SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0147
School name: Gladstone Primary School

School Profile:

The Gladstone Primary School Mission Statement is;

‘At Gladstone Primary School we work together to develop happy, confident, motivated and independent learners in a supportive environment. The school community promotes active, responsible participation enabling all to reach their personal best.’

The values of caring, following rules, honesty, respect and forgiveness are a focus at Gladstone Primary School; they form the basis of the school’s behaviour management procedures.

The school has purchased musical instruments for all students to play. The Reception to year 4 students learn recorder and the 5/6/7 students have Instrumental Music teachers come to the school once a week to teach flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone. Students learn to play one of these instruments during their time in 5, 6 and 7.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Kerri Blackwell
- Deputy Principal’s name, if applicable: N/A
- Year of opening: 1896
- Postal Address: 2 West Terrace, Gladstone 5473
- Location Address: 2 West Terrace, Gladstone 5473
- DECD Region: Upper Mid North
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 217km
- Telephone number: 08 8662 2235
- Fax Number: 08 8662 2360
- School website address: www.gladstoneps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0147_info@schools.sa.edu.au

- February FTE student enrolment:

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- Student enrolment trends: stable

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):
  In 2016, the school has three classes; R/1/2, Year 3/4/5 and Year 6/7. Teaching staff include a Principal and four teachers (two full-time, one 0.8 and one 0.6). The school has allocated 92.5 hours for SSO support per week in 2016. Finance/Front Office/Newsletter – 39.5 hours, Class support/Library – 41 hours, IT support – 6 hours, ACEO – 6 hours.
  There is a contracted groundsman for 10 hours per week.

- Public transport access:
  Although there is no public transport in Gladstone, Premier Stateliner service passes through Crystal Brook and Port Pirie daily.

- Special site arrangements:
  The school is a part of the Rocky River Schools Network. The schools involved are Georgetown Primary, Laura Primary, Wirrabara Primary and St Joseph’s – Gladstone. The schools combine for; Rocky River Sports Day, two arts performances and Mastermind each year.
2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
The student body is diverse with students from farming as well as town based families. A significant number of students come from extended or single parent families. 39% of students receive school card.

- Student well-being programs
The school breakfast program is run every Monday and Wednesday and is available for all students to access free of charge.

- Student support offered
Living in a country town means that staff members often mix with school community members for sporting and social activites. Gladstone Primary School has a ‘family atmosphere’ with staff having a good understanding of the learning and social needs of each child and the values they bring to school.

- Student management
The school promotes a safe and orderly environment for students, staff and visitors. In 2005 the school community identified ‘Values’ which all people are expected to use in their personal interactions whilst on school premises. Values are Honesty, Respect, Caring, Following Rules and Forgiveness. Restorative Justice processes for both yard and classroom behaviour issues are used. Incidents are viewed as social learning opportunities, where students calmly reflect upon their behaviour in terms of the ‘Values’ and the effect their behaviour has had on others. Students are actively involved throughout the process with a view to them accepting responsibility for their own behaviour and then working through processes to restore relationships that may have been affected by this behaviour.

- Student government
All year 7 students have the opportunity to apply for and win leadership positions areas such as: Sports, Grounds and Fundraising. The year 7 students attend a Young Leaders Conference in Adelaide annually. Class meetings are run on a needs basis and are chaired by the leaders.

- Special programmes
Governing Council provides students with a water bottle and a wide brimmed bucket hat, which is worn whenever students are outside. Healthy eating is promoted with healthy snacks and water being allowed in class.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
Site Improvement Plan can be accessed on the school website.

- Recent key outcomes:
In 2015, the school was Externally Reviewed, from this; the school has been given clear directions to follow until the next External Review; which will be in 2019.
4. Curriculum

Subject offerings:
The school teaches all subjects within the Australian Curriculum except LOTE. Staff use up to date and effective child centred methodologies, which focus on the academic, social and physical development of each child. Development of Literacy and Numeracy is central to the curriculum, with programmed lessons every day. Most students participate in the Accelerated Reader program. They read daily, choosing from a range of ‘levelled’ books and comprehension activities. All students have Individual Learning Plans that have been developed and reviewed by staff. These plans become the tool to monitor and discuss student learning, and set student learning goals through discussion with all key stakeholders. These plans are updated and reviewed throughout the year and discussed at Parent / Teacher meetings.

- Special needs:

All identified students have Negotiated Education Plans, which provide strategic focus for their learning programs. SSO’s are employed to assist students with their learning programs. The Upper Mid North Student Support and Disability Team are based at District Office in Port Pirie. Services provided by this team include Guidance Assessment, Speech Pathology, Disability and Hearing support.

- Special curriculum features:

Instrumental music is offered through the Instrumental Services Program with lessons conducted on site every Wednesday:

- Teaching methodology:

Classes are structured depending on student numbers. Ancillary staff support class programs at the discretion of teaching staff. Gladstone Primary School focuses heavily on skilling students how to learn. Student’s individual learning targets are set in consultation with the teacher and child.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting

Student portfolios are sent home at the end of each Term, with examples of Literacy and Numeracy learning and other selected areas of study. Written reports are sent home at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Parent teacher interviews are held once per year, with the opportunity for parents to individually request an interview at any other time.

- Joint programmes:

Gladstone Primary School works collaboratively with 4 Primary Schools in the Rocky River Cluster of schools (Georgetown, Wirrabara and Laura and St Josephs). This includes sharing professional development opportunities and curriculum events. Some resources are shared between the schools.

5. Sporting Activities

Students participate in SAPSASA events that are available in the North Eastern Region. We organise and conduct the Rocky River Combined Schools Sports Day every 4 years and participate every year. Swimming instruction is provided at the Gladstone Swimming Pool during Term 1 annually.
Gladstone has a number of sporting clubs, including football, netball, cricket, soccer and table tennis tennis.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
  The staff organise activities such as Bookweek, NAIDOC Day and other significant events as they arise.
  Three assemblies are held per term for students to showcase work they have completed. Classes lead the assemblies on a roster basis.
  School camps and excursions are run in accordance with our Camp Policy. The school hold a year 3-7 three day camp, and a minimum of one excursion per class per year.

Gladstone Primary School encourages the wearing of uniform. Students wear a royal blue top, usually a polo shirt with the school logo imprinted on it. In winter students wear a navy long sleeved fleece lined jumper or zipped jacket.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
  Staffing is stable with most staff having links to surrounding local communities. The staff are highly committed to providing quality learning and positive outcomes for students.

- Leadership structure
  Leadership responsibility in the Principal’s absence is shared between teachers. Staff members have particular areas of responsibility within the budget and curriculum.

- Staff support systems
  Staff are flexible and work within a supportive and collegiate culture. Most teachers have experience working across a range of age levels and in a variety of situations, and are able to provide strategic practical support for inexperienced staff.
  Support staff are available from the Port Pirie Offices.
  There has been a number of different Professional Learning Communities (PLC) available for staff to participate in. The PLC’s give staff the opportunity to network with teachers from other schools who have a similar focus.

- Performance Management
  Staff members meet individually with the Principal each term to plan and monitor professional learning goals and to negotiate how aspects of the Site Improvement Plan will be supported in class by the individual. The small number of staff means that informal meetings can occur as often as required.
• Access to special staff
Instrumental music is taught to individual students once a week. This is run at our site with all upper primary students taking part. The school supplies the instruments with students playing Trumpet, Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet or Trombone. Students from Reception to year 4 play the recorder.
All specialist departmental personnel are accessible through the Port Pirie Regional Office.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff
• Complexity placement points
  : 0
• Isolation placement points
  : 3.5
• Shorter terms
  : no
• Travelling time
  : 2 hours from Adelaide, 30 minutes from Port Pirie
• Housing assistance
  : Subsidised Government housing is available in Gladstone or surrounding towns through application with DAIS (Department for Administrative and Information Services).
• Cash in lieu of removal allowance
DECD will pay for the removal costs of teachers. An application must be lodged prior to removal for this to occur. Contact the Removals Unit in Flinders Street. Incentive conditions can be found on the DECS web site. A copy of the award can be downloaded from www.decs.sa.gov.au/schlstaff

Teachers are eligible for Country Incentives Award and The Non-Metropolitan Award (for travel to approved city medical appointments)

9. School Facilities
Buildings and grounds
Governing Council is committed to providing students and staff with an attractive and comfortable environment in which to work. In line with this, there have been many recent internal and external upgrades and additions.
The school comprises:
1. A main stone building that incorporates a recently refurbished administration area, staffroom, teacher prep room, and a double classroom which presently houses the Year 3-7 classes.
2. A well equipped double transportable room is currently being used for the Junior Primary class at one end. The other end has an art area with sinks and a kitchen area for cooking programs.

3. A unique feature is a sheltered outdoor classroom, complete with a blackboard and permanent tables and seating.

4. A new building was completed in 2011 through Building the Education Revolution and has become the library. This incorporates 22 computers, 12 Mac Notebooks and iPads to support learning.

5. The courtyard is completely shaded with high iron roofing. This means that sporting and other active lessons can be held outdoors under shelter. Children can go outside during all break periods, even during extreme weather, as there is plenty of room under the shelter for all children.

6. The 5 hectares of land boasts an oval, orchard, paddocks, two playgrounds, tennis/basketball court, hard play area and garden areas. Features include an Indigenous Bush Tucker Trail, vegetable garden, Butterfly garden and a walking trail.

7. Quality student toilets are close to the main building along with a large storage shed, sport shed and a smaller store shed. An easy access toilet provides showering facilities.

- Heating and cooling
All buildings have split system airconditioning and are comfortable throughout summer and winter.

- Student facilities
An updated computer suite provides network and Internet access for all students. Students and staff are able to order lunch from the Gladstone High School canteen on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Orders are picked up by canteen volunteers and lunches are returned in insulated carry bags.

- Staff facilities
Staff facilities are located in and around the administration area. There is a teacher preparation area, internet access, a refurbished kitchenette and comfortable staff relaxation area. Carparking is provided in a shaded parking area.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities
There is wheelchair access to all buildings.

- Access to bus transport
School buses are managed by Gladstone High School and shared by a number of schools in the immediate district. Services run from Yacka (through Georgetown and Gulnare), Appila (through Laura) and from Crystal Brook.
10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
  Governing Council meets twice per term.
  PAC issues are discussed by the PAC.
  Staff meetings are held weekly.

- Regular publications
  The school has a fortnightly newsletter that is sent to families and is available from the Post Office. Student work is featured.

- Other communication
  The school promotes or advertises successes in local newspapers.
  Assemblies are held three times a term on Thursdays and are open to all members of the school community.

- School financial position
  Fundraising is organised through the Governing Council Fundraising Committee. The school uses fundraising to sponsor a child in Ethiopia through World Vision.
  Over 39% of the school is on School Card. School fees are $229.00 with most fee-paying families paying through instalments.
  The schools financial position is good.

- Special funding
  The school receives funds through the Global Budget, receiving support for disadvantaged students and rural index funding, as well as the general student grants for Aboriginal students, students with disabilities, Early Years and Literacy support grants.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
  Gladstone is in the heart of the southern Flinders Ranges. It is on the scenic route from Adelaide to the Flinders Ranges and Far North. For many years Gladstone was a busy rail centre, but the rail service has been scaled down with about 6 trains (including the Indian Pacific) passing through the town each day.
  The old Gladstone Gaol is a tourist attraction in the town. Built in 1880, it was closed in 1975 and can be hired as a camping site with cells as sleeping accommodation.
  The present population is approximately 700 people. Gladstone has the largest inland grain storage capacity in South Australia. Employment increases during harvest time.
  The town is well planned, comprising an attractive main street, old stone houses, a recreation park with swimming pool and various sporting clubs.
• Parent and community involvement
The school is supported by an enthusiastic and well focused Governing Council. Assemblies are regularly attended by parents and community members. Parents are keen to help with class and sporting activities, particularly sports days and concerts. The school community is continually working on improving the atmosphere of the school for all, and promoting it as a place where parental input is welcomed and valued.

• Feeder schools
Most children transition from Gladstone Kindergarten which is located on the other side of town. A clearly stated transition program allows students to become familiar with the school environment, staff and routines before they begin formal attendance. Gladstone Primary School manages financial processes for Gladstone Kindergarten. Most students transition from Gladstone Primary School to Gladstone High School, which has an enrolment of around 200 students and provides a secondary educational service for Gladstone and surrounding towns. Feeder schools include Gladstone, Crystal Brook, Laura, Georgetown and St Joseph's Primary School.

• Other local care and educational facilities
There is a Catholic Parish Primary School in Gladstone. Child-care is available privately.
A district Mobile Library based in Gladstone, visits the school each fortnight.

• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
All basic services can be accessed in Gladstone. Gladstone has a service garage and two petrol outlets. Northern Areas Council operates a service depot. Viterra is the major employer in town.
There is an IGA supermarket (open 7 days), one delicatessen/café, a chemist and Post Office. The Post Office and roadhouse offer banking facilities. The local roadhouse offers petrol and food. There are two hotels.
The nearest major regional service and shopping centre is Port Pirie, which is 40 km away and is easily accessible by road. Shopping is extensive and recreational and service facilities are excellent. Coles and Woolworths stay open late each night and all weekend. Clare is 75 kms to the south.

• Other local facilities
Traditional sporting activities are available in Gladstone: netball, football, lawn bowls, tennis, cricket, golf and darts. People also travel to Port Pirie to play sport including hockey, softball and dirt circuit racing.
Two doctors operate in Gladstone, working at the health centre. The Rocky River Health Service based 10 km away at the Laura and Districts Hospital, operates this service. Port Pirie has extensive health facilities, with Port Pirie Hospital providing most specialists, diagnostic and surgical services. Crystal Brook has doctor and hospital services available.
Catholic, Uniting and Anglican churches are located in Gladstone. Facilities for other denominations or religions can generally be accessed in Port Pirie or nearby towns.
• **Availability of staff housing**
  Government housing and private rental is available. Gladstone is within easy commuting distance of a number of other towns in the surrounding area. Government and private housing is also available in most of these locations for staff not wishing to live in Gladstone. Staff wishing to purchase housing will be pleasantly surprised at the cost of housing, compared to city prices.

• **Accessibility**
  Gladstone is very accessible to Adelaide, being a 2 hour drive through Blyth, Balaklava and Mallala. Alternate routes include via Pt. Wakefield Road or through Clare. The quality of roads on all three routes is good.

• **Local Government body**
  The Northern Areas Council is based in Jamestown, but operates an office in Gladstone. Rubbish collection occurs on Wednesday with recycling collected every second Friday.

### 12. Further Comments

Gladstone Primary School is part of the Upper Mid North Partnership and enjoys close ties with the District Office and other district schools. Access to Training and Development is excellent, with many opportunities provided locally and those in the city being just two hours away. Gladstone Primary School, Georgetown Primary School and Gladstone Kindergarten are amalgamating for the beginning in 2017 to the current Gladstone Primary School site. The school has access to infrastructure money that will be spent on facilities and there will be building works in 2016 and 2017. Gladstone Kindergarten will begin 2017 off site, at their current location, but will be under the direction of the Gladstone Primary School principal from the beginning of 2017.

An Identity Committee, with members from the three sites, has been formed in 2016. This committee will investigate the possibility of changes to things such as; school name, uniform, logo, mission statement and values.