



## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/20

**School number:** 0141  
**School name:** GAWLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Gawler Primary School Vision:

*"Gawler Primary School provides quality education in a caring and supportive environment.*

*Our students are confident learners who, with the support of a motivated and professional staff, fulfill their potential and value education as a lifelong process."*

### Gawler Primary School Values:

- *Success*
- *Mutual Respect*
- *Active Participation*
- *Responsibility*
- *Team Work*

## 1. General information

- School Principal: Mr. David Pitt
- Deputy Principal: Ms. Jennifer Pinnock
- Year of opening: 1878
- Postal Address: School Road, Gawler, SA, 5118
- Location Address: As above
- DECD Partnership: Greater Gawler
- Road distance from GPO (km): 55km
- Telephone number: (08) 8522 2988
- Fax Number: (08) 8523 0498
- School website address: [www.gawlerps.sa.edu.au](http://www.gawlerps.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [dl.0141.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0141.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes, operated by Happy Haven
- School Zone: Gawler Primary is a zoned school. Parents who wish to enroll their child are invited to submit an expression of interest form available on the school website.
- Public transport access: The Gawler Oval train station is located approximately 300 metres from school. A small number of students travel to and from school by train or school bus.

FTE student enrolment (as at February census):

	2017	2018	2019	2020
R	18	22	24	23
1	24	18	24	24
2	22	31	18	24
3	22	25	33	16
4	33	20	25	34
5	21	33	18	28
6	28	16	42	17
7	31	25	9	31
TOTAL	199	190	193	197
ATSI	14	10	15	16
SIC	66	66	71	60
EALD	1	0	3	1
Disabilities	14	18	17	21

Student enrolment trends:

Student enrolment numbers have stabilised.

Over the past three years a number of families from both government and non-government schools have transferred their children into the school.

Staffing numbers (as at February census):

- Principal
- Deputy Principal (0.6 Admin, 0.2 NIT and 0.2 Special Ed)
- 9.6 FTE classroom teachers
- 9 SSOs currently working at site including.
  - 37.5 hrs. Administration
  - 25 hrs. Finance
  - 7 Curriculum SSOs with varying hours supply classroom and intervention support
- Aboriginal Community Education Worker ( A.C.E.O.) 14 hours a week
- GSE (14 hours from the School Budget)
- External contractor provides 13 hours a week of ICT support

- **Special site arrangements:**

Due to small size of site the school does not have a gymnasium.

The Gawler Sports and Community Centre across the road is accessed for P.E. and major events, such as the school's End of Year Concert.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

Student catchment area includes "Church Hill" historic area and sections of Gawler.

Students also come to the school from outside the zoned area which includes from Willaston, Hewett, Gawler East, Gawler South, Gawler West, Evanston, Evanston Park, Evanston Gardens, Smithfield, Munno Para, Munno Para West and Reid.

- **Special Programs**

There is a high level of support for student learning and this is a key feature of the school.

To support students with specific learning needs, a range of programs have been implemented.

The programs are coordinated by the Deputy Principal/Principal and include:-

- Programs and support for students on One Plans
- Early intervention programs
- Social skills programs (such as "What's the Buzz?")
- Speech and language support programs
- MiniLit, MultiLit, MacqLit and BIIN
- Individual Learning Plans and classroom programs for students with Dyslexia and other learning difficulties.
- Big Ideas In Number (BIIN)

ATSI students also receive additional support through A.E.T., APAS funding and our A.C.E.O.

Regular professional development is provided for SSO staff.

- **Student management and well-being**

The general principles contained in the Department for Education (DfE) School Discipline Policy (2007) have been adopted. A Behaviour Code has been developed and a Student Behaviour Management Policy implemented. Each class has negotiated classroom rules and consequences.

Students, parents/caregivers and staff are supportive and committed to our key principle of 'providing a safe and secure teaching, learning and recreational environment'. Students are encouraged to discuss, practise and use grievance procedures.

Encouraging and acknowledging the positive behaviour choices and achievements of our students is a whole school priority.

The language of Positive Education is encouraged. Staff and students use terms such as 'Growth and Fixed Mindset' and 'Bucket Dipping'. 'Character Strengths' are also referred to. Staff work to be proactive in Behaviour Management. Restorative Practices are utilised when dealing with issues between students.

A range of strategies are employed to support students in their positive behaviour development.

Two staff members are currently attending training in the Berry Street Education Model, which provides staff with the training, curriculum and strategies to engage high level challenging students.

Support from the partnership Behaviour Coach is utilised to support students and staff

## **Pastoral Care Worker (P.C.W.)**

The school is currently in the process of filling the (P.C.W.) position.

## **Student Government**

Student voice is valued and promoted at Gawler Primary School. In 2019 a 'School Leaders' model was introduced. There are four main leaders who will be in charge of an 'Action Group'. The four areas are: Public Relations, Sports, Environment and Learning/Wellbeing. Students need to apply to either be a leader or a committee member of one of the areas. The students meet fortnightly with the Deputy Principal.

Class meetings occur regularly in each class and give opportunity for every students to make comment about issues in the class and the school.

## **3. Key School Policies**

The following information is available on school's website ([www.gawlerps.sa.edu.au](http://www.gawlerps.sa.edu.au)):

- Current School Context Statement
- Current Site Improvement Plan
- Most recent Annual report
- Most recent External School Review report

There are also a number of other school policies as per DfE requirements which can be found on the school's website.

## **4. Curriculum**

All 8 learning areas of the Australian Curriculum are provided at Gawler Primary School. Specialist instruction is offered as Non-Instruction Time (N.I.T.) for teachers in Science/STEM, Japanese and PE.

- **Special needs**

Students with a One Plan or Learning Difficulties are supported by the classroom teacher, our Deputy Principal, Literacy Improvement Coordinator and/or a School Support Officer (SSO). Strong partnerships are formed with DfE Support Services and other third party service providers.

The Deputy Principal has responsibility for managing the school's special education programme, working collaboratively with teachers, families and SSOs to develop, implement and review One Plans. The Deputy Principal also oversees the learning programmes of ATSI students.

- **Special curriculum features**

A dedicated computer room, computer pods, class sets of iPad and portable laptop ICT are available for classes, small groups or individuals to use. Classroom Interactive Whiteboards are also provided for student and staff use. ICT is a focus area with the emphasis placed on using the resource as an integral part of the classroom curriculum.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

The school has developed an Assessment and Reporting Schedule that meets DfE reporting requirements. They include parent/teacher interviews at the end of Term 1, and two summative reports. Teachers and families work in partnership to support student learning. Early communication around any concerns is encouraged. A termly data collection timeline is in place which informs classroom practice and allocation of support.

- **Teaching methodology**

The school has developed whole school expectations in Literacy and Numeracy with whole school agreements in place. The school is currently implementing Jolly Learning, a phonics based approach to grammar and spelling.

Differentiation of the curriculum is a requirement in classroom practice.

---

*Honouring the past, embracing the future*

## 5. Sporting Activities

The school has an annual Sports Day. This consists of tabloid, team and individual events. Students are allocated to house teams for this event and compete for the *P.C. Hutchins shield* (originally awarded in 1954) for achievement in events and *SMART shield* for involvement and participation.

Students remain in the same team for their time at Gawler Primary School with siblings being in the same team. The houses are McKinlay (Blue), Martin (Yellow), Reid (Green) and Sturt (Red). These teams have been at Gawler Primary school since the early 1950s.

R-6 students access a DfE swimming program at the local Gawler Aquatic Centre in Term 4.

Year 7 students have an annual Aquatics camp at Murray Bridge.

Upper Primary students also have the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA events.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Annual Acquaintance Evening
- Annual Year 7 Aquatics Camp (Term 1)
- Annual Primary Years' camp (Term 2 or 3)
- Annual Book Fair (Term 3)
- Annual Science Week (Term 2)
- Biannual Cultural Day (Term 1)
- End of Year Concert
- Special lunches twice a term
- Daily Breakfast Club

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

### Staff profile

Please see page 2.

- **Leadership structure**

The school currently has a Principal (tenured until January 2024) and a Deputy Principal (tenured until January 2021). The leadership team meet weekly and have an emphasis on working collaboratively.

Teaching staff: 9 female, 1 male.

Leadership staff: Principal male, Deputy Principal female.

SSOs both female and male.

Groundsperson is male.

All teaching staff are expected to be involved in a range of committees and learning teams. After a restructure of the partnership 'Buddy Schools' in 2019, the school now works in partnership with Gawler & District College, which has included joint Pupil Free Day training on Oral Language and staff meetings.

Gawler Primary School staff have a strong commitment to the school and the care and

---

*Honouring the past, embracing the future*

education of students at our school.

### **Performance Management**

The Principal and Deputy Principal share line management responsibility for teaching staff to discuss classroom learning programs and staff performance development goals. Staff are required to submit a Performance Development plan mid Term 1 and review the plan six and twelve monthly.

Line management of SSO staff is shared between the Principal and Deputy Principal. SSOs meet with leadership twice a year.

## **8. School Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds.

The school consists of two main buildings. The heritage building was built in 1878 and a modern classroom and administration building constructed in 2005.

The heritage building contains the school's Library, computer room, teacher reference section, 2 classrooms, small art room and large general purpose area currently used for OSHC. The lower level of the building contains the "old canteen" at the northern end. This area has a refurbished kitchen which is used for cooking as part of curriculum, special lunch preparation, breakfast club and is also used by OSHC before and after school. The lower level at the southern end contains an undercroft used for furniture storage. This building was extensively developed in 2010 and provides comfortable, modern teaching areas. Funds were allocated in the 2019 School Budget to paint the Library ceiling, northern entrance ceiling and external western side doors. In 2020 further painting in the Heritage has been allocated in the School Budget, which includes the OSHC room, all internal doors and door frames and the internal walls of the "old canteen" (commonly referred to as the Breakfast Club/Kitchen)

The "new building" consists of 8 classroom areas all opening onto a closed central courtyard. Classrooms and courtyard are all carpeted and air conditioned. In 2020 all classrooms in the new building will be re-painted. Wet areas are provided at either end. Attached to courtyard are offices for P.C.W, A.C.E.O. and SSOs.

The school's administration area and staff room all are accessible from central courtyard. Funds were allocated in the 2019 School Budget to re-paint the Administration area, staff room and staff toilets.

All classes in the school have interactive whiteboards, as does the staffroom and library. A large viewing screen and projector are in central courtyard and are used for assemblies and staff professional learning. All areas have air conditioning, furniture and carpet.

In 2019 extensive upgrades to ICT occurred, which included the purchase of new student laptops, upgraded teacher desktops and improved WIFI. Funds have been allocated in the 2020 School Budget to replace classroom interactive whiteboards with smart TVs.

The school has an extensive computer network with over 100 computers and a wireless network available for laptops and iPad devices.

A separate toilet block contains male and female student toilets and a handicap toilet. Male and female staff toilets and a second handicap toilet are in the administration area.

The grounds are small and there is a lack of level ground. A synthetically surfaced hard play area exists as do three playgrounds, covered sand pit and two small grassed areas. Large shaded areas are located between buildings and on the hard play area. The grounds are attractive and in good condition. In 2019 a single pathway entrance was constructed from School Road entry to improve student, staff, parent and visitor safety. The school has a Nature Play/Outdoor Science classroom achieved through a \$15,000 grant received through the 'Fund My Neighbourhood' initiative. Money was allocated in the 2019 School Budget to further develop this area. Commitments have been put in the budget for an upgrade of the the north yard playground. The grounds are fenced with a 2.1 metre fenced built with design approval from Heritage SA.

The school uses "Prince's Park" adjacent the community Centre as an oval, with an agreement with the Town of Gawler about the use of it at recess, lunch and P.E. lessons. Permission needs to be sought with Town of Gawler council to use this area for sports days and other significant events.

The heritage building and whole school site, as part of the Church Hill Historical Precinct, is heritage listed and listed on the National Estate. **Any school developments must be negotiated with Heritage SA.**

## 10. School Operations

The school day is shown below:

8.30 am	Teacher on Duty
8.50 am	Lessons
11.05 am	Recess
11.30 am	Lessons
1.00 pm	Lunch/Playtime
1.35 pm	Lessons
3.05 pm	End of Day

Staff meetings are Tuesday afternoon from 3:20pm to 4:50 pm. Admin is each fortnight.

There is a Professional Development focus for each staff meeting.

Management meets on Monday after school.

All staff are given appropriate NIT entitlement on a weekly basis and other industrial requirements are strictly adhered to.

The schools decision making and grievance procedures are available on school web site. The school decision making is based around staff and parent committees. Currently these include.

- o Governing Council Sub-Committees:
  - o Governing Council
  - o Finance Committee
  - o Grounds Committee
  - o Parents and Friends / Fundraising Committee
  - o Uniform Committee
  - o OSHC
- o Staff Committees and meetings
  - o PAC
  - o Management
- o Other groups and meetings
  - o Year level meetings (separate to staff meetings)
  - o SSO meetings three times a term.
  - o 'Buddy' partnership staff meetings

### **Regular publications**

The school has an enrolment information pack for interested families.

Newsletters are put online (school website and Skoolbag App) fortnightly on Thursday.

Class teachers are expected to send home a term overview at the beginning of each term.

The school has access to a bulk SMS service that can be used to contact parents.

The school also has a Skoolbag App to communicate information to parents.

Regular staff communication occurs through 'day book', email and staff pigeon holes.

The Annual Report is documented at the end of each year and presented at the Governing Council AGM. It is also available via the school's website.

- **School Financial Position**

The school is in a sound financial position.

## **11. Local Community**

- **General characteristics**

Families come from a very broad range of cultural and financial backgrounds. Although many cultures are represented most students were born in Australia and English is the language spoken at home.

The educational and employment background of families varies greatly. This ranges from a number of tertiary qualified to professionals, parents working in trades or secondary industry and a significant number of families who endure financial hardship due to long term unemployment.

- **Parent and community involvement**

The school is fortunate to have a dedicated number of volunteers who support the school in a number of ways, such as Breakfast Club, Special Food Days and working with students during class time.

Governing council meets twice each term in Week 4 and Week 8. Meetings are currently at 4:00pm.

- **Feeder or destination schools**

Our students come from numerous pre-schools, kindergartens, early learning and day care centres across the district. A number of students have not attended pre-school. Transition to school is an issue, as it not known until late in the year how many Reception students will be starting school. This has improved recently with more families enrolling their child/ren earlier in the year. The school provides transition visits in Term 4.

Students completing Year 7 at Gawler Primary School progress to a range of DfE, Catholic and Independent secondary schools. Whilst Gawler and District B-12 College is the most popular government secondary destination, a number of Year 7 students enroll at Xavier College.

- **Local Government Body.**

Local Council is the Town of Gawler (Main Office 43 High Street, Gawler East)

State electorate - Light

Federal Division - Wakefield