

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/17

**School number:** 0162

**School name:** GUMERACHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## School Profile:

The school motto, 'Together we achieve', reflects the highly valued parent involvement in school programs and the school's past and current involvement in community activities. Our vision is to build a cohesive learning community of lifelong learners who have the capacity to contribute positively as citizens of the 21st Century, and where all strive to achieve their personal best. The school's core values are: commitment, respect for self and others, courage and resilience, integrity and a community of learners.

Curriculum priorities are literacy and numeracy, along with a focus on the development of REASONING skills starting with dialogue and using the Community of Inquiry protocols. We develop higher-order thinking strategies and Executive Function skills with students R to 7. Students are encouraged to participate in decision-making through classroom dialogue and through the School Leaders and the Student Representative Council.

A synthetic phonics approach is used to provide strong beginnings in literacy in the early years and the Back to Front Maths pedagogy is practiced R-7. The highly acclaimed Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program connects students to the natural environment and Japanese was recently introduced as the Language Other than English (LOTE) and this is taught via an online link up to the Open Access College.

The school has a Christian Pastoral Support Worker who encourages the wellbeing of students and is a resource for staff and families. Outside School Hours Care and Vacation Care cater for a growing number of students.

## 1. General information

School name	: GUMERACHA PRIMARY SCHOOL	
School No.	: 0162	
Principal	: Mrs Lyndsey Martin	
Postal Address	: c/- Post Office, Gumeracha 5233	
Location Address	: Albert Street, Gumeracha 5233	
District	: Torrens Valley Partnership	
Distance from GPO:	43 kms	Phone No. : 08 8389 1183
CPC attached	: NO	Fax No. : 08 8389 1319

## OSHC

A Before School Care program operates from 7.30-8.30 and an After Hours School Care program operates daily from 3.20-6.30. There is high demand for Vacation Care programs.

<b>February FTE Enrolment</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Primary Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reception	4.0	7.0	7.0	6.0
Year1	7.0	10.0	7.0	6.0
Year2	12.0	6.0	8.0	6.0
Year3	4.0	12.0	10.0	8.0
Year4	12.0	4.0	5.0	9.0
Year5	13.0	11.0	11.0	5.0
Year6	10.0	12.0	6.0	7.0
Year7	8.0	11.0	10.0	4.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>51</b>
School Card percentage	25%	24%	24%	13%
NESB Enrolment	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal Enrolment	0	0	3%	4%

- Staffing numbers:
  - 3.7 FTE teachers in 2017
  - 4 X casual SSO positions (less than 15 hours)
  - 1 x full time SSO position
  - 12 hours grounds person
- OSHC and Vacation Care programs operate
- Enrolment trends: Declining. This is also reflected in the local preschool.
- Year of opening: 1913 on current site (school established in 1857)
- Public transport access:

A school bus run ending at Birdwood High drops and collects students daily  
 A public charter bus runs morning and evening services past the school connecting at Tea Tree Plaza

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
  - Gumeracha is an identified Category 7 index of disadvantage school.
  - Currently 3 students with disabilities have Negotiated Education Plans

and the school has less than 20% of families receiving school card. We have many more students working on IEP's for non-specific learning difficulties.

- Student well-being programs

The appointment of a Christian Pastoral Support Worker began in 2007. A focus of T & D over the past years has been on support and positive intervention for students and families. Outside agencies are frequently involved (eg Behaviour Support Unit, DECD Social Workers). Many parent volunteers support the school, particularly Canteen and Governing Council Committees.

- Support offered

We are supported by Partnership personnel e.g. Students with Disabilities, Speech Pathologist / numeracy intervention program. SSO's provide support for students in each classroom and a targeted literacy/numeracy intervention program is used for those who require additional support.

- Student management

A focus on the school's values underpins ways to encourage students to take responsibility for their behaviour and support and celebrate successful learning. Students negotiate classroom expectations and there is a focus on older students supporting younger students during yard activities, etc.

- Student Leadership

School Leaders and Sports Captains take on different Leadership positions across the year.

- Special programmes

- Students participate in gardening, harvesting and cooking through the SAKG program.
- A Community Links program operates for students in the Middle and Upper Primary Classes.
- Students participate in SAPSASA events.
- As NIT, students study Health & Pe, STEM and Gardening.
- Piano and guitar tuition are available through private providers on Wednesdays.
- Students are involved in the daily care and maintenance of hens, and garden plots.

### 3. Key School Policies

The current Site Learning Plan (see website) describes our school priorities and actions namely:-

- Improved literacy outcomes across the curriculum for all students;
- Improved numeracy outcomes across the curriculum for all students;
- The development of reasoning skills.

## 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

The core business of Gumeracha Primary School is teaching and learning. The school has fully transitioned from the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework (SACSA) to the Australian Curriculum.

- Special needs

Identified students with disabilities are supported mainly through in-class SSO support.

Support programs are also provided for students who are identified as having learning difficulties.

- Special curriculum features

Students are given opportunities to learn the piano, keyboard and guitar via private providers during school time. There has been an increase in participation in this area over the past few years. Students have the opportunity to participate in the Instrumental Music Program Hub offered in a neighbouring school. The school also has an annual End of Year Concert to showcase its performing arts programs. Curriculum sharing and collaboration takes place with staff sharing areas of expertise across the school.

- Teaching methodology

Classroom intervention programmes are strongly supported by SSOs. Additional SSO hours are purchased through grants received in the school.

All students access the Computer Room and use networked computers in each classroom. The school uses a wireless network to allow more widespread use of portable devices.

- Assessment procedures and reporting

Comprehensive whole school assessment procedures are in place as well as individual classroom strategies.

PAT-R and PAT-Maths tests are administered once a year 3-7.

NAPLAN Tests are administered at Years 3, 5 and 7.

Running Records for readers under Level 30.

Current reporting practice is: an acquaintance night at the beginning of the year; Terms 1 and Term 3 interviews with students and parents (Term 3 at parent /teacher request) and written reports issued in Terms 2 and 4.

Students are assessed across all areas of the curriculum. There is a strong focus upon literacy and numeracy.

- Joint programmes

Staff are encouraged to curriculum-share across classes and this occurs in small team situations. Buddy programs are encouraged across the school and students work together regularly in rotation days.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Gumeracha Primary School strongly supports SAPSASA. Students are encouraged to participate in all district events and also participate in a Hills District Sports Activities Day. The school conducts a Sports Day at the end of Term 1 and students participate in house activities.

Individual students are involved in SAPSASA and local sporting clubs – cricket, tennis, netball, swimming, golf, soccer and football. P.E. is part of the curriculum across the school and students have participated in a variety of sports offered by the teacher and outside coaches. The upper primary students participate in a SAPSASA athletics day, netball, football, Soccer Lightning carnival and various sports with and against other small schools. There are local sporting associations, to which many of our students belong and many play weekend sport.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General

Students participate in a Footsteps Dance Program and the Year 6/7 students take part in an aquatics program in alternate years. In term 2 R-5 students are involved in a swimming program. School camps have become an integral part the year's program for all classes, and Year 7 students have the opportunity to attend an annual camp in Canberra with students from other local schools.

- Special

Classes maintain contact with elderly citizens of the town at Glenview Nursing Home and the local Day Centre.

Community links are an important element in the life of the school.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile 201

5 female teachers & 1 male teacher (including the principal), 5 female SSOs, 1 male ICT technician, 1 female CPW & 1 male Groundsperson

- Leadership structure

A collaborative staff supports the Principal, with many tasks shared. However the Principal has a significant teaching load in addition to administrative duties

- Staff support systems

Collaboration between year levels is supported and encouraged.

- Performance Management

Staff review meetings are held regularly throughout the year and focus upon either whole school priorities or individual staff needs. Written records are kept of each meeting. Staff members are actively encouraged to participate in training and development activities.

- Staff utilisation policies  
Classes are mixed-year levels, and Early intervention programs are run by SSOs in conjunction with classroom teachers; support may occur both within classrooms or outside. SSO hours are provided through conversion of salary via Early Years/Literacy & Numeracy Grants and funding for students on NEPs.
- Access to special staff  
Instrumental Music Teachers, Guidance Officer, Speech Pathologist, Attendance Counsellor, Behaviour Support Personnel are accessed by staff where applicable.

## **8. Incentives, support & award conditions for Staff**

## **9. School Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds  
Gumeracha Primary School is situated on 2.56 hectares. The site is sloping and the buildings are situated on 3 different levels accessed by steps. There are large hard play areas, a playground, a small oval and a large bush garden. Raised garden beds and a large vegetable garden are also located close to classrooms so that students can easily be involved in garden projects. There are two brick buildings, two double transportable classrooms, one single transportable classroom and a Hall which was completed in 2011. The canteen is part of the OSHC brick building.  
The first Gumeracha School was opened in a building in Wellington Street in 1857. The school shifted to its present site when the OSHC building was built in 1913. Because of the outbreak of World War 1 and the death of the then Director of Education, the building was never officially opened. The Students and Teachers marched through the Streets of Gumeracha from the former to the new school on top of the hill.  
In 1933 the Kenton Valley School was amalgamated with Gumeracha and the wooden school building was quartered and shifted to our school site where it served as a classroom and finally as an office.  
In 1967 the Forreston, and in 1969 the Cudlee Creek schools were closed and consolidated with Gumeracha.  
In 1982 work commenced on the redevelopment of the school - with children accommodated in a series of portable classrooms on the existing school oval while the work took place. This work was completed, and officially opened in October 1983.  
In 2007 the school had its 150 years celebration.  
In 2011 there were several upgrades to buildings and grounds using the Federal National School Pride money.
- Cooling/ Heating  
Either evaporative or refrigerated coolers heat/cool most work areas

- Specialist facilities
 

The school has a computer suite adjoining the student/staff Resource Centre. Other specialised areas include a STEM area, a gymnasium and fully stocked SAKG kitchen

A plant propagation area, including hothouse and vegetable gardens and hen house add value to the school environment and provide for additional student involvement
- Student facilities
 

There is a school Canteen serviced two days per week by local stores and parent volunteers.
- Staff facilities
 

SSO work areas are located in the main building. All staff members have access to email facilities and all computers are linked to the Internet. EDSAS is available on the Administration computer, staffroom computer, SSO room computer, side office computer and the Principal's computer.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
 

There are many difficulties associated with a sloping site with few ramps and many steps. A disabled toilet is located in the administration area.
- Access to bus transport
 

Families apply for bus transport via Birdwood High School in line with DECD protocols

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
 

A decision making policy is in place. A set process is followed in staff meetings and many decisions are made there. In view of the relatively small staff contingent, PAC and WHS decisions are taken at staff meetings

Governing Council meets twice a term, with regular meetings of sub-committees. These include Canteen, Finance, Facilities, Fundraising, and OSHC committees. The roles of these committees are clearly specified. Student voice is heard through Class Meetings.
- Regular publications
 

A school newsletter is produced regularly. Additional bulletins go home as required. A school handbook is provided to parents upon enrolment of their child/children which includes all school procedures and relevant policies. A school app keeps families updated with digital notices.

A Daybook is provided for staff containing relevant daily information.

“Gumnuts” is produced weekly informing staff about forthcoming school matters
- Other communication
 

School web site – <http://www.gumerachr7.sa.edu.au>. Regular Principal Tours of the School are conducted for parents interested in enrolling their

children. Student run assemblies occur 2 times per term. School pamphlets are produced and flyers issued as required.

- School financial position  
Ongoing preparatory funding for computer replacement and network upgrades is an annual commitment. The Facilities Committee of Governing Council is working on a maintenance plan to ensure that essential maintenance work is built into the budget on an annual basis.

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics  
Gumeracha Primary School is located in the Adelaide Hills, 43 kms north east of Adelaide. The town population is 700 and steady. The Gumeracha area has changed from rural to semi-rural and includes many people who commute to Adelaide for employment. While Gumeracha is close to Adelaide, the town and school maintain a country climate. Students have close contact through their involvement in sporting clubs and other community groups. Some students who live in the surroundings come from a variety of rural areas and travel to school by bus.
- Parent and community involvement  
Strong School Governing Council, which has sub committees in the areas of Finance, Facilities, OHSC, Fundraising and Canteen. Many parents provide classroom support, library assistance and canteen assistance.
- Feeder schools  
The majority of new Receptions come from the Torrens Valley Children's Centre which is situated in Gumeracha. A small number may come from the Lobethal Kindy. The majority of year 7 students go to Birdwood High School with few opting for private education.
- Other local care and educational facilities  
Private Family Day Care, Kindergym and playgroup operate within the town.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
Several second-hand shops as well as General Store, Take-Away, Pizza and local butcher.
- Other local facilities  
Library, sporting clubs and Post Office, Medical Centre, Hospital, Aged Care Facilities, large town oval (Federation Park), Rocking Horse Tourist Attraction.
- Local Government body  
Adelaide Hills Council



## 12. Further Comments

The local community is well served by the active and energetic Gumeracha Community Association. The GCA has many roles within the community including producing a regular newsletter, organising community events and acting as the voice of the people of the Gumeracha area in a variety of ways. The Gumeracha Primary School encourages strong links with the Gumeracha Community Centre and the local Mens' Shed through its Community Links Program.

Middle Primary students from Gumeracha Primary School often visit Glenview, a retirement complex adjacent to the Gumeracha Hospital, to provide social contact and entertainment to the elderly residents in Term 4.

The ongoing Community Links program involves small groups of Upper Primary students buddying up with children in the kindy and childcare sectors of the Torrens Valley Childrens Centre and undertaking building projects at the Community Green Shed.