



# 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 was amalgamated with Georgetown Primary and Gladstone Preschool in 2017. A new building for the Early Years and playspace for the Preschool were completed in 2019.

## 1. General information

- School Principal name: Liz Hughes
- 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
- Partnership: 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](http://www.gladstoneps.sa.edu.au)

- School e-mail address: dl.0147.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Predicted 2022
Preschool		12	12	10	20	6
Reception	8	12	6	7	5	8
Year 1	5	8	12	5	7	5
Year 2	7	3	8	12	7	7
Year 3	11	9	5	8	11	7
Year 4	7	11	10	4	9	11
Year 5	10	7	8	6	4	9
Year 6	10	10	10	8	8	4
Year 7	9	13	7	8	9	0
Total	68	73	66	58	60	51
School Card	25	20	20	21	25	18
NESB Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	11	13	13	6	6	5

- Student enrolment trends: the school will be impacted in 2022 when year 7s are in high schools

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

In 2021, the school was grouped; Preschool, R/1, Year 2/3, Year 4/5 and Year 6/7. Teaching staff include Principal and six teachers (two full-time and six part-time). The school has support staff in the following areas: Finance/Front Office, Class support, Library, ACEO, Occasional Care, Preschool support.

There is a contracted groundsperson.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

The student body is diverse with children from farming as well as town based families coming from many small towns including Yacka, Gulnare, Georgetown and Caltowie. A significant number of children come from extended or single parent families. 35% of students receive school card.

- Student support offered

Most staff live outside of the township but are familiar with the area due to community and sporting associations. Staff having a good understanding of the learning and social needs of each child and the values they bring to school and try to build strong relationships with all children and their families.

- Student government

The Wellbeing teacher runs SRC fortnightly with all classes represented at meetings. All year 7 students have the opportunity to apply for and win leadership positions

- Special programmes

All children are provided with a bucket hat which is worn all year round when outdoors.

Healthy eating is promoted with healthy snacks and water encouraged in classrooms.

### 3. Curriculum

Subject offerings:

The school covers all subjects within the Australian Curriculum including Auslan as a Language. Staff are encouraged to use current brain research to inform their learning programs and 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 children participate in the Accelerated Reader program. They read daily, choosing from a range of 'levelled' books and comprehension activities.

- Special needs:

All identified children have One Plans, which provide strategic focus for their learning programs. SSOs work in classrooms to assist all children with their learning. 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:

Weekly instrumental music lessons are provided through the Instrumental Services Program. All children from year 5 to 7 get provided with a musical instrument which is owned by the school.

- Teaching methodology:

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

Student assessment procedures and reporting

- Parent teacher interviews are held once per year, with the opportunity for parents to individually request an interview at any other time.
- A first impression report is sent out at the end of term 1.
- The mid- year and end of year reports contain A – E grades and written comments.

- Joint programmes:

Gladstone Primary School is a part of the Upper Mid North partnership and teachers attend professional development and events organised throughout the partnership.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Students have the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA events that are available in the North Eastern Region.

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.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General

The staff organise activities such as Bookweek, NAIDOC Day and other significant events as they arise.

Two assemblies are held each term for children to showcase children's learning. Classes lead the assemblies on a roster basis.

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

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Currently the majority of the staff are permanent employees and all live within 45 kms of the school.

- Leadership structure

Leadership responsibility in the Principal's absence is shared between teachers.

- Staff support systems

Staff are flexible and work within a supportive and collegiate culture.

- Performance Management

Staff members regularly meet with the Principal to discuss professional learning goals and the progress and achievement of the children for whom they provide learning programs. The small number of staff means that informal conversations occur throughout the school day.

- Access to special staff

Instrumental music is taught to individual children once a week. This is run at our site with all upper primary students taking part. The school supplies the following instruments: Trumpet, Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet or Trombone.

## 9. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds

Governing Council is committed to providing children and staff with an attractive and comfortable environment in which to work. In line with this, there have been recent internal and external upgrades and additions.

The school comprises:

1. A main stone building that incorporates a recently refurbished administration area, staffroom, and 3 learning areas.
2. A new purpose built building was opened in 2019 for the Junior primary and the preschool. The preschool has a fenced playspace behind the building.
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 houses the library and computer suite.
5. The courtyard is completely shaded with high iron roofing. This means that sporting and other active lessons can be held outdoors under shelter.
6. The 5 hectares of land is comprised of an oval, orchard, paddocks, two playgrounds, tennis/basketball court, hard play area and garden areas.
7. Quality student toilets are close to the main building along with a large storage shed, sport shed and a smaller store shed.

- Heating and cooling

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

- Student facilities

Students and staff are able to order lunch from the Gladstone High School canteen.

- Staff facilities

Staff facilities are located in and around the administration area.

Carparking is provided.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

The school is working towards having 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), from Georgetown through Caltowie 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 weekly newsletter which is sent to families. Student work is featured.

- Other communication

The school has a Facebook page which keeps parents informed about what is happening each week.

Assemblies are held twice a term and are open to all members of the school community.

- School financial position

Fundraising is organised through the Governing Council Fundraising Committee.

Over 35% of the school is on School Card. School fees are set against School Card 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 children, 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.

- Feeder schools

Transition to school is now seamless from the preschool and regular contact occurs throughout the year. Including 2 formal days towards the end of Term 4.

Most students transition from Gladstone Primary School to Gladstone High School, which provides a secondary education for Gladstone and surrounding towns. Feeder schools for GHS include Gladstone, Crystal Brook, Laura, and St Joseph's Primary School.

- Other local care and educational facilities

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.

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 75kms 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.

Medical services are based 10km away at the Laura and Districts Hospital, and at Crystal Brook. Port Pirie has more extensive health facilities, with Port Pirie Hospital providing most specialists, diagnostic and surgical services.

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.

- 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.