

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/21

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

		2018 FEB	2019 FEB	2020 FEB	2021 FEB
FTE Enrolment					
Primary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
	Reception	52	80	61	61
	Year 1	47	55	76	57
	Year 2	46	58	62	79
	Year 3	54	52	66	68
	Year 4	46	61	54	63
	Year 5	54	56	62	61
	Year 6	48	62	57	62
	Year 7	45	32	34	32
	TOTAL	392	456	472	483
Feb total FTE Enrolment		392	456	472	483
Male FTE		182	234	245	259
Female FTE		210	222	227	224
School Card Approvals (Persons)		102	112	115	125
NESB Total (Persons)		5	5		5
Guardianship		5	4	2	2
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		13	8	13	21

## Part B

- **Staffing numbers**

**2021 Staff:**

Tier 1 – classroom teachers: 21

LOTE - Indonesian (NIT) 1 female

Performing Arts (NIT) 1 male

PE (NIT) 1 male

Science (0.8) 1 female

SSO hours:

Groundsperson 2: 39.5 hours per week

PCW: 1

**The leadership team** consists of:

Principal: Alec Tibbitts

Senior Leader (B2) – Curriculum: Leah Searle

Senior Leader (B2) - Special Education: Judy Holt

Senior Leader (B1) – Student Wellbeing: Anne Baldwin

## 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 are increasing but in 2022 year 7 students will attend high school so enrolments are expected to decline.

- **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**

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.

The Greater Gawler Partnership is trialling a pilot programme called Friendly Schools which teaches kindness and care for others in a consistent way across the school.

### **Dress code**

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

Hats are required for outdoor activities and during break times. Students without hats must remain in the shaded areas.

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**

Library activities at lunch times

The gym is open at lunch times

Playpals is available for those students needing or wanting a quiet, supervised play area

School choir which participates in the SA Children’s Festival of Music

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 areas for the Site Improvement Plan for 2021 are Maths and Reading.

## **4. Curriculum**

At Gawler East Primary School the Australian Curriculum: HASS (F-7), Maths (F-7), English (F-7), Science (F-7), Languages (F-7), Health and Physical Education (F-7), Technologies (F-7) and Arts (F-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](#). 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 support the development of students' number skills we base practices on the 'Big Ideas in Number.' All students participate in number activities in every maths lesson.

### ***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 and appropriate software and hardware. The school has recently had its network infrastructure updated and improved hardware rollout is continuing.

- **Specialist**

LOTE language – Indonesian R-7.

Performing Arts is offered as a NIT subject, provided by a specialist teacher.

Science offered as a NIT subject to year 3, provided by a specialist teacher 4 days a week.

PE is offered as a NIT subject, provided by a specialist teacher.

- **Special needs**

#### **Special Education**

Students with a disability are verified by DfE 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, DfE 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.

## **Choir**

Year 5, 6 and 7 students can join the school choir, which participates in the Public Schools Music Festival. Approximately 60 students take part in this function, which is led by staff members.

- **Teaching methodology**

The school has documented expectations of the teaching practices utilised for reading and maths. These are evidence based and when implemented properly have a significant positive impact on students' learning.

Teachers are expected to discuss and display the learning intentions and success criteria with students for all lessons.

Leaders conduct frequent informal observations and provide written feedback about the Learning Walks.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

Staff are reporting in line with the DfE 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.

Interviews are held at the end of term 1 and term 3. Written reports are provided in term 2 and 4. Early communication with parents around any concerns is required.

## **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.

In 2022, all year 7 students will be attending high school. Gawler East Primary School is supporting year 6 students and their parents in this transition.

## 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.

All Junior and Middle Primary students are involved in swimming lessons. In 2021, year 5, 6 and 7 students participate in aquatics activities.

## 6. 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 and 3 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**

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 the school's 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 35 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 classroom block was built using BER funding and the Resource Centre was refurbished.

Cooling- Heating: All buildings are air-conditioned.

- **Specialist facilities**

The school's ICT has been undergoing significant upgrading. The network was reconfigured with new switches allowing for remote access for DfE's IT Services to manage any ICT problems which arise. New wireless access points were installed and teachers who teach 0.4 or above were issued with laptops. New Interactive TVs and wireless devices for students will be rolled out from 2021.

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.

There is a full size sporting hall, toilets and storerooms and a large mezzanine area. The hall is now fitted with cooling. 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 Junior Primary 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. Leaders usually meet on a Monday after school.

- **Regular publications**

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

- **Other communication**

Diaries, communication books, Class Dojo, Facebook, Skoolbag 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 meets twice per term 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 approximately 50 minutes. 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.