SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2015

Updated: 11/05/2015

School number: 0144
School name: Georgetown Primary School

1. General information

- School Principal name: Kathy Arthur
- Year of opening: 1877
- Postal Address: P.O. Box 51, Georgetown SA 5472
- Location Address: 41 School Rd, Georgetown SA 5472
- DECD Region: Upper Mid North Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 193 kms
- Telephone number: 08 86624013
- Fax Number: 08 86624002
- School website address: www.gtownps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0144_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Playgroup: YES

February FTE student enrolment:

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<th>Year</th>
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- Male FTE: 13
- Female FTE: 14
- NESB Total Persons: 0
- Born O/S & in Aus less than 1 yr: 0
- Aboriginal FTE Enrolment: 2
- NEP Students: 4

- Student enrolment trends:
  In the past few years, enrolments have fallen due to the large numbers of students in years 6 and 7 moving to high school and decreasing numbers of reception students.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):
Current FTE of 3.0 teachers (includes Principal) - 2 full time teaching staff and two part time teachers. 
3 part time SSO's - we purchase extra SSO hours to support specific classroom programs and support for students with verified disabilities. 
Contracted grounds hours = 7 hrs. per week

- Public transport access:
None. School buses pick up students from surrounding areas.
- Special site arrangements:
Part of Rocky River cluster as well as Upper Mid North Partnership.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
24% of students received school card last year. Nearly half of our students travel to school by bus from nearby towns of Yacka & Gulnare & surrounding farms.
- Student well-being programs
Breakfast program is run every Tuesday and Thursday morning free of charge.
Pastoral Care programs: The school has a pastoral care worker who is employed for eleven and a half hours a week. Remuneration is from local churches and the Schools Ministry Group.
- Student support offered
QuickSmart mathematics program, Maths 300, Jolly Phonics and the WRAP program. Referral procedures. All students identified as needing extra support in Literacy and Numeracy work regularly with an SSO on explicit skills.
- Student management
Our Behaviour code is based on our School Values – Respect, Caring, Collaboration, Personal Excellence & Responsibility. Positive behaviour is encouraged & rewarded. Homework is set to complete unfinished class work and for students who wish to extend themselves. Students are expected to read and practise maths tables regularly at home. A step system is used by students and staff to deal with behaviour issues, followed if necessary, by yard, bus or classroom behaviour slips which are entered on EDSAS & then sent home for parent signature. In extreme cases, take-homes and suspensions are used. Teaching values programs are being developed across the school with explicit formal lessons being our first entry point.
- Student government
Two school captains and a vice captain were elected by the students at the end of the previous year. At the beninning of the year and the start of the second semester 2 reps are elected from the 4-7 class and 2 reps from the R-3 class to make up our student leadership group. This year all year 7’s are part of the school’s senior leadership group. Class & SRC meetings are held fortnightly. They discuss student issues and plan special events. The SRC presents a report at the end of the year at the school concert & throughout the year at Governing Council meetings via the Principal.
Special programmes

Opportunities are provided for the Year 6&7's to develop leadership skills through Young Leaders conferences in our district and in Adelaide.

Our year 7's travel to Canberra for a week long camp with year 7's from surrounding small schools. It is an excellent educational opportunity to experience their Nation's Capital and is a regular event for our year 7's.

Outdoor garden area is being redeveloped with all students involved.

Our End-of-Year Concert is a major community event. Classes present prepared items and the year 7's are farewelled and awards presented.

Whole School Camp is a bi-annual event (held in odd years) and held early in the school year with a social development focus.

Whole school swimming is accessed at the Gladstone Pool early in term 1.

Rocky River Sports Day is an annual event. A full day program of sporting events is organised with the surrounding small schools, Gladstone, Laura, Wirabarra & St. Joseph's competing.

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Our Vision
Learning at Georgetown Primary School is centred on mutual respect, resiliency and excellence. Through positive relationships and engagement, the school community becomes resourceful, independent, creative tolerant and successful.

Students learn
Students show Independence in learning
Students have Responsibility for their own learning
Students become Inquisitive learners
Students become Inquiry-minded learners

Our Site Improvement Plan Priorities 2015-2017
Student Learning Achievement in Numeracy and Literacy
Parent and Community Engagement
Capacity Building of all Staff. Whole School Direction.
At least 93% attendance target and no unexplained absences.

Our Core Values

The Georgetown School community culture is firmly embedded in our school values. This set of values was decided upon by the whole school community in 2003 and are still the most relevant and significant operational principles of our school.

Respect - means accepting other people for who they are and for the ideas and opinions that they hold, even though they may be different to our own. Respect also means caring and looking after property and equipment.

Responsibility - means owning our own actions and accepting the consequences that they bring.

Personal Excellence - means being the best that we can be and celebrating all our successes and achievements
Caring - means looking after ourselves and others and being considerate of other people’s feelings
Collaboration - means working together and supporting one another in the spirit of friendship and teamwork

4. **Curriculum**

- **Special needs:**
  - SSO's are employed to run reading and speech programs every day targeting at-risk students. SSO support in classes enables us to target at-risk students and make the curriculum more accessible for those who don't qualify for funding under the Students with Disabilities policy.

- **Special curriculum features:**
  - PE, Health, Visual Arts and ICT lessons are provided through NIT

- **Teaching methodology:**
  - Staff have a strong focus on Literacy. The upper primary class is using the WrAP program to embed the rules of literacy while the Junior Primary class has Jolly Phonics as its main Literacy program. Both of these programs are taught daily and well resourced.
  - Staff use the "Learning Plan" methodology which uses a constructivist teaching model. Students are responsible for some of their own learning by making choices in topics, research and in presenting their learning.
  - Technology is an integral part of the curriculum with an iPad for every child. Each classroom has networked computers, laptops & an Interactive Whiteboard. Teachers are encouraged to design work around various interactive software programs and outside information sources such as the internet.
  - Health & fitness are important to our students and are encouraged at all times.

We encourage students to snack during the morning learning session and students have a water bottle on their desks to be accessed anytime.

Our school day is:-
9:00 – 11:20 Learning Session 1
(Healthy snack approximately 10:00 while students are working & fitness session)
11:20 – 11:30 Supervised eating time
11:30 – 12:00 Lunch
12:00 – 1:35 Learning Session 2
1:35 – 2:05 Afternoon Recess
2:05 - 3:20 Learning Session 3
3:20 - 3:35 Dismissal and Bus duty

Student assessment procedures and reporting

**Term 1**
Acquaintance Night.
Parent/Student/Teacher interviews week10.
Portfolios compiled.
PATr and PATm testing

**Term 2**
Written mid-year report.
NAPLAN-Yr 3,5,7
Term 3
Optional Interviews
PAT testing

Term 4
End of Year written report.

- Georgetown PS has a private and secure Facebook page
- Text messages are sent to the families as reminders of upcoming events.
- A fortnightly newsletter goes home to all families and the community. It is our major form of reporting to families and communities about our school happenings. Student Link Book or Diary is also used as a daily communication between home and school.
- Joint programmes:
  Georgetown Primary School is part of the Rocky River Cluster, which comprises of 4 neighbouring schools, Wirrabara, Laura, Gladstone and St Joseph's. The schools work together to provide student activities, resources and staff support through hub groups and combined training and development. Combined Arts performances are also arranged for the Rocky River Schools. A Rocky River Sports Day is held annually. Responsibility for hosting sports day is on a rotational basis.

5. Sporting Activities

Students are involved in the Rocky River Sports Day. SAPSASA is also supported strongly with students often gaining selection in the North East District teams. Physical Education is made up of a daily fitness program and a PE program focussing on skill development and game skills

Biannually we participate in, and support Jump Rope For Heart day.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

A school concert is held in the last week of Term 4. The concert is well attended by the local community.

Private lessons in piano and guitar are offered by a private teacher & held at school. Parents are responsible for organising and paying for these lessons

7. Staff (and their welfare)

The Principal's role is comprised of 0.6 admin and 0.4 teaching components. The 0.4 teaching component is currently being used to teach Health and PE, Visual Arts and I.C.T. in both classrooms.

- Staff profile
  As we are a small all staff are encouraged to be part of decision-making process. PAC is elected from teaching and SSO staff early in the year and meet as required.

In 2015 we have:
BAND A-2 Principal - 1.0
1 x. 0.6 Teacher, 1x 0.4 teacher
1 x 1.0 Teacher

School Service Officers hours for 2015 including entitlement & purchased hours
Admin/Finance – 34 contract hours
Library / Classroom support - 26 hours permanent/contract
Classroom support 6 hours
11 and a half hours Pastoral Care support which is provided on Thursdays and Fridays.

Performance Management

- Professional conversations are held once a term for teaching staff & once a semester for SSO's. A budget line for SSO's T&D and teacher T&D is set up & all staff are encouraged to increase their skills and knowledge particularly in areas of whole school focus.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Housing assistance
  :There is a comfortable government house available in Georgetown for staff to rent. Other rental properties are available in Georgetown & nearby towns.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  We have a new library and front office. Our heritage stone building now houses the R-3 class as well as a kitchen and staffroom. A double weatherboard classroom is the 4-7 classroom which offers students a variety of good learning spaces. The other single building is being used as a multi purpose room and playgoup on Fridays.
  We also have a small single building which serves as a storage of resources.
  We have an artificial grass surface which has been extremely popular with students and is in constant use.
  We have a good sized oval.

  We have a large playground with a full shade over it. The sandpit is also fully shaded.
  We also have 2 sheds for storage + 1 grounds shed and a well equipped sports shed.

- Heating and cooling
  All areas have reverse cycle cooling and heating

- Specialist facilities and equipment
  An iPad for every child

- Student facilities
  The students have access to cooled water fountains.
  Students have access to a range of sports equipment for play times including a table tennis table, plus a range of games for inside play times.
Our grounds provide a tennis court, large oval and modern playground. Internet access on computers & laptops that are networked are at a ratio of 1 per 2 students.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
  - Office building along with the Upper Primary double class are wheel chair accessible.
- **Access to bus transport**
- One privately owned bus is managed by Gladstone High School which services students from Yacka, Gulnare and surrounding farms. Georgetown Primary School manages a small DECS bus which services students who live more than 5 kilometres from the school on nearby farms.

### 10. School Operations

#### Decision making structures

- The PAC is elected at the beginning of the new year with representatives from SSO’s & teachers making up a small group. We meet at least once per term. Staff meetings are held weekly and are attended by teaching staff and SSO’s.
- The Governing Council meets twice per term. Sub-committees perform much of the initial work and report regularly to Council. The sub committees this year are – Finance, Fundraising and Grounds.
- The Student leaders meet regularly to discuss issues raised at class meetings. The Student leaders play an active role in school decision-making & fundraising.

#### Regular publications

- A fortnightly school newsletter is produced highlighting student & school achievement. School website and Facebook page provides regular updates for families. School Information booklets are provided to all families upon enrolment. Staff Handbooks are provided during induction and revisited regularly as part of WHS.

#### School financial position

- Through sound financial management and ongoing fundraising the school has maintained a secure financial position.

### 11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**
  - The historic rural town of Georgetown is situated in the lower Flinders Ranges providing easy access to the Clare Valley, Spencer Gulf, Beetaloo Valley and the Flinders Ranges.
  - Georgetown residents possess a strong community spirit and take great pride in maintaining the town’s historic heritage. A well equipped town hall, picnic play ground, general store with post office facilities, tennis club and courts, golf club, bowling green, & a CFS Communication Centre.
  - The school community includes the three townships of Georgetown, Gulnare and Yacka and surrounding areas. The district is predominantly a farming area.
• Georgetown, Gulnare and Yacka provide a range of strong sporting clubs for junior and senior participants. Some of the sports catered for are tennis, cricket, football, netball, basketball, soccer, golf and bowls.

The major regional centre of Port Pirie is situated approximately 50 kilometres away and provides extensive services such as entertainment, sporting facilities, medical services & a wide range of retail outlets

• Parent and community involvement
The community is a strong supporter of the school with parents providing support on excursions, whole school activities, SAPSASA as well as providing classroom and special needs support.

• Working Bees to maintain the grounds are held regularly and are very well attended by members of the school community. The community is also instrumental in providing ongoing financial support through fundraising activities.

• Feeder or destination schools
  Gladstone Kindergarten is our feeder school and Gladstone High School is the school of choice

• Other local care and educational facilities
• Rocky River Health Services with offices and rooms at Gladstone and Laura, provide a wide range of health care facilities including a general private practice.
• Other local facilities
• Recently the Southern Flinders Sports Complex was opened in Gladstone.
• Availability of staff housing
  There is a government house attached to the school grounds.
• Local Government body
  Northern Areas Council, with offices at Gladstone and Jamestown.

Georgetown Community Development Association