



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2021

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 163 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 in providing the best educational outcomes for all of our students. We continually strive to improve what we do and how we do it. We promote high achievement and life long learning for and from all. 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 of preparing our students to be active and informed citizens in an ever-changing world. We are aided in this by a highly professional and dedicated staff (Teachers and SSOs) and we are also fortunate to have a Pastoral Care Worker, who 'value adds' to our wellbeing initiatives.

We enjoy positive relationships with the Mount Pleasant and District Kindergarten. 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 dedicated fibre to the school, interactive whiteboards/panels and WiFi in all classrooms, iPads and a 3D printer, a school hall and large, attractive grounds with a native animal enclosure and vegetable garden.

We value, promote and encourage positive family school relationships. Our active Governing Council and Parents & Friends Committee 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.

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:** 51
- **Student enrolment trends:** Continued stable numbers with the possibility of small growth.
- **Staffing numbers (as at February census):** 3.7
- **Enrolment**

Primary	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reception	3	10	6	8
Year 1	12	4	9	3
Year 2	10	11	4	8
Year 3	4	10	10	2
Year 4	8	5	10	10
Year 5	8	8	5	10
Year 6	12	7	8	4
Year 7	6	13	7	6
Total	63	68	59	51
School Card Approvals(Persons)	13	16	16	18
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	0	1	1	1

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 backed by their One Plan. SSOs work with students in intervention programs such as Macqlit, MiniLit and QuickSmart Maths.

- **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 2021 on website)

- **Reading**

- Challenge of Practice: If we design and provide a reading program that ensures all students are able to decode, comprehend, interpret and analyse a wide variety of high quality texts the student achievement in reading will increase.
- The school has a commitment to use Running Records, PAT R, InitialLit 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 –**

- Challenge of Practice: If we design and provide rigorous learning cycles that ensure all students use manipulative's to build understanding of number concepts, solving familiar and unfamiliar problems to build understanding and reasoning moving from concrete to abstract to fluency then student achievement in mathematics will increase.
- Math results are improving but will continue to be our major focus in 2021. The use of PAT M Normed Referenced Mean scores as targets, Big Ideas in Number and Back-To-Front Maths Diagnostic testing is used across the school.
- In 2109 we are introduced QuickSmart maths intervention for our primary aged wave 2 students.

- **Attendance**

- Attendance is down to 87.5%. This is behind DECD targets but largely due to COVID-19 and parents keeping students home when they have cold/flu symptoms.

- **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.
- Both Reading and Numeracy growth for years 3 to 5 show that over half of our students are in the upper progress group which is more than double the State average. We also have less students than average in the lower progress group.
- PAT results indicate we have maintained higher band students in both reading and maths.
- Student well-being is promoted with attention given to daily fitness, nutrition, social skills through Kimochis and keys for success in learning.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

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

Our LOTE is Japanese and done through Open Access College.

- **Open Access/Distance Education provision**

Nil

- **Special needs**

Five of our students are classified as 'Students with a Disability'. These and another 8 students receive extra support in class or in intensive small group work with an SSO. All of these students have a One Plan. One student receives a category 9 support plus extra RAAP funding for 0.2 teacher time.

- **Special curriculum features**

Early interventions, in both Literacy and Numeracy, are based on the needs of individual students. Specific targeted interventions for students with One Plans 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.

Literacy and Numeracy agreements are in place to ensure consistency across the school.

Regular feedback is provided to staff through book looks, moderation, learning walks and observations with a strong focus on progression not perfection; better practice leads to best practice.

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

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

Students are assessed regularly using a variety of strategies and their progress is plotted currently against the Australian Curriculum. Running Records, PAT R Comprehension, PAT R Vocabulary, PAT Maths 4th Edition, Brightpath and NAPLAN tests are used to provide data about students' progress. A range of formative assessments are used by staff to inform their teaching and student learning.

Parent/ Teacher 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.

We work closely with Springton Primary School around Assessment and Moderation activities.

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**

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 three female teachers at 1.0 and one at 0.6. All teachers are encouraged to utilise their special skills and interests across the R-7 range.

The SSO2 (Finance) works 32 hrs/wk. Four SSOs provide 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, Tanunda and Murray Bridge.

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