SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/25

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		

		2022 FEB	2023 FEB	2024 FEB	2025 FEB
FTE Enrolment					
Primary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
	Reception	62	63	43	56
	Year 1	64	63	66	39
	Year 2	57	63	61	60
	Year 3	81	57	61	51
	Year 4	67	81	53	54
	Year 5	63	66	76	44
	Year 6	59	56	60	64
TOTAL		483	453	419	368
Feb total FTE Enrolment		483	453	419	368
Male FTE		259	233	226	185
Female FTE		224	220	193	183
School Card Approvals (Persons)		120	107	130	
NESB Total (Persons)		5	4	9	
Guardianship		2	3	4	2
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		21	23	17	16

Part B

Staffing numbers

2023 Staff:

Tier 1 – classroom teachers: 17
LOTE - Indonesian (NIT) 1 female
Performing Arts (NIT) 1 male
PE (NIT) 1 male
Science (0.8) 1 female
SSO hours:
Groundsperson 1: 38 hours per week
PCW: 1 (0.2)

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

YMCA run our OSHC service - 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. Gawler East Preschool children are able to access OSHC services.

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

At GEPS we provide a safe, caring and productive environment for learning. The core value which underpins all of our actions is “Respect.” Our school‘s vision and mission statements challenge us to create a positive learning community in which everyone feels valued and respected.

At GEPS, we place a strong emphasis on developing a respectful school culture to enable rigorous and productive learning to take place in classrooms. All classes explicitly teach the ‘Friendly Schools’ curriculum, an evidence based whole school approach to social and emotional wellbeing and bullying prevention. Other programs and initiatives are explicitly taught (Zones of Regulation, What’s the

Buzz, Friendology, Positive Education, Growth Mindsets) which focus on specific skills that assist students to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, enhance personal resilience, promote mindfulness, and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

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 6 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 and 6 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 2023 are Maths and Reading.

4. Curriculum

At Gawler East Primary School the Australian Curriculum: HASS (F-6), Maths (F-6), English (F-6), Science (F-6), Languages (F-6), Health and Physical Education (F-6), Technologies (F-6) and Arts (F-6) 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.

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. Classes use Jolly Phonics, grammar and Spelling 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-6.

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

Science offered as a NIT subject to year 2, provided by a specialist teacher 2 days a week.

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

Special Education

"Every learner matters and matters equally" (UNESCO 2017)

As a Department for Education school we are building a school of inclusivity.

"Inclusive education refers to securing and guaranteeing the right of all children to access, presence, participation and success in their school."

This is done through the implementation of Personalised learning.

What is personalised learning and support?

There are four elements in personalised learning, which reflect the teaching and learning cycle:

- Consulting and collaborating with the student and/or their parents, guardians or carers.
- Assessing and identifying the needs of the student.
- Providing adjustments to address the identified needs of the student.
- Monitoring and reviewing the impact of adjustments

A One Plan is a personalised learning plan. It contains information to support a student's inclusion and achievement within the curriculum. Classroom teachers are responsible for implementing the One Plan with support from the Senior Leader, DfE support services, parents and any relevant outside agencies.

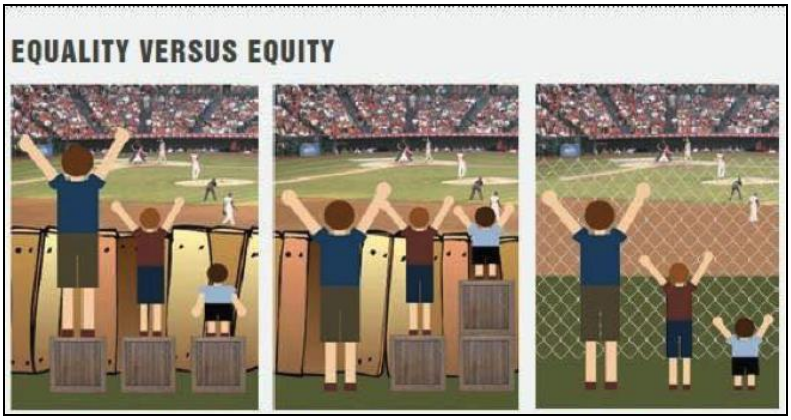
Evidence based research shows that teaching strategies and pedagogical materials and tools that respond to the needs of a specific student or group of students, actually benefit all students.

Who needs a One Plan?

Children and students identified in any of the following priority groups:

Students with a disability, children and students in care and Aboriginal learners.

One Plans are regularly monitored and updated to acknowledge achieved SMART goals and identify next steps in the student's learning (new SMART goals)



Choir

Year 5 and 6 students can join the school choir, which participates in the Public Schools Music Festival. Approximately 40 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.

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 6 which is usually held early term 4.

All students are involved in swimming lessons or 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 expected 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 operate as part of a PLC (Professional Learning Community) where they participate in additional training and development sessions relevant to the school's needs.

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 38 years ago.

There is a separate Administration building, which includes staff facilities. A long brick building accommodates Reception-Year 3 classes, the Resource Centre and the Computer Rooms.

Year 4-6 classes are situated in an 8 classroom block which also features a large shared area for small group work and occasionally whole class ICT learning.

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 problems which arise. New wireless access points were installed and teachers who teach 0.4 or above were issued with laptops. All class learning areas have Interactive TVs.

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

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 three weekly in weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term. This is emailed to parents, carers and staff and uploaed on Class Dojo.

Other communication

Diaries, communication books, Class Dojo, 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.

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 6 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 convenient 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.