

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 is focussed on improving student learning and achievement by delivering high quality effective teaching. 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: Kelly Heading
- Deputy Principal's name: Pep Arbon
- Year of opening: 1897
- Postal Address: 79 Three Chain Road, Solomontown, SA, 5540
- Location Address: 79 Three Chain Road, Solomontown, SA, 5540
- DECD Region: Pirie Partnership
- Geographical location: road distance from GPO (km): 230
- Telephone number: (08) 8632 2191
- Fax Number: 08 86325090
- School website address: solomontownps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: info.0460@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: NO

- **February FTE student enrolment:**

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
TOTAL Enrolments	177	162	146	155	143

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
School card	81%	79%	77%	74%	83%
EALD	7%	3%	-	-	-
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	27%	19%	17%	24%	25%

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Currently, there are 177 students enrolled. The school follows the Pirie Partnerships' enrolment guidelines. 90% of Reception students enrol from Solomontown Kindergarten.

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

- 8 mainstream classes: 8 FTE teachers
- 2 special education classes, R-2 and 3-6: 3 FTE teachers and 3 FTE SSOs
- 3 NIT teachers at 2.0FTE
- 3 FTE leaders: Principal, Deputy, Wellbeing leader
- 1 AET (0.4 FTE) and 1 AIT (0.2 FTE)
- 12 SSOs provide learning support, including Library, classroom support, ICT and learning intervention
- 3 Front Office permanent SSOs: Finance/ Admin/ Front Office
- 1 ACEO (26 hours)
- 1 GSE (25 hours)
- Pastoral support worker (10 hours)

- **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 works with identified groups of students that cater to the individual needs of students with social and emotional needs, including use of programs such as the Brave Program and Zones of Regulation.
- 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 these 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:**

- The Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO) and Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET) work collaboratively to support Aboriginal students and families, particularly in strengthening the link between home and school and developing learning goals.
- 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.
- One Plans are developed for identified students and are reviewed regularly.
- Department for Education Support Services work closely with the school through a referral process 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 proactive 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.
 - The DfE's Behaviour Guidelines, Complaint Resolution Processes, Mobile Phone Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy are followed.
 - The whole school is committed to the use of Zones or Regulation.

- **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:**
 - Additional classroom support for students with disabilities and learning differences.
 - Weekly literacy and numeracy support.
 - Read, Write Inc program is in place for all students Reception to Year 6
 - Essential Assessment is used for tracking Numeracy growth.
 - Gr8r.me leadership program for 8 nominated and elected Year 5/6 students to participate across the Pirie Portfolio.
 - Transition opportunities are also available for year 6 students at John Pirie Secondary School throughout Term 4 with extended transition for students with disabilities or an additional identified need.

3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:**

Goal 1: Increase reading achievement

- Decodable readers used for students as required
- DIBELS used for assessing and monitoring students
- Regular data review and goal setting
- Systematic phonics program

Goal 2: Increase emotional regulation and wellbeing

- provide daily opportunities for Zones of Reg check ins
- develop ZoR into ready to learn plans/ sensory profiles
- incorporate interoception activities
- participate in Berry St, developing trauma informed teaching practises

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**

Teaching staff implement the Australian Curriculum in all learning areas. Specialist teaching is provided in the areas of Science, Arts and Physical Education.

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

N/A

- **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.

- **Special curriculum features:**

SAPSASA sports are offered as part of Pirie SAPSASA sports program.

- **Teaching methodology:**

The leadership team have a core role of supporting students with complex needs, via the use of IESP submissions, ongoing discussions with DfE staff and targeted programs. They lead with a research-based and data driven focus.

Specialised speech clinics occur weekly from DfE Student Support Services.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

Family/Teacher Interviews occur at the end of Term 1 and are focussed on current goals and data. A comprehensive report is sent home at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. Informal parent/teacher interviews are held as the need arises.

- **Joint programmes:**

5. Sporting Activities

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

- 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 was an increase in filled permanent positions at the end of 2023, with most positions filled by early career teachers. There are 4 staff in their first two years of teaching. We welcome graduates and provide a nurturing and supportive environment to develop their craft.

• Leadership structure

Principal, Deputy and Wellbeing leader

• Staff support systems

- Most SSO staff members have been in the school for more than 10 years.
- Weekly staff meetings occur with the opportunity for professional learning. The focus of professional learning is to develop staff expertise in implementing actions of the site improvement priorities. Emphasis is placed on whole staff professional learning.

• 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

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Housing assistance**
Government Housing is available in Port Pirie.
- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**
Payment for kilometres travelled to site.
- **Aboriginal/Anangu schools**
No
- **Medical and dental treatment expenses**
No
- **Locality allowances**
Yes
- **Relocation assistance**
Yes, as described in the Relocation Instructions.

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 and 5-6 Special Options class are located on the “deck”: Years 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.
 - A new playground is being developed and planned for installation by the end of 2024.
- **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.
- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

There is a new yarning circle out the back of the school for all classes to access, with fires permitted for important days of recognition.

- **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. 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 or laptop.
- Staff prep areas exist in all buildings.

- **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.

- **Access to bus transport**

Public transport is available for students throughout Port Pirie. Students who live out of town have access to a department school bus.

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.
- Two Governing Council meetings are held per term.
- Weekly staff meetings run Tuesdays from 2:15pm – 4:30pm.
- PAC meet twice per term or as needed.
- The Department sends out parent surveys during the school year to seek feedback from parents on identified issues. Students are surveyed biannually.

- **Regular publications**

- The school publishes a newsletter on the Friday every 3 weeks across the term. The publication is also available electronically and is emailed to all sites in the Pirie Partnership.
- The school has an active Facebook page.
- Teachers use SeeSaw for home school communication.

- Staff are kept informed of daily events through a weekly newsletter, Microsoft Teams and emails.
- A staff induction package for new staff and TRT's informs of the school processes, routines, and expectations.

- **School financial position**

The school is in a stable financial situation.

- **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 every 3 weeks 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.

The morning breakfast program is maintained by strong parent volunteers.

- **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.

John Pirie Secondary School is the sole government secondary 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.

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.

Port Pirie has a large TAFE campus.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Port Pirie is a large regional centre. 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 and many commercial businesses.

- **Other local facilities**

Port Pirie and surrounding areas enjoy extensive sporting and recreational activities held in high quality venues.

The Port Pirie Sports Precinct is a vibrant sporting hub in the centre of Port Pirie comprising two modern buildings with facilities of a high level attracting weekly sporting events.

The Aquatic Centre is a modern facility for the community comprising; gymnastics, squash courts, canteen/cafe and change rooms. Indoor learn to swim pool, lagoon pool and water play equipment.

The Tourism and Arts Centre, the Community Library and Museum are in the CBD. Medical Dental and Allied Health Services are available, and Port Pirie has a large regional hospital with access to visiting specialists. SA Ambulance Service, Metropolitan Fire Service, and the Regional Police Station service the area.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Government Employee Housing is available. Private housing/flats/units are available for rent or purchase but are limited.

- **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.

- **Local Government body**

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