

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/23

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 strive to achieve their personal best. The school's core values for our learning community are: To act with Integrity, Showing Respect for Self and Others, Displaying Courage and Resilience and Demonstrating Commitment and Responsibility.

Curriculum priorities are literacy and numeracy, along with a focus on the development of reasoning skills starting with dialogue and high level questioning. 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 Leader positions.

A synthetic phonics approach is used to provide strong beginnings in literacy in the early years and the DfE Mathematics Units of work are implemented R-6. The highly acclaimed Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program connects students to the natural environment and Japanese is our chosen Language Other than English (LOTE) and this is taught via an online link up to the Open Access College.

STEM is taught as a specialist subject and encompasses many varying activities. Students have access to different ICT components including but not limited to our 3D printers, robots and computers.

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

School website address: www.gumerachr7.sa.edu.au

School e-mail address: dl.0162.info@schools.sa.edu.au

OSHC

A Before School Care program operates from 7.30-8.45 and an After Hours School Care program operates daily from 3.20-6.00. There is high demand for Vacation Care programs.

February FTE Enrolment	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Primary Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reception	14.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	19.0
Year1	10.0	14.0	6.0	14.0	9.0
Year2	4.0	12.0	14.0	7.0	14.0
Year3	9.0	5.0	14.0	13.0	6.0
Year4	5.0	11.0	5.0	14.0	12.0
Year5	12.0	6.0	12.0	7.0	14.0
Year6	10.0	11.0	5.0	8.0	7.0
Year7	10.0	12.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	74	77	68	71	81
School Card percentage	22%	16%	13%	TBD	TBD
NESB Enrolment	10%	4%	3%	5%	2%
Aboriginal Enrolment	4%	8%	6%	4%	2%

- Staffing numbers:
 - 5.6 FTE teachers in 2024 and 1.0 Principal (this includes RAAP funded 2:1 teaching program and AIT role)
 - 2 X permanent SSO positions (15 hours)
 - 8 x casual SSO positions (includes top up hours for permanents)
 - 1 x full time SSO admin/finance position
 - 12 hours grounds person
- OSHC and Vacation Care programs operate
- Enrolment trends: steady upward trend. 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 6 index of disadvantage school. Currently 5 students with disabilities have IESP funding and the school has approx. 15% of families receiving school card. We have many more students working on IEP's/OCOPs 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, Science, STEM and Gardening.
 - Students are involved in the care and maintenance of hens, and garden plots.

3. Key School Policies

The current Site Learning Plan (see website) describes our school priorities

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

The core business of Gumeracha Primary School is teaching and learning using the Australian Curriculum & SA Curriculum.
- Special needs

Identified students with disabilities are supported through in-class SSO support and in withdrawal spaces.
Support programs are also provided for students who are identified as having learning difficulties.
- Special curriculum features

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 can access the shared laptop trolley where they have an allocated laptop to use. Students in years 5-6 have dedicated access to a laptop computer of their own for flexible learning time. 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 3-6.
NAPLAN Tests are administered at Years 3 & 5.
Regular phonics assessment/screening tools
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 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. We go up against two other local schools for an InterSchool Sports Day held in early Term 4 of each year.

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 may 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

All students participate in a Performing Arts Program and the Year 6 students may take part in an aquatics program at Murray Bridge. In term 2, the R-5 students are involved in a swimming program. School camps have become an integral part the bi-annual program for all classes, and Year 6 students participate in Transition to High School seminars and also have the opportunity to attend a special end of year activities day.

- Special

Classes maintain contact with children from the local preschool and childcare.

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

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile 2024

7 female teachers & 1 male teachers (including the principal), 6 female and 1 male SSO, 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. Digital 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 with IESP funding.

- 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 work areas
- Specialist facilities
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 food outlet (The Big Rocking Horse) 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 DfE 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 and Fundraising committees. The roles of these committees are clearly specified. Student voice is heard through class structures.
- Regular publications
A school newsletter is produced regularly. Additional bulletins go home as required using the EdSmart email service. A school handbook is provided to parents upon enrolment of their child/children which includes all school procedures and relevant policies. 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 each term. School pamphlets are produced and flyers issued as required.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
Gumeracha Primary School is located in the Adelaide Hills, 43 kms north east of Adelaide. The town population is 820 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, 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 6 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, café, gift shop, chemist and Gumeracha Hotel.
- 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.