



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0363

School name: Port Pirie West Primary

1. General information

Principal: Mr Chris Heading

Deputy Principal: Mrs Fiona Perry

Year of opening: 1877 - August

Postal and Location Address: 214 The Terrace, PORT PIRIE SA 5540

DECD Region: Pirie Partnership

Geographical location: 225km from Adelaide GPO

Telephone number: 08 8632 3777 Fax Number: 08 8632 5062

Website: www.piriewps.sa.edu.au E-mail: dl.0363.info@schools.sa.edu.au

February FTE student enrolment:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Reception	37	27	31	22	20
Year 1	31	38	26	34	21
Year 2	26	32	36	27	32
Year 3	31	28	32	40	25
Year 4	30	28	28	31	35
Year 5	22	34	30	29	31
Year 6	31	24	35	26	26
Year 7	29	29	26	36	31
TOTAL	237	241	244	245	221

School Card	71%	78%	75%	70%	62%
EALD Enrolment	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%
Aboriginal Enrolment	9%	11%	14%	20%	15%
ICAN	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Currently there are 216 students enrolled. The school follows the Pirie Partnerships' enrolment guidelines developed in Term 3, 2004 with identified school catchment areas. 94% of Kindy students transfer from the on campus Port Pirie West Children's Centre.

- **Staffing numbers (as at February census):**

- 10 classes supported by 13.4 FTE (including NIT)
- 2.4 FTE NIT teachers
- 3 Front Office Permanent SSOs comprising Finance/Admin, Admin/Finance and Front Office Admin
- 9 Permanent SSOs provide Learning Team support and Student Intervention support
- 2 Temporary SSOs
- 1 Permanent ACEO

- **Public transport access:**

The public transport system operating in Port Pirie passes the school and a number of students travel to and from Port Pirie West Primary School using this bus service.

- **Special site arrangements:**

The R-7 school is part of the Port Pirie West Education Campus which also encompasses Port Pirie West Children's Centre, Port Pirie Child Care Centre (for children Birth to 8 years of age and their families) and Dental Clinic.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics:**

Port Pirie West is a Category 2 on the Index of Educational Disadvantage. The school population reflects the cultural and social diversity at the school. A significant number of students require support in Literacy, Numeracy and Social Skills. 12% of the student population are identified as Students with Disabilities and Negotiated Education Plans are in place for these students. 38% of the student population have speech/language or communication difficulties and are receiving additional support funded with the Better Schools funding. 37% of students are supported through the Resource Entitlement Source (RES) and are receiving additional support through the school's literacy support and or social skills programs. 62% of the total student population is eligible for school card support.

Port Pirie West has a strong moral purpose: Focus on Learning, together with the vision, "A quality learning environment where everyone belongs" and the four school qualities, Respect, Responsibility, Confidence, and Persistence underpin all site processes and procedures.

- **Student wellbeing programs:**

A positive whole school program based on House Points has recently been implemented after a review of student behaviour was completed.

- **Student support offered:**

Continuous improvement at our school is supported by members of the Leadership Team and in addition a Student Wellbeing committee was established.

- The effectiveness of processes and school systems are undertaken by the self review processes using multiple measures of data. The Site Learning/Improvement Plan continually reflects the recommendations, targeted areas for improvement and future directions. The Site Improvement Plan is a continually changing and working process.
- Student programs have been established for all "Students at Risk" in English, Mathematics and social skills.
- SSOs are assigned to each Learning Team to support student learning. Special programs are in place to provide intensive support for students in the areas of English, Mathematics and social skills.

- Negotiated Education Plans for identified students are reviewed regularly.
 - The Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO) and Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET) work collaboratively to support Aboriginal students, parents and families. Programs focussing on English, Mathematics, attendance and participation are part of the work. IEPs are reviewed.
 - More specialised support is available from the Pirie Partnership through a referral process.
- **Student management:**
 - Student Wellbeing, positive staff/student relationships and increasing the levels of student engagement for learning is a school wide focus. Emphasis is on a positive and supportive learning environment. Records of all Behaviour incidents are kept to provide details about behavioural patterns and in order to fully inform parents and care providers. Updated information is shared with Governing Council each term.
 - The School's Behaviour Guidelines and Complaint Resolution Process are reviewed annually. The Anti-Bullying Policy (Well Being Procedures) has been implemented as part of the Safe Schools Framework. At the beginning of each year all classes review the school's qualities and vision statement
- **Student government**
 - Student Leaders are selected through a panel process. The Year 5, 6 and 7 students in Term 4 of the previous year elect House Captains and Vice Captains.
 - The Leaders work together with Leadership to promote the school priorities and are invited to attend all Governing Council meetings.
 - The student leaders report fortnightly to the school community through the school's newsletter.
 - School Assemblies are held fortnightly.
 - Years 2-7 SRC meetings are held twice per term and facilitated by Leadership. Student voice is a valued component of the consultation process.
 - Other forms of student leadership include monitors in the Canteen, Breakfast Club, Lunchtime activities and Library.
- **Special programmes:**
 - Using funding allocated in this year's Resource Entitlement the following student support programs have been put in place.
 - Additional classroom support for students with disabilities and learning difference
 - Rainbow Reading; A modified version of Reading Freedom for Year 1 and 2 students
 - Intensive Phonological Awareness support for identified students in Rec-Year 2.
 - A Reading Fluency program has recently been implemented to improve Reading R-7

3. Key School Policies

- The school has a focused emphasis on developing a Purposeful Learning Community with emphasis on learning for all and improving student engagement in learning.
 - Whole staff professional development has resulted in agreed common whole school approaches with effective pedagogies across the school.
 - There is a bias to the collection, analysis and action of data to inform continuous improvement.
- **Site Improvement Plan:**
 - A copy of the Site Improvement Plan is available on the school's website
 - ❖ **Promoting a culture of continuous improvement**
 - Students , staff and families working together;
 - To develop students resilience, persistence and responsibility to engage in quality learning programs
 - Increase attendance to 95% by the end of 2018

❖ **Achievement in English**

Whole school approaches to:

- Word knowledge
- Running Records
- Phonological Awareness
- Guided Reading
- Functional Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Text types
- Comprehension

❖ **Achievement in Mathematics.**

- Whole site Numeracy Action Plan being developed
- Targeted professional development and consistency with the teaching and learning of Numeracy across the site – Big Ideas in Number

An Aboriginal Improvement Plan and the Student Action Plan all connect with the Site Improvement Plan, Partnership Plans and DECD strategic directions.

● **Recent key outcomes:**

NAPLAN data has generally fluctuated over time in all year levels - nevertheless there are sustained improvement trends in Year 3 and 7 Numeracy. The Australian Government Parent Opinion Survey was very positive and supportive of the work that staff do. Areas of strength included how teachers cater for needs of individuals and how teachers communicate with parents.

4. Curriculum

● **Subject offerings:**

Teaching staff are implementing the Australian Curriculum in the learning areas. Specialist teaching is provided in the areas of Science, Arts and Physical Education (R-7). The school has excellent resources to support curriculum learning.

● **Open Access/Distance Education provision:**

The school is trialling a Chinese LOTE program in two Year 3/4 classes. This program is delivered by teachers in Beijing using interactive technology.

● **Special curriculum features:**

Currently we have 36 Aboriginal students and in 2017, 4 Aboriginal Leaders were inducted. The AET and the ACEO work collaboratively to ensure the academic and social needs of students are being met. Participation in cultural events, Reconciliation, NAIDOC is supported by the school. The ACEO works 35 hrs per week supporting and engaging with our Aboriginal students and families. An "AFL" (Aboriginal Fun-time Lunchtime) activity based program is available to all Aboriginal students once per week.

● **Teaching methodology:**

Newly appointed DP has a core role of pedagogical leadership. A Coordinator is appointed to support "Curriculum Implementation and Effective Pedagogies". A commitment by staff to the support of whole school approaches is supporting the school's vision and moral purpose, "Focus on Learning."

● **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

- Parent/Teacher Interviews occur in the last few weeks of Term 1.
- A comprehensive report goes home at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. Informal parent/teacher interviews are held as the need arises.

5. Sporting Activities

SAPSASA representation and involvement is very strong. The District SAPSASA Convenor is based at the school and the SAPSASA Finances are managed by the school's administration. Local sporting bodies provide a good range of clinics for students during the year. Netball, Soccer, Football, Basketball, Cricket, Softball, Tennis and Hockey are club based within the Port Pirie area.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Years 5, 6 and 7 students can participate in the Northern Schools Choir programme. Instrumental Music lessons are available in Woodwind and Brass. They are provided by DECD visiting music teachers.
- The school has its annual Sports Day in Term 3. The End of Year Celebration in the Park is a well attended and a popular school function.
- Years 6 & 7 students assist in the preparation and distribution of food to students participating in the once a week, before school "Breakfast in a Bag" Program.
- Year 6/7 students also volunteer in the canteen.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

• Staff profile:

Since 2009, there has been a significantly higher number of teaching staff in permanent positions at the school. However due to the number of younger staff there has also seen an increase in the percentage of positions needing to be backfilled due to staff taking Maternity Leave. This has resulted in an increased number of contract teachers since 2013.

Leadership structure:

The Leadership Team consists of the Principal, Deputy and two Co-ordinators.

• Staff support systems:

Teaching staff participate in professional development and operational matters in Year level based teams.

• Performance Management:

Teaching is overseen by Leadership. Staff performance plans are based on the School's Improvement Priorities and Partnership Improvement Plan. Professional learning opportunities are focused on the School's Improvement Priorities as well as areas for development that have been identified by individual staff.

• Staff utilisation policies:

Classroom based SSO staff have a commitment to one or two classes and work as a team with teachers to provide support for individual students, groups of students and programs such as Reading Fluency.

• Access to special staff:

Students have access to Instrumental Music Staff.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Complexity placement points:**
Port Pirie West attracts 2.0 complexity points.
- **Isolation placement points:**
Port Pirie West attracts 3.5 isolation points.
- **Housing assistance:**
Yes, for eligible teachers.
- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance:**
Yes, for eligible teachers.
- **Additional increment allowance:**
Yes, for eligible teachers.
- **Medical and dental treatment expenses:**
Yes, the Non Metropolitan Award for government employees is available.
- **Locality allowances:**
Yes
- **Relocation assistance:**
Yes, as described in the Administrative Instructions and Guidelines.
- **Principal's telephone costs:**
Yes, as described in the Administrative Instructions and Guidelines.

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds:**
 - Many buildings are old but have attractively presented exteriors, including the original 1876 stone building. There is also a better brick unit. As part of the Building the Education Revolution, a new four class unit has been built for the Year 6/7 classes.
 - The school oval is currently being upgraded as part of the new sporting complex being developed by the Port Pirie Regional Council.
 - PPWPS is a designated STEM school and major facilities work will begin shortly to support the implementation of STEM teaching practices.
- **Heating and cooling:**
Yes – evaporative, some split systems and reverse cycle.
- **Specialist facilities and equipment:**
The Port Pirie West Children's Centre on site, together with the Port Pirie Child Care will significantly benefit children from Birth to 8 years of age and support for their families.
- **Student facilities:**
 - Canteen on site.
 - A range of play equipment in the Middle and Back yard areas (the major play areas) is available for student use. Wheelie bins are placed around the yard for rubbish disposal and recycling. An enclosed and locked shed provides security for students' bikes and scooters during the day. A hard play area has been upgraded and fenced for security and safety. A hall is available for assemblies and indoor activities.
 - A Dental Clinic is onsite.
- **Staff facilities:**
The staff room is located in the main Admin building. There are identified staff prep areas located around the school.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities:**
Some fixed ramps exist. A toilet block has been upgraded to cater for staff and students with disabilities.
- **Access to bus transport:**
DECD buses can be hired, through the local high school. There are bus hire companies within the city and surrounds.

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures:**
Various committees, school based and Governing Council based, oversee a range of school operations. These include the Governing Council committees (Canteen, Facilities, Finance Advisory Committee, Fundraising, ICT, Education & Dress Code), School Magazine, Sports Day, End of Year Celebration, WHS, Student Wellbeing and PAC. Two Governing Council meetings are held per term with the AGM being held in February.
- **Regular publications:**
There is a fortnightly Newsletter, which includes Community News. A Communication Board provides news updates daily and a Staff Bulletin is published/emailed weekly. Staff members are encouraged to use email in an effort to reduce the amount of time spent on Administration matters prior to staff meeting. An Information Booklet is available for parents/caregivers of students new to the school. A School Magazine is published annually. The school's Annual Report is available from the web site and copies can be collected from the front office. The Skoolbag app is also available for families.
- **School financial position:**
The school is in a stable financial position.
- **Special funding:**
Finances are supplemented through State and Federal Governments Funding of Grants from the Better Schools funding, Early Assistance and Early Years Program and the Rural & Isolated Index monies.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics:**
 - The Pirie West area has undergone many changes – some old homes have been demolished and many others renovated to reduce possible lead pollution and blood lead levels in children. School Card is high with many families experiencing hardship even though they may be employed.
 - The school works in conjunction with Nyrstar and the Environmental Health Centre on the 'TLAP' (Targeted Lead Abatement Program) which aims to lower young children's blood lead levels.
- **Parent and community involvement:**
 - Port Pirie West has had a history of community and parent involvement. Parents/Caregivers and community members are involved in a range of Governing Council subcommittees and volunteer in the Canteen.
- **Feeder or destination schools:**
There are three other Government Primary Schools (Airdale, Solomontown and Risdon Park) and one Secondary School (John Pirie), four Pre schools including the onsite Port Pirie West Children's Centre located in Port Pirie.

- **Other local care and educational facilities:**
 - Two private Primary/Secondary Schools (St Mark's College and Mid North Christian College) along with two childcare centres also operate in Port Pirie. Mid North Education Centre (formerly Port Pirie Special School) is also located nearby. Out of School Hours Care is available at the Airdale Primary School site. The TAFE campus is also within walking distance.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:**
 - Port Pirie is a major regional centre. There is a range of general and specialist shopping facilities, as well as commercial and light industrial businesses.
- **Other local facilities:**
 - The school is situated within walking distance of the adjacent Community Park, the main Sporting Oval, local swimming pool, Northern Festival Theatre Complex, beach and wharf area, main shopping and business/service facilities. Sporting, cultural, social and recreational facilities are numerous and many are close by. There is a regional medical facility with a range of specialist services available. The Tourism and Arts Centre, the Community Library, and Museum are located in the CBD.
- **Availability of staff housing:**

Government Employee Housing is available. Private housing/flats/units are available for rent or purchase.
- **Accessibility:**

Adelaide can be accessed from Port Pirie via National Highway 1. There are several daily bus passenger services between Adelaide and Port Pirie.
- **Local Government body:**

Port Pirie Regional Council, 115 Ellen Street, PO Box 45, Port Pirie, 5540, Phone (08) 8633 9777, Fax (08) 8632 5801. Information brochures are available from the Council Office and the Tourism and Arts Centre.

12. Further Comments

The school celebrated its 125th birthday on the 16th and 17th August 2002. Being the oldest school in Port Pirie it has made a significant contribution to the history of education in the area.