



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 04/22

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: Ms Celeste Matthews
- Deputy Principal: Ms Jennifer Pinnock
- Curriculum Coordinator: Mrs Karryn Przibilla
- 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
- School e-mail address: 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

Full time equivalent student enrolment (as at February census):

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
R	22	24	23	21	18
1	18	24	24	21	22
2	31	18	24	23	24
3	25	33	16	27	26
4	20	25	34	15	27
5	33	18	28	31	16
6	16	42	17	27	28
7	25	9	31	10	N/A
TOTAL	190	193	197	175	161
ATSI	10	15	16	16	12
SIC	66	71	60	70	73
EALD	0	3	1	2	1
DISABILITIES	18	1	21	19	15

Student enrolment trends:

Student enrolment numbers have fluctuated over the past couple of years and have been significantly impacted by year 7's going to high school at the end of 2021

Over the past three years a number of families from both government and non-government schools have transferred their children to Gawler Primary School

Staffing numbers (as at February census):

- Principal (1.0)
- Deputy Principal (0.6 Admin and 0.2 Special Ed)
- Curriculum Coordinator (1.0)
- 8.6 FTE classroom teachers
- 8 SSOs currently working at site including
 - 37.5 hrs Administration
 - 24 hrs Finance
 - 8 Curriculum SSOs support classroom and intervention programs
- Aboriginal Community Education Worker (A.C.E.O.) 12 hours a week
- External contractor provides 6 hours a week of ICT support

Special site arrangements:

As a small site, Gawler Primary School does not have a gymnasium. The Gawler Sports and Community Centre and council oval across the road is accessed for physical education, lunch and recess play and major events, such as Sports Day and the school's End of Year Concert.

2. Students (and their welfare)**• General characteristics**

The 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 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 Principal/Deputy Principal and include:-

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

ATSI students also receive additional support through 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, practice 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.

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

Pastoral Care Worker (P.C.W.)

The school has a PCW that works 12 hours a week on a Thursday and Friday.

Student Government

Student voice is valued and promoted at Gawler Primary School. In 2019 a 'School Leaders' model was introduced. There are four student leaders who are in charge of an 'Action Group'. These action groups include: Public Relations, Sports, Environment and Learning/Wellbeing. Students need to apply to be a leader or a committee member of one of the action groups. Students meet weekly.

Class meetings occur regularly and give students the opportunity to make comment about issues/suggestions for the school.

3. Key School Policies

The following information is available on the school's website (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 and Japanese.

- **Special needs**

Students with a One Plan or learning difficulty are supported by the classroom teacher, our Deputy Principal and 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 iPads and portable laptops 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 resources 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. This includes parent/teacher interviews (at the end of term 1), and two summative reports (at the end of term 2 and 4). 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 and agreements in Literacy and Numeracy. 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.

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-5 students access a DfE swimming program at the local Gawler Aquatic Centre in term 4.

Year 6 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 opportunity
- Annual Year 6 Aquatics Camp
- Annual Primary Years' camp (Term 2 or 3)
- Annual Book Week (Term 3)
- Annual Science Week (Term 2)
- Biannual Cultural Day (Term 1)
- End of Year Concert
- Special lunches a number of times 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 2026) and a Deputy Principal (tenured until January 2024) and a Curriculum Coordinator (tenured until the end of 2022). The leadership team work collaboratively and meet weekly to make whole school decisions.

All teaching staff are expected to be involved in a range of committees and learning teams. Gawler Primary School staff have a strong commitment to the school and the care and education of students at the school.

Performance Management

The Principal, Deputy Principal and Curriculum Coordinator share line management responsibility for teaching and non-teaching staff. All staff are required to submit a Performance Development Plan late term 1 which is again reviewed in term 4. Performance management also incorporates formal/informal observations of practice and walk throughs.

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 was constructed in 2005.

The heritage building contains the school's Library, computer suite, teacher resource/reference area, 2 classrooms, a 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 the 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 redeveloped in 2010 and provides comfortable, modern teaching areas. Funds were allocated from the 2019 school budget to paint the Library ceiling, northern entrance ceiling and external western side doors. In 2020 further painting in the heritage building included 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. All classrooms and the courtyard are carpeted and air conditioned. In 2020 all classrooms in the new building were re-painted. Wet areas are provided at either end. Attached to the courtyard are offices for the P.C.W, A.C.E.O. and SSOs.

The school's administration area and staff room are accessible from the 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. There is a large viewing screen and projector in the central courtyard that is 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 were 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 disabled toilet. Male and female staff toilets and a second disabled 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 north yard playground. The grounds are fenced with a 2.1 metre fence built with design approval from Heritage SA.

The school uses "Princes 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 for P.E. lessons. Permission needs to be sought with the Town of Gawler Council to use this area for Sports Day 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
10.45 am	Recess
11.10 am	Lessons
12:50 pm	Supervised eating
1.00 pm	Lunch playtime
1.25 pm	Lessons
3.05 pm	End of Day
3:20 pm	Teacher on duty concludes

Staff meetings are Tuesday afternoon from 3:20pm to 4:50 pm. Administration is each fortnight. There is a Professional Development focus for each staff meeting.

All staff are given their appropriate NIT entitlement as specified by the DfE on a weekly basis. Other industrial requirements are strictly adhered to.

Whole school decision making is decided by staff and parent committees. Currently these include.

- Governing Council and it's sub committees:
 - Finance
 - Fundraising
 - OSHC
- Staff Committees
 - PAC
 - Leadership
 - Year level Professional Learning Communities
 - School Improvement Plan Teams

Regular publications

The school has an enrolment information pack for interested families.

Newsletters are published online (school website and Skoolbag App) fortnightly on a Friday.

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/Seesaw App to communicate information to parents.

Regular staff communication occurs through a '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 during regular special events

Governing Council meets twice each term. In week 4 (Monday at 3:45) and in week 8 (Wednesday 5:30).

- **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. The school provides transition visits in term 4.

Students completing Year 6 at Gawler Primary School enroll in 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 6 students enroll at Xavier College.

- **Local Government Body.**

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

State electorate - Light

Federal Division - Wakefield