

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 08/19

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

	2016 FEB	2017 FEB	2018 FEB	2019 FEB
FTE Enrolment				
Primary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
Reception	48	46	52	80
Year 1	52	50	47	55
Year 2	44	54	46	58
Year 3	52	46	54	52
Year 4	56	52	46	61
Year 5	51	54	54	56
Year 6	43	51	48	62
Year 7	44	41	45	32
TOTAL	390	394	392	456
Feb total FTE Enrolment	390	394	392	456
Male FTE	184	188	182	234
Female FTE	206	206	210	222
School Card Approvals (Persons)	97	100	102	112
NESB Total (Persons)	9	6	5	5
Guardianship	3	7	5	4
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	12	15	13	8

Part B

- **Staffing numbers**

2019 Staff:

Classroom teachers: 17 FTE

LOTE: 1

Performing Arts: 1

SSO hours: approximately 14 FTE (Numbers adjusted according to SWD/IESP funding)

Groundsperson: 26 hours per week

PCW: 1

The leadership team consists of:

Principal

Senior Leader (B2) - Curriculum

Senior Leader (B2) - Special Education

Senior Leader (B1) – Student Wellbeing (0.2)

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 DfE 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**

Our core value of “Respect” is emphasised across the school. Students can receive awards for showing respect for themselves, others, the learning and the environment.

A Student Wellbeing Leader is employed at the school and a Pastoral Care Worker is also available for those who give permission. However, all staff are responsible for the wellbeing of all students.

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 Sunsmart 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

Playpals

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 2019 is primary Numeracy and JP Literacy.

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.

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.

- **Specialist**

LOTE language – Indonesian R-7.

Performing Arts is offered as a NIT subject, provided by an R-7 specialist teacher.

- **Special needs**

- **Special Education**

Classroom teachers are responsible for developing and implementing a formal plan with support from the Senior Leader, Department for Education support services, parents and any relevant outside agencies for students with an identified learning or wellbeing need. The students may receive School Service Officers' (SSO) support to assist in meeting the goals of their plan as appropriate and may participate in intervention programmes. Plans 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, Resource Centre which is open to students for a short period of time before and after school and at lunch times. Teachers may choose to bring their whole class to the library on a regular basis or negotiate to use the space for one-off activities. Students may be sent in small groups to the library when supervision is available.

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 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.

Written reports are provided in terms two and four. The term 2 report provides a snapshot of the first semester's learning and children's achievements along with an A-E grade for each curriculum area. The term 4 grades are based on the whole year with semester two's learning topics listed in most curriculum areas.

Interviews are held towards the end of term one and three. In consultation with parents, teachers may run three way interviews by including the students in the process.

Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with their child's teacher via the front office should a concern arise.

Joint programmes

The school works throughout the year with Gawler East Pre-School as this is where many of our new Reception enrolments start their formal education.

Pre-schoolers visit the school facilities regularly with transition events gradually increasing in frequency from term 2.

There are transition visits to local high schools to support transition to secondary education.

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

There is a dedicated PE teacher.

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**

Performing Arts events are run annually with a Christmas Carols night and a School Concert presented on alternate years.

Whole school assemblies are held each fortnight on Friday mornings. Classes take turns to host and present at the assembly. Parents are welcome to attend.

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. Leadership take responsibility for a sub school/ year level – Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary.

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

Training and Development is tailored to meet the focus of the Site Improvement Plan and to support the wellbeing of students.

8. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school was built 34 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.

An 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.

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

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, toilets and storerooms and a large mezzanine area. The hall is now fitted with 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, a large nature play area and a soon to be completed Junior Primary nature play area.

- **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. Our 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.

- **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**

Diaries, communication books, Class Dojo, Skoolbag, Facebook 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 Special Person Days, School discos, Sports Day and Drama Productions.

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

The Governing Council is an active group.

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, Nuriootpa High School, Kapunda High School, Trinity College or Xavier College as their chosen secondary school.

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 approximately 50 minutes.

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