to their needs, in order to fulfil the department's current training and development requirements.

Staff is kept informed of, and attendance is encouraged at training and development that is available within our partnership and wider educational community.

At the end of each term we celebrate the achievements of the school, through whole school assemblies and staff meeting.

8. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school was built 30 years ago.

There is a separate Administration building, which includes staff facilities. A long brick building accommodates some classes Reception-Year 7, the Resource Centre and the Computer Rooms.

A new 8 teacher block was built using BER funding and the Resource Centre was refurbished.

Cooling- Heating: All buildings are air-conditioned.

- **Specialist facilities**

There are two computer rooms, with additional computers in every classroom. All computers are networked for printing, Internet access and file storage. A pod of six computers is in the Resource Centre and also in the Indonesian Room, linked to the curriculum network.

Every teaching area has an Interactive Whiteboard fitted.

Portable data projectors and laptops enhance the flexibility of the ICT program throughout the school.

Access to computers linked to the admin network is available throughout the school. All staff members are able to access EDSAS through this network.

In the main brick buildings there are wet areas for technology and art/craft activities.

The Cooking Centre has stoves and food preparation areas with an adjoining activity area with a stage.

In 1998 a technology room was established adjoining the cooking centre. There are nine large tables each with power boards built in. Consumables are stored nearby.

OSHC uses this combined building.

Another double classroom is also used exclusively for drama, and contains lighting and sound equipment.

The school community has provided a full size sporting hall, which includes an electrically operated stage, toilets and storerooms and a large mezzanine area. The hall is now fitted with cooling Airconditioning. This is a great asset for the school and the building is hired out to community groups.

There are two large grassed playing areas as well as three playgrounds.

- **Access to students and staff with disabilities**

There is a disability toilet located at the Administration building.

The school is built on a sloping site so access between the levels can be demanding. Most buildings have some access by ramps and there are sloping paths from the front to the rear of the school.

9. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

Staff meetings are held on Tuesday.

Year level/sub school groups meet at other times, usually three times a term.

- **Regular publications**

The main newsletter is published fortnightly. This is uploaded to the school's website: www.gaweastps.sa.edu.au via the Skoolbag app. Daily staff communication is through the daybook.

- **Other communication**

Work sample books, diaries, communication books and class newsletters are used to maintain open communication between home and school.

- **School financial position**

As part of the governing council, the finance committee meet regularly to oversee the financial management of the school.

10. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Gawler is a community experiencing considerable change. Once considered a country town the population is growing continually and characteristics of metropolitan suburbs are becoming more obvious. There is considerable pressure on community resources

There is a shortage of rental properties in the Gawler area.

Many people work outside of Gawler and transport is essential due to the sprawling nature of the town development. Some people came to live in the area because of the semi-rural aspects of the Gawler River and there are many small businesses and industries in the district.

- **Parent and community involvement**

As a school we have been endeavouring to promote family social events during the year such as Family Fun Days, Grandparent Days, School discos, Sports Day and Drama Productions.

Parents are actively involved throughout the school, as classroom support volunteers, Uniform Shop, Resource Centre helpers, LAP mentors and as helpers on excursions.

The Governing Council is an active group.

The sub-committees are:

Fundraising; Out of School Hours Care

The Governing Council meets once a month and sub-committees meet as necessary.

Feeder schools

Students from Gawler East attend many different secondary schools both government and private. There are several independent schools in the area. The majority of year 7 students enrol at Gawler & District College (public), Trinity College or Xavier College as their chosen secondary school.

There are four other public and two independent primary schools within Gawler.

Gawler East Primary School is part of the Greater Gawler Partnership.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

There is a pre-school and day care centre across the road, creating a unique cluster of community facilities, when combined with the primary school with Out of School Hours Care facilities.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Gawler has an extensive range of shopping facilities within the town. Many of our school community are involved in small business / industry within the town.

- **Other local facilities**

Within the Town of Gawler, there are a wide variety of medical, sporting, social and cultural facilities, including cinema, swimming centre and recreation centre

11. Further Comments

Gawler East is an attractive and welcoming school and teaching environment.

The children are positive towards school and community expectations are high.

Travelling time from Adelaide is 50 minutes, with direct access from Elizabeth and the Barossa.

There is a staff induction pack and policy folder, which covers most areas in greater detail.

There are also Parent Information pamphlets and enrolment packs available from the front office.