



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2023

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 core values of kindness, honesty, respect and bravery 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: Mrs Jodie Zwar
- 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 partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 217km
- Telephone number: 08 8662 2235
- Fax Number: N/A
- School website address: www.gladstoneps.sa.edu.au

- School e-mail address: dl.0147.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: Gladstone Kindergarten and Occasional Care
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: N/A
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Preschool	12	10	20	10	13
Reception	6	7	5	11	6
Year 1	12	5	7	5	11
Year 2	8	12	7	6	4
Year 3	5	8	11	9	7
Year 4	10	4	9	12	8
Year 5	8	6	4	10	12
Year 6	10	8	8	3	7
Year 7	7	8	9	0	0
Total	66	58	60	66	68
School Card	20	21	25	25	28
NESB Total	0	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	13	6	6	2	2

- Student enrolment trends:

The school is continuing to remain steady with enrolment.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

In 2023, the school is grouped; Preschool, R/1, Year 2/3/4 and Year 5/6. Teaching staff include Principal, Wellbeing teacher and six teachers (two full-time and four part-time). We have an instrumental music teacher one day per week.

The school has support staff in the following areas: Finance/Front Office, Class support, Library, ACEO, Occasional Care, Preschool support and Pastoral Care Worker (PCW).

There is a contracted groundsperson.

- Public transport access: N/A
- Special site arrangements: N/A

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. 51% of students receive school card.

- Student well-being programs

Growing with Gratitude, which all feeder schools to Gladstone High School are implementing.

- 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 management

We have a behaviour management procedure which is implemented consistently across the school. Staff and students can access the Wellbeing teacher and PCW for support.

- Student government

The Wellbeing teacher runs SRC fortnightly with all classes represented at meetings. All year 6 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. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

2023 Site Improvement Goals

Goal 1: To increase the number of students achieving in High Bands in NAPLAN Writing.

Goal 2: To improve students' achievements in mathematics R to 6.

2023 Preschool Quality Improvement Goals

Goal 1: To extend children's ability to describe experiences and express ideas.

Goal 2: To extend children's ability to effectively communicate their understanding of number.

4. 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 (AR) / decodable texts and comprehension activities.

- Open Access/Distance Education provision: N/A

- 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. Support Services are based at Port Pirie Education Office. 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 in year 5 and 6 are 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 in small groups or individually. 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.

The mid year and end of year reports contain A – E grades with 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 4 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.

At least one assembly is held each term for classes 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 are flexible and work within a supportive and collegiate culture.

- Staff support systems

This year we have a Curriculum Teacher 0.2 to support curriculum implementation and an Autism Inclusion Teacher 0.1 to support staff.

- 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.

- Staff utilisation policies

We use SSO time to implement literacy and numeracy intervention programs in which SSOs have completed professional learning and training.

We have

- 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.

- Other
N/A

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
:0
- Isolation placement points
:2.0
- Shorter terms
:
- Travelling time
:
- Housing assistance
:
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
:
- Additional increment allowance
:
- Designated schools benefits
:
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:N/A
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:
- Locality allowances
:
- Relocation assistance
:
- Principal's telephone costs
:

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.
8. A new nature playground was installed in 2022 which supports students who receive occupational therapy.

- Heating and cooling

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

- Specialist facilities and equipment

1. Computer suite in the library.
2. Outdoor learning environment/area.
3. We have a site based preschool on Tuesday and Wednesdays. This year will be the first year where we will have a mid year intake.
4. Occasional Care Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 8.30am to 11.30am in the preschool.
5. Playgroup fortnightly on a Friday morning – 9.30am to 11.00am.

- 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. Office space in the library for Wellbeing teacher and PCW.

Carparking is provided.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

The school has 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.

Gladstone High School buses and a local provider are used for excursions and camps.

- Other

N/A

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 which is sent to families using the School Stream app or a hard copy can be requested. Student work is featured.

Staff bulletin weekly.

- Other communication

We use School Stream as our main form of communication with families – newsletters, absentee notes, permission forms and occasional care bookings.

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

Assemblies are held once 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 51% 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 is currently closed to the community.

The present population is approximately 700 people. Gladstone has the largest inland grain storage capacity in South Australia. Employment increases during harvest time.

It is 40km to Port Pirie for work and shopping.

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 focused Governing Council. Assemblies and Sports Day are regularly attended by parents and community members.

- Feeder or destination schools

Transition to school is now seamless from the preschool and regular contact occurs throughout the year. Including a formal day 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

The district Flinders Mobile Library is based in Gladstone and 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.

- Availability of staff housing

There are Government Housing opportunities in various towns surrounding Gladstone.

- Accessibility

Access to Adelaide is an easy drive on good quality roads.

Stateliner Premier Coach Service can be accessed daily at Crystal Brook and Port Pirie for bus transport to Adelaide.

- 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 Pirie Portfolio and enjoys close ties with the District Education Office and other schools in our portfolio.

Access to Training and Development is excellent, with many opportunities provided locally and those in the city being just two hours away.