



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2023

School number: 0293

School name: Mount Pleasant Primary School

School Profile Text:

Mt. Pleasant Primary School is situated 65km from Adelaide at the southeastern end of the Barossa Council area and is 164 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 skills, knowledge and dispositions 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 our students. We continually strive to improve what we do and how we do it. We promote high achievement and life long learning. Our core values are respect, responsibility, kindness and community. The continuous promotion of these values by staff, students, families and the school community enhance 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.

We enjoy positive relationships with the Mount Pleasant and District Kindergarten. This successful 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 we have strong connections including a transition program for our Year 6s and other curriculum based opportunities where students visit Birdwood High School.

Our facilities include; interactive whiteboards/panels and WiFi in all classrooms, 1:1 ipads and a 3D printer, a school gymnasium and large, attractive grounds with a native bush play area 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.

1. General information

- **School Principal name:** Sybila Ford
- **Deputy Principal:** not applicable:
- **Year of opening:** 1858
- **Postal Address:** 22 Hospital Road, Mount Pleasant 5235 South Australia
- **Location Address:** As Above
- **DECD Region:** Torrens Valley Partnership – Barossa Region
- **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.mtplesntps.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
- **2023 FTE student enrolment:** 50
- **Student enrolment trends:** Increasing reception enrolments
- **Staffing numbers (as at February census):** 3.6 Teaching 1.0 Principal
- **Enrolment**

Primary	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reception	3	10	6	8	3	13
Year 1	12	4	9	3	8	3
Year 2	10	11	4	8	4	10
Year 3	4	10	10	2	8	4
Year 4	8	5	10	10	2	5
Year 5	8	8	5	10	9	2
Year 6	12	7	8	4	11	9
Year 7	6	13	7	6	-	-
Total	63	68	59	51	45	50
School Card Approvals(Persons)	13	16	16	18	16	12
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	0	1	1	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 Student Action Teams structure. Students at all year levels contribute to decision-making including policy development through class meetings and Student Action Teams.

- **Special programs**

All year 6 students are involved in a 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 bush play area and vegetable garden. A whole school outdoor education camp is provided every 2 years.

3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan**

See School Website for Site Improvement Plan 2022-2024

- **Vision**

Empowering learners for successful participation in our School, our Community and our Future.

Mount Pleasant Primary School promotes intellectual stretch and life-long learning by assisting children to:

- To have high expectations and develop a positive, flexible attitude towards their learning.
- Become Critical and Creative thinkers.
- Work independently and collaboratively.
- Become active, informed citizens.
- Achieve high standards in Literacy and Numeracy.

Mission

We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement.
- A challenging curriculum catering for individual learning styles and backgrounds.
- A positive, safe and engaging learning environment.
- Learning partnerships between school, home and community.
- Relevant, varied and up-to-date resources.

We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:

- Working cohesively towards our common goal.
- Providing sound, sustainable underlying structures to enable flexibility, change and continuous improvement.
- Promoting equal opportunities and developing student agency.
- Encouraging strong, positive family / school relationships.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

All eight areas of learning are taken from the Australian Curriculum.
Our Language Learning is Japanese and done through Open Access College.

- **Open Access/Distance Education provision**

Nil

- **Special needs**

Students 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 targeted interventions for students with One Plans are established with support services personnel.

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, Year 2/3/4 & Year 4/5/6.

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.

Staff are moving to a wider use of reciprocal summative and formative feedback, Growth Mindset 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, 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.

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 combined small school sports day 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 every year. 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 with a specialist teacher. 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, 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 3.6 F.T.E. teaching staff and a 1.0 Principal. Currently teaching positions are held by three teachers at 1.0 and one at 0.6. All teachers are encouraged to utilise their skills and interests. The SSO2 (Finance and Admin) works 33 hrs/wk. Three SSO1 provide curriculum/student support and are employed by the school OSHC. The Groundsperson's time of 12 hours per week allows for some minor maintenance as well as care for the grounds. The school has recently engaged the departments regional support program to maintain ICT hardware.

- **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 (PDP) meetings with the Principal twice a year.

- **Staff utilisation policies**

Staff expertise including Literacy and Numeracy is deployed across R – 6 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. Student Review Team meetings are held each term.

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 OSHC, learning support room and specialist teaching classroom. A transportable building houses the Upper Primary classroom, the library and a wet area. A recent single classroom transportable has been utilised for specialist subjects. 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. Grounds are well laid out and developed with children's nature play 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**

WiFi is available throughout the school.

All classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards and enough ipads to allow 1:1 working relationship. 3D printing is also available.

- **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 and is the major parent decision making body in the school. The established subcommittees of the council are Finance, Parents and Friends and Mount Pleasant Out of School Hours Care.

The Governing Council constitution allows for 5 parent members. There is also a teaching staff representative and representatives of Parents and Friends and OSHC.

- **Regular publications and communications**

There are school newsletters published in Week 3/6/9 each term via skoolbag and using links to a SWAY document, the school website; parent handbooks; weekly staff bulletin, and minutes for Governing Council meetings are circulated to GC members. All staff utilise Class Dojo and Skoolbag as applications for class based and whole school communications. OSHC also has a class dojo for circulation of the OSHC program and updates.

- **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.

- **Special funding**

The school currently receives sustainability funding to provide OSHC.

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, library, and Natural Resource Centre, 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 valued. 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 and Districts 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**

Limited housing to purchase in the local district and some available 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