



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 23/06/2022

**School number:** 0406

**School name:** Solomontown Primary School

## School Profile:

Solomontown Primary School is committed to developing a community of powerful engaged learners. The culture of the school is guided by the Pirie Qualities of Respect, Responsibility, Confidence and Persistence.

The school is proud of its rich history and reputation for taking responsibility for the education of families living in the Solomonotwn and surrounding areas.

The school is focussed on improving student learning and achievement by delivering high quality effective teaching where students display the dispositions of Visible Learners.

The school actively promotes the value of lifelong learning and is committed to providing a high quality, successful public school experience through the primary years in partnership with other schools and preschools.

## 1. General information

- School Principal name: Rob Jeffries
- Deputy Principal's name: Katina Athanasos
- Year of opening:1897
- Postal Address:79 Three Chain Road, Port Pirie SA 5540
- Partnership: Pirie Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 230 kms
- Telephone number: 08 86322191
- Fax Number: 0886325090
- School website address: [solomontownps.sa.edu.au](http://solomontownps.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [info.0460@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:info.0460@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No

- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE student enrolment: 151

|                    | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2018</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>School Card</b> | 77%         | 74%         | 83%         | 71%         | 76%         |
| <b>ATSI</b>        | 34          | 38          | 36          | 46          | 31          |
| <b>SWD</b>         | 31          | 33          | 32          | 44          | 47          |

- Student enrolment trends: Currently 151 students enrolled. The school follows the Pirie Partnerships enrolment guidelines developed in Term 3 2004 with identified school catchment areas: local school.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

*Principal 1.0 Deputy Principal 1.0 Student Wellbeing Leader 1.0 Early Years Leader 1.0 AET 0.4*

*7 Mainstream classes 2 Special Education classes R-2 and Years 3-6*

*ACEO 24.5 hours per week*

*SSO's - 14 in a variety of roles including: Admin, Finance, Student and Classroom support, Intervention programs, Resource Centre, Challenging Behaviour funding, Mentoring program, APAS*

*Grounds person 15 hours per week*

*Christian Pastoral Worker 10 hours per week*

- Public transport access: Local bus service provides buses which are designated for school students.
- Special site arrangements:

Department for Education buses transport children to and from school if they live outside of Port Pirie.

Some children in the Special Options classes are transported to and from school via taxis through Department for Education transport. This arrangement must be included in the child's NDIS plan

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**
  - Solomontown Primary is a Category 2 school on the Index of Educational Disadvantage. Students live with parents and carers and a number are cared for by grandparents and other family members.
- **Student well-being programs**
  - The Student Wellbeing Leader has targeted programs that cater to the individual needs of students with social and emotional needs.
  - The Pirie Qualities, **Respect, Responsibility, Confidence and Persistence**, developed in collaboration with children, young people, staff and Governing Councils across all schools and preschools in Port Pirie are the basis for many initiatives in the school. Students receive awards presented at regular assemblies for demonstrating the qualities.
  - A range of systems and routines are in place to ensure that students are well prepared for learning; Breakfast Club, emergency lunches, provision of uniform items.
  - Play spaces are made available at all breaks and leadership has an active presence during play breaks to ensure that student engagement and high expectations of behaviour are met.
- **Student support offered**
  - An ACEO provides support to Aboriginal students and their families, particularly in strengthening the link between home and school.
  - A Pastoral Support Worker is available to the school community. This position is managed by the School Ministries Group. The worker makes themselves available on a needs basis and is available to students with carer permission.
  - Department for Education Support Services work closely with the school in the following areas: Students with Disability, Behaviour, Attendance, Speech and Psychology.
  - Non Department for Education Service Providers attend the school to provide 1:1 sessions with students through NDIS funding
  - Child and youth agencies including CAMHS and Yourtown work with students, families and school to support individual students.

- **Student Management**
  - Student Wellbeing Leader operates from a Proactive/Restorative Model supporting classroom teachers to provide a proactive approach to student wellbeing. The school actively approaches student wellbeing by offering preventative measures to cater to the needs of all students.
  - At the beginning of each year classes develop expectations of behaviour and learning. Students receive a consistent message and are encouraged to make decisions which lead to problem solving, self regulation and responsibility for their actions.
  - Parents/Carers/Guardians and interagency teams are involved in developing Student Behaviour Support Plans when necessary
- **Student Government**
  - Student Leaders are selected through a merit selection process. Student Leaders share important school responsibilities and represent the school at official functions.
  - House Captains and Vice Captains are elected by peers in Term 1
  - Student Action Team meetings are held regularly with representatives from each class
  - Student Leaders are responsible for the running of all assemblies.
- **Special Programmes**
  - Read, Write Inc and the Lit and Lang program is in place for all students Reception Year 6
  - Fresh Start intervention program for identified students in years 4-6
  - Heggerty Phonics and the Bridge the Gap intervention program is used R to Year 6.
  - Transition opportunities are also available for year 6 students at John Pirie Secondary School throughout Term 4 with extended transition for students with disabilities

### 3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:**
  - The school has a Site Improvement Plan with the priorities being:  
*To strengthen numeracy achievement of children and young people.*  
*To embed high impact teaching practice that increase learner engagement, attendance and achievement.*

A copy of the Site Improvement Plan is available on the school's website

## 4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**
  - The school delivers the Australian Curriculum in all Learning Areas except LOTE. Specialist teaching is provided in HASS and Physical Education/Health.
  - Year 4,5,6 students are able to participate in Instrumental Music Programs and Combined Schools Choir.
  - SAPSASA sports are offered as part of Pirie SAPSASA sports program.
- **Open Access/Distance Education provision: Nil**
- **Special needs:**
  - The school hosts 2 Special Options classes for the Pirie Portfolio. An Early Years class with a maximum of 8 students and a Year 3-6 class with a maximum of 12 students. Both classes have full time SSOs and actively engage in alternative curriculum areas including swimming and visiting the Mid North Education Centre.
  - STAR (Students At Risk) committee meets regularly. This committee is comprised of Student Wellbeing Leader, Deputy Principal, Support Services and site staff with the purpose being to determine if all onsite support has been utilised before referral to support services. Class teachers give an in depth profile of a student with an open discussion followed by where to next.
- **Teaching pedagogy:**
  - The pedagogy used by teachers is guided by the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL)
  - Staff use the principles of the Visible Learning + Collaborative Learning Program
  - Goal setting using the Literacy and Numeracy progressions is visible in classes and student passports drive student accountability and progression.
- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**
  - Teachers use a range of assessment strategies including formative and summative assessment.
  - 3 way interviews occur at the end of term 1. Summative assessment on student achievement in all Learning Areas using word equivalent of grades A-E is formally reported at the end of terms 2 and 4
  - Informal meetings are held as the need arises including ILP, IEP and NEP with the whole site using One Plans as a consistent tool

## 5. Sporting Activities:

- School teams are entered in to the Port Pirie SAPSASA carnivals in cricket, tennis, softball, football, netball, soccer, rugby.

- One focus of the specialist teaching program in PE is to connect children with local sporting opportunities in the town as well as connecting with sporting bodies to provide clinics on site
- School sports day is held at the end of Term 3

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities:

- The school has a choir comprising of students from year 4-6 which combines with students from other primary schools to perform at a local combined Schools Choir performance at the Northern Festival Centre.
- Whole school events happen throughout the year including the Family Fun Night, Harmony Day, Reconciliation Week, Bully. No Way! Day and Book Week
- Class camps and Excursions – year 6's participate in Aquatics every year, other year levels have excursions. All students participate in Term swimming at the Port Pirie Aquatic Centre.
- Year 6 Graduation Ceremonies are held at the end of each year.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

### • Staff profile

- There is a significant number of staff in contract positions due to staff taking maternity leave and unpaid leave. In 2022 we have 3 teachers in their first 2 years of teaching.
- Workplace Health and Safety is monitored very closely in the school and the WHS committee meets on at least 2 occasions each term. There are 2 WHS representatives in the school who attend to minimising risk of student and staff injury and maintaining aging grounds and facilities to a safe level.

### • Leadership structure

- Principal, Deputy Principal, Early Years Leader and Student Wellbeing Leader

- **Staff support systems**
  - Most SSO staff members have been in the school for more than 10 years.
  - The majority of the leadership and teaching staff are new to the site.
  - The staff has worked on building Collaborative Teams and work and learn in Learning Teams at least 3 times a term.
- **Performance Management**
  - All leaders hold the Line Management responsibility at Solomontown PS.
  - Performance Management is conducted in line with Department for Education policy and procedures including: formal PDP meetings three times a year, informal meetings, formal and informal observations.
  - Professional learning opportunities are focussed on the SIP and staff's PDP's

#### **Access to special staff**

- Students from years 5-6 are invited to join an instrumental music program which is delivered in the school for one session per week.

## **8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

- Complexity placement points  
:yes
- Isolation placement points  
:no
- Shorter terms  
:no
- Travelling time  
:no
- Housing assistance  
:yes
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance  
:no
- Additional increment allowance  
:no
- Designated schools benefits  
:no
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools  
:no
- Medical and dental treatment expenses  
:no

- Locality allowances  
:yes
- Relocation assistance  
:yes
- Principal's telephone costs  
:yes

## 9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**
  - The school has 4 separate buildings. The "1919" has the Early Years classes, Technology and computer suite. Years 3/4, 5-6 Special Options and HPE class are located on the "deck": Years 4/5 and 5/6 classes are in the "SAMCON" with double classrooms and a shared open space. A large hall was built attached to the Administration building as part of the Building the Education Revolution.
  - The Governing Council, school staff and grounds person monitor and maintain the condition of the buildings and grounds in the school.
- **Heating and cooling**
  - All teaching and learning areas have split system heating and cooling - the office and resource centre operate on a reverse cycle fully integrated system. The school hall has evaporative cooling and gas heating.
- **Student facilities**
  - The school does not operate a canteen but a service for children is offered once per week where a limited number of items are available for sale at recess time. Parent volunteers offer a lunch special for children on one day each fortnight
- **Staff facilities**
  - The staff room is maintained as a confidential space for staff only. The staffroom contains cooking and reheating facilities and a Staff Matters group meets regularly and plans for staff welfare requirements, provisions in the staffroom including a vending machine for food and drinks and the organisation of staff functions.
  - All teachers are provided with an iPad and a surface pro or laptop along with annual TfEL Teachers Companion for planning
- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
  - The school is fully accessible for staff, students and parents with a disability. Ramps, automatic doors and disabled toilet facilities are available and accessible in the school for both children and adults. A parking space specifically designated and allocated for vehicles displaying



a disabled parking sign is available in the staff car park close to the front entrance to the school.

## 10. School Operations

### Decision making structures

- The Governing Council is a group of dedicated parents, this year every position on the Governing Council was filled. A Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary are elected at each Annual General Meeting currently held in March of each year

### Regular publications

- The school publishes a newsletter, the Solly Serial on the Friday of odd weeks across the term. The publication is also available electronically and is emailed to all sites in the Pirie Partnership.
- The school has a Facebook page and also uses Flexibuzz for home school communication.

### School financial position

- The school is extremely well resourced and learning programs and interventions are well funded. The school employs SSOs to support student learning and each class receives SSO time allocation based on allocated funding. Class numbers are kept lower than formula to provide personalised learning and small group intervention. The school receives significant funding through Tier 2 entitlements for Low SES schools and Better Schools Funding for a category 2 site

### Special funding

- Discretionary funding for specific student interventions can be available via application from Support Services specifically in Special Education and Behaviour

## 11. Local Community

### • General characteristics

- Solomontown Primary School is situated in the Eastern most suburb of the Regional City of Port Pirie. There are a significant number of older style homes which are being renovated by both young families and retired couples. Many houses in the school's catchment are rented by families experiencing economic disadvantage. Port Pirie is an industrial/human services city with a reputation based on its major industry – Nyrstar - lead and zinc smelters. The smelter has undergone significant redevelopment which has brought additional employment into the town albeit on a short term. Port Pirie has a wide range of services and community facilities and has been seen by the great majority of teachers who have chosen to live in the town as a country community which is appropriate to live and raise a family.

- **Parent and community involvement**
  - The school holds an assembly once a fortnight and parents/carers are individually contacted and invited to attend when their child is receiving an award. There are usually 40 to 50 community members at each assembly
  
- **Feeder or destination schools**
  - Solomontown is the school identified as the feeder school for the Solomontown Kindergarten which is located across the overpass on Three Chain Road. Children living outside of Port Pirie who are transported to school by Department for Education School Bus also are enrolled in the school
  
- **Other local care and educational facilities**
  - Port Pirie has a Children’s Centre, commercial childcare and a Learning Together program for parents and children aged Birth -4 years. Playgroup and Preschool programs are available in the 4 Kindergartens in the town. John Pirie Secondary School is the only public high school servicing Port Pirie and surrounds
  
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  - A wide variety of shopping facilities are available in the town including major supermarkets. The CBD and central shopping precincts offer a wide variety of shopping experiences, banking and both government and non-government services
  
- **Other local facilities**
  - Port Pirie and surrounding areas enjoy extensive sporting and recreational activities held in high quality venues. Medical Dental and Allied Health Services are available and Port Pirie has a large regional hospital
  
- **Availability of staff housing**
  - Government Employee Housing, private rental and houses for purchase are all available in Port Pirie.
  
- **Accessibility**
  - Travel to Port Pirie from Adelaide is by car or coach via Highway 1 – Augusta Highway. This route is very busy with overtaking lanes located along the highway at 5 km intervals. The journey to Adelaide can be completed in just over 2 hours to Gepps Cross.
  
- **Local Government body**
  - Port Pirie Regional Council