



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2017

School number: 0293

School name: Mount Pleasant Primary School

School Profile Text:

Mt. Pleasant Primary School is situated 65km from Adelaide at the south eastern end of the Barossa Council area and is 160 years old this year (established in 1858). The motto of our school is 'Our School – Our Future' embodying the ideal that the school and student learning belongs to the whole community, staff, students and parents. We are all working together to provide every student with the 21st Century skills, knowledge and attitudes that will enable them to make positive contributions to our school, our community and our future.

We firmly believe that engagement and intellectual stretch are central to learning. Student influence is continually strengthened and developed with a range of initiatives and practices including opportunities for our students to develop leadership skills and an authentic role for students in the decision-making processes of our school. We are also fortunate to have a Pastoral Care Worker, who 'value adds' to our wellbeing initiatives. Our core values are respect, responsibility and honesty. The continuous promotion of these values by staff, students, families and the school community enhances wellbeing as well as fulfilling our vision to prepare our students to be active and informed citizens in an ever-changing world.

We enjoy positive relationships with the Mount Pleasant and District Kindergarten and we collaboratively plan events for each term. Our successful kindy-school relationship has provided students with a seamless transition and continuous learning at the commencement of their primary schooling. Birdwood High School is the local high school for our students and our transition program for our Year 7s include visits to Birdwood High School as well as a trip to Canberra in Term 4 of each school year.

Our facilities include interactive whiteboards and WiFi in all classrooms, iPads and a 3D printer, a school hall and attractive grounds with a native animal enclosure and vegetable garden. Our involvement in the AussiSA (Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative) provides support for our continuing school focus on environmental care and sustainability.

We value, promote and encourage positive family school relationships. Our active Governing Council and Parents and Friends Association are involved directly in the decision making processes of the school as well as fundraising, Friday lunch orders, Special Lunches, discos, School Market Gate and a variety of special days. We welcome parents and family members into the school to volunteer and to attend our termly 'Open Days' where students have the opportunity to showcase their work to a broader audience.

1. General information

- **School Principal name:** Tony Wrigley
- **Deputy Principal:** not applicable:
- **Year of opening:** 1858
- **Postal Address:** 22 Hospital Road, Mount Pleasant 5235 South Australia
- **Location Address:** As Above
- **DECS Region:** Barossa
- **Geographical location:** 62 km north east of Adelaide, about 1 hour by car
- **Telephone number:** 8568 2170
- **Fax Number:** 8568 2516
- **School website address:** www.mtplestps.sa.edu.au
- **School e-mail address:** dl.0293.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- **Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached:**No
- **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service:**Yes
- **February FTE student enrolment:** 63
- **Student enrolment trends:** Continued stable numbers with the possibility of small growth.
- **Staffing numbers (as at February census):** 3.8
- **Enrolment**

Primary	2015	2016	2017	2018
Reception	6	7	11	3
Year 1	6	6	8	12
Year 2	9	7	4	10
Year 3	12	10	8	4
Year 4	4	13	10	8
Year 5	8	3	15	8
Year 6	1	5	4	12
Year 7	5	1	4	6
Total	51	52	64	63
School Card Approvals(Persons)	19	14	15	13
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	0	0	0	0

Public transport access:

Yes

- **Special site arrangements:**

We are part of the Torrens Valley Local Partnership. We also work with other local primary schools and pre-schools, especially Springton Primary School and Mount Pleasant and District Kindy..

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

Students are English Speaking.

- **Student well-being programs**

The school aims to provide a high degree of pastoral care and encourages the strong “family” atmosphere. Parent assistance in school programs is a feature of the school that supports student learning and engagement.

- **Student support offered**

Individual students have special programs for learning needs.
Each student has their own Individual Improvement Plan.

- **Student management**

There is a Student Behavioural Management Policy with supporting anti-harassment, anti-bullying and grievance strategies. Parents, students and staff work together to achieve successful student behaviour management. Positive, responsible behaviour and participation are recognised and encouraged.

- **Student government**

There is a formal SRC structure. Students at all year levels contribute to decision-making including policy development through class meetings and some short term committees.

- **Special programs**

All year 7 students are involved in a 7/8 transition program with Birdwood High. Close links with the Mount Pleasant Kindergarten and strong staff links ensure effective transition to Junior Primary with good Early Intervention Strategies in place. A continuing school focus is environmental care and sustainability with several programs in place including a native wildlife enclosure, chickens and a vegetable garden

3. Key School Policies

- **Vision**

Empowering learners for success at our School, in our Community and as our Future.

(see Visionary Guiding Framework on website)

Strategic Directions

(see SIP 2018 on website)

- **Reading – Oral Language Focus**

- Reading/Comprehension continues to be a focus in 2018 although results are above State average. The school has a commitment to use Running Records, PAT R, Jolly Phonics and both MiniLit and MacqLit. A focus on all aspects of the Big 6 of Reading, Sheena Camreon's Comprehension and Oral Language strategies underpin our literacy program.

- **Numeracy – Understanding (Fluency Plus)**

- To improve understanding and dispel misconceptions the whole school is involved in Back-To-Front Maths being involved in Partnership wide training with Tierney Kennedy.
- Math results are improving but will continue to be a focus in 2018. The use of PAT M, I Can Do Maths and Back-To-Front Maths Diagnostic testing is used across the school.

- **Attendance**

- Attendance is fairly stable at 93%. This is behind DECD targets. The school is working on reducing the number of unexplained and term time family holidays.

- **Recent key outcomes**

- Literacy and Numeracy outcomes have improved and have been above state averages since 2004. A rich, varied and broad curriculum is supported with excellent teaching/learning resources. Additional SSO hours are provided (above formula) to support special needs.
- ICT includes 3 IWB, a computer suite of 20 computers, 16 laptops, 15 iPads and WiFi throughout the school.
- A variety of small environmental care programs contribute to students' understanding and valuing the local native environment.
- Student well-being is promoted with attention given to daily fitness, nutrition, social skills through Kimochis and keys for success in learning.
- A Pastoral Care Worker commenced in 2013, and as well as her counselling role has helped with the establishment of the vegetable garden and school beautification program. She works across all year levels.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

All eight areas of learning are taken from the Australian Curriculum (full curriculum or Draft modes)

- **Open Access/Distance Education provision**

Nil

- **Special needs**

Four students are working on NEPs. Another 17 student receive extra support in class or in intensive small group work with an SSO.

- **Special curriculum features**

Early interventions, in both Literacy and Numeracy, are based on the needs of individual students. Specific targetted interventions for students with NEP's are established with district personnel support.

Small group interventions are achieved with additional S.S.O. hours above Global Budget funding.

Authentic links with the kindy ensure successful transition to schooling.

We have been successful participants in both the Premier's Reading Challenge and the Premier's be active Challenge.

- **Teaching methodology**

The classes are currently grouped as Reception / Year 1, Yr 2/3/4 & Yrs 4/5/6/7.

Teachers' expertise and interests are used across the school. A whole school focus on Jolly phonics and grammar, one teacher is a Running Records facilitator.

There is a strong focus on Play Based and Project Based Learning.

The whole school is using the Back-To-Front Maths Small Schools program as the basis for our maths program..

Staff are moving to a wider use of reciprocal summative and formative feedback, Groth Mind Set and poroductive struggle.

STEM will be an improvement strategy to help engage and intellectually stretch students.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

Students are assessed regularly using a variety of strategies and their progress is plotted currently against the Australian Curriculum version 8. Running Records, PAT R Comprehension, PAT R Vocabulary, PAT Maths 4th Edition, PAT Science and N.A.P.L.A.N. tests are used to provide data about students' progress. Reading Age and Spelling Age tests(Waddingtons) are conducted twice per year to help gauge progress and growth. A range of formative assessments are used by staff to inform their teaching and student learning.

Three Way Conferences are conducted late in Term 1 and at other times by request of parents or teachers. Student Led Conferences, where student showcase their learning are conducted in term 3.

Mid and end of year reports are sent home at the ends of terms 2 and 4, respectively. These reports comply with Commonwealth Government requirements.

- **Joint programmes**

There is a year 7 trip to Canberra each year where we join with a number of local Barossa and Adelaide Hills' schools. Along with Angaston, Keyneton, Mannum, Palmer, Springton, Swan Reach and Truro we are part of the Cambrai Area School's Meldanda camp group.

5. Sporting Activities

Swimming lessons for all students are conducted at Woodside Pool every February. Most students are involved in local sporting clubs – cricket, tennis, netball, soccer and football. A range of games, sports and fitness activities are taught at school. An inter-school sports day is held annually, and other opportunities for individual or class groups to participate in a range of sports are provided.

Where possible students are involved in SAPSASA events.

Mount Pleasant is part of a Small Schools Sports Day group which includes Springton, Cambrai, Keyneton, Light Pass, Palmer and Truro primary schools.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Selected students from the Year 5/6/7 class are provided with an opportunity to participate in the Torrens Valley Music Hub, with weekly lessons held at Loberthal Primary School. Recorder is taught in the Year 4/5/6/7 class.

Landcare is an important interest in the school and the local community with students actively involved in the Upper Torrens Landcare program and a variety of school and community based environmental care programs.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

Since 2001 staffing flexibility has increased, with clear roles evolving for ancillary staff, all of whom work part time. There are 3.8 F.T.E. teaching staff including the Principal. Currently teaching positions are held by four female teachers, three at 1.0 and one at 0.5. All teachers are encouraged to utilise their special skills and interests across the R-7 range. The SSO2 (Finance) works 32 hrs/wk. Two SSO1's, both part time (27.5hrs & 16hrs), provides curriculum/student support, administration and resource management support. The Groundsperson's time of 12 hours per week allows for some minor maintenance as well as care for the grounds.

A private provider is employed as needed to maintain and upgrade the curriculum computers.

- **Leadership structure**

Principal and staff form a collaborative leadership group.

- **Staff support systems**

Collaborative decision making and a high degree of communication are features of the school, with involvement and participation by all staff. Regular formal and informal meetings occur between the principal and staff.

- **Performance Management**

All staff members have formal performance development meetings with the Principal each term. Additional reviews are negotiated on an individual basis. Regular, informal dialogue is an important tool used in the process, especially when changes are being implemented.

- **Staff utilisation policies**

Staff expertise including Literacy, Numeracy and Science is deployed across R – 7 classes.

- **Access to special staff**

The school accesses support staff services including Educational Psychology, Speech Pathology, Special Education and Behaviour Support through the Para Hills Office.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Travelling time**

One hour to Adelaide GPO. Approximately 40 minutes from Gawler via Williamstown.

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school buildings comprise a stone building that is home to Junior Primary classes, an activity room, and the student library. A transportable building houses the Upper Primary classroom, the curriculum computing room, and a wet area. A recent single classroom transportable has the Year 2/3 Class.

A new Administration building with staff room, offices, medical room and storeroom was opened in 2007.

The school has excellent hard play areas, a roofed sandpit, cubby and an oval. Sporting facilities include a tennis/netball/ basketball court. Playground equipment is located near the tennis court allowing supervision. A new playground (funded under the Investing in Our Schools Programme) was erected in 2007.

Grounds are well laid out and developed with children's native and vegetable gardens.

A new Hall/Gym was built as part of the Federal Government's, 'Primary Schools for the 21st Century' initiative. The Hall was opened for use in Term 2, 2011.

- **Heating and cooling**

All buildings have Reverse Cycle Air-conditioning.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

The curriculum computer room has 22 networked computers, 16 laptops (in a trolley) , a 3D printer and a data projector and screen. WiFi is available throughout the school.

All classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards and enough ipads to allow 1:2 working relationship.

- **Student facilities**

Play areas are extensive and varied.

- **Staff facilities**

The Administration area is well equipped and air-conditioned. The school has computers for staff access in the admin area.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

Access is currently available to the transportable and administration buildings only. A toilet with disabled access is available.

- **Access to bus transport**

There is provision for access to bus travel to Mount Pleasant Primary School through eligibility referenced applications.

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

The Governing Council is very active as is the Parents and Friends Association. The Council is the major parent decision making body in the school. The established subcommittees of the council are Finance, P&FA, and Mount Pleasant Out of School Hours Care (Mount POSH).

The Governing Council constitution allows for 10 members. There is a staff representative and representatives of P&FA and Mt POSH.

The school's decision-making policy is supported by grievance procedures and anti harassment policies.

- **Regular publications and communications**

There are fortnightly school newsletters; two major / presentation assembly per term and a short information only assembly at the beginning of each term; the website; parent handbooks; minutes of regular staff, council, committees and P&FA meetings.

- **Other communication**

Telephone and face to face informal discussions, informal notes and letters are used frequently. Special meetings with guest speakers are conducted occasionally.

- **School financial position**

The Governing Council and School Fund operate a consolidated account which is administered by the Finance Committee, a sub-committee of the Governing Council. This committee meets every month before the Council.

- **Special funding**

Investing in Our Schools Grants in 2006 and 2007 were used for upgrading the Curriculum Computer Room (completed 2006), a new playground (finished 2007), and refurbishment of the Activity Room for use by Mt POSH and the school (finished 2007). Commonwealth Governments 'Primary Schools for the 21st Century' initiative provided the school with a hall. A further round of maintenance funding in 2013 saw an upgrade to the old sports shed and shelter over the outdoor BBQ.

We have received funding for an Occupancy Warning System. This is expected to be installed at sometime during 2018.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Mount Pleasant is situated at the "Top of the Torrens" in the Barossa Council District, 62 km north east of Adelaide and about 30km from the Murray River at Mannum.

The town's facilities consist of local District Council agency, library, and Natural Resource Centre, banks, hospital, doctors, chemist, CFS, various take away outlets, Kindergarten, occasional care and a general store. Large shopping centres are within 45 minutes' drive.

Mt Pleasant boasts many sports teams and has facilities for football, tennis, netball, bowls and golf. Many students participate enthusiastically in local teams at weekends. The local Agricultural Show is known as one of the best country shows in South Australia. The school participates in this event annually.

Families work in a variety of occupations both in and near the town, in the Barossa Valley and in Adelaide.

- **Parent and community involvement**

Parent and community involvement in the school is significant. Parents and the wider community support the school well in all school functions. The school is increasingly viewed as a central aspect of the community.

- **Feeder or destination schools**

Students come from the Mount Pleasant Kindergarten.

Birdwood High School is our local High School.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Local stores can supply many everyday food needs.

- **Other local facilities**

Post Office, Fuel, Stock Agents, Public Library and Council Offices.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Plenty of housing to purchase and some for rental.

- **Accessibility**

Our school is approximately 62 km north east of Adelaide, about 1 hour by car. There is a limited public transport to and from Tea Tree Plaza.

- **Local Government body**
Barossa District Council

12. Further Comments