

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: February 2012

**School number:** 0951

**School name:** Evanston Primary School

## School Profile Text:

Evanston Primary School is situated in Gawler, which offers the best of town and country and is considered the gateway to the Barossa Valley. It is a public primary school catering for students from Rec to yr 7.

At the end of 2012 Evanston Primary School, Gawler High School and Evanston Pre School will become a new B – 12 School on the Gawler High School site. We are currently reasonably resourced with adequate facilities including activity room, resource centre and gymnasium. At the beginning of 2013 we will move into new facilities with modern classroom spaces, a redeveloped resource centre and covered outside learning areas. Plans for the new school are on display in the front office.

Building of the new school facilities has commenced and we are hopeful it will be completed by the end of 2012. A new school name is awaiting government approval and should be announced early in 2012. A new Principal for the Birth – year 12 school will be appointed early in 2012. Other leadership positions who will have responsibility for various sections of the new school i.e. Primary, Middle Schooling, etc will be appointed to commence at the beginning of 2013 school year.

We have a strong teaching focus on numeracy and literacy with all teachers trained in the Accelerated Literacy Program and 'Big Ideas in Number'. Although we are still using SACSA as a curriculum framework in many subject areas staff are exploring the new Australian Curriculum and we are currently using it as a basis for our Science and Maths programs. T&D during 2012 will focus on the new English and History Curriculum. We have a very active PE and sports program delivered by a specialist teacher who also provides supervised sport and PE activities during most lunchtimes. Aspects of the Arts are taught by specialist teachers. Programs are planned to meet students' individual needs.

Our school values are respect, excellence and cooperation. The school motto is 'Branch Out and Grow Together'. We offer many opportunities for students to develop their academic, sporting and artistic potential. Students are also encouraged to develop their leadership qualities.

The school builds strong relationships with students, parents and the local community. Many volunteers are involved in a wide range of programs which support student learning and an onsite Children's Centre offers a broad range of programs aimed at supporting families.

# 1. General information

- School Principal name: Jan Webber
- Assistant Principal's name: Viv Wright
- Year of opening: 1962
- Postal Address: 30 Para Road, Gawler SA 5118
- Location Address: 30 Para Road, Evanston SA 5116
- DECS Region: Barossa
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 40kms
- Telephone number: 08 8522 2622
- Fax Number: 08 8523 0496
- School website address: [www.evanstonps.sa.edu.au](http://www.evanstonps.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [principal@evanstonps.sa.edu.au](mailto:principal@evanstonps.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes

The Before and After School Care program (Oscar) is well used and provides for families and students from Evanston Primary School and St Brigid's Catholic School. Evanston Primary School's Governing Council has responsibility for this service. The community is supportive of the OSHC program.

February FTE student enrolment:	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Primary					
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.					
Reception	14	19	9	25	14
Year 1	20	24	19	21	26
Year 2	30	25	23	23	17
Year 3	25	24	26	23	24
Year 4	29	29	23	29	21
Year 5	22	29	29	26	33
Year 6	30	22	31	29	30
Year 7	33	32	24	27	30
TOTAL	203	204	184	203	195

School Card percentage	41%	51%		
NESB Enrolment	4	4	1	0
Aboriginal Enrolment	27	19	15	18

- Student enrolment trends:

A slight decrease has occurred over the past 5 years. A transient population results in increasing numbers during the year. We are constantly receiving enquires in relation to enrolments of year 5 -7 students from families interested in the Birth – 12 concept. We are expecting school numbers to increase when the new Birth-Year 12 school opens.

### Staffing numbers for 2012

9 full time equivalent class teachers (comprising 7 female and 3 male teachers)

0.8 Non Instructional Teacher in PE (1 male teacher)

0.2 Additional NIT including Science, Music (Choir) and Library Skills

0.6 teacher librarian (female)

Leadership staff: principal (PC03), assistant principal (Senior Leader 1) 0.8, school counsellor 0.8 female

0.1 Aboriginal Education Teacher

0.8 Special Education Staffing

A Christian Pastoral Support Worker

We have a number of School Service Officers (SSOs) who work across the school. We also have a groundsperson and Aboriginal Education Community Officer.

- Public transport access: Rail Service (Station at Evanston, a 5 minutes walk from the school)

- Special site arrangements:

Evanston Primary School is part of the Barossa Region of schools and the Gawler Cluster of Schools.

We have close links with a range of service clubs and churches in the Gawler community.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Evanston Primary School has a range of students from a diverse range of backgrounds. We pride ourselves on providing an inclusive education program across all learning areas. The school has a level two on the index of disadvantage.

- Student wellbeing programs:
  - ”Tree” – mendous learners program with a focus on positive behaviour and learning
  - Values Education program
  
- Student support offered:
  - The School Counsellor assists staff to identify and monitor students at risk.
  
  - Learning goals for Aboriginal students are supported by Aboriginal Education teacher (0.1) and Aboriginal Education Community Officer 10 hours.
  
- Student management:
  - We use restorative practices as a basis for student management.
  - Classroom Codes for Success are an integral part of the School's Behaviour Management Policy.
  - Each teacher has developed a class Code for Success developed around the school values of Respect, Excellence, and Cooperation.
  
- Student government:
  - All classes have regular class meetings. SRC reps and House Leaders provide student leadership opportunities.
  
- Special programmes:
  - Breakfast Program is conducted five mornings per week by parent/carer volunteers.
  - A group of parent volunteers provide special lunches on a regular basis. The school has no canteen.
  - A Christian Pastoral Support Worker (School Chaplain) works with students and families.
  - Identified students are involved in the FLO program.
  - Homework Centre operates one night a week for indigenous and other identified students.
  - We have a Family Services Coordinator who works with our school and the Evanston Preschool supporting families of children from birth – 8 year old
  - The Virtual Children’s Centre provides programs for families and the local community

### 3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
  - Site Improvement Plans 2012
  - SMART Goals in Numeracy
  
- Recent key outcomes:
  - Annual Report on website

## 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings:
  - PE taught as Non Instructional Time (NIT) subjects
  - Science and Maths curriculum are based on the new National Curriculum Framework
  - This year teachers are exploring the national curriculum in the areas of History and English
  - SACSA is used as a basis for planning and programming in all other areas of study
  - Currently there is no LOTE offered
- Special curriculum features:
  - Teachers Reception –Year 7 use Accelerated Literacy (AL) approaches in their literacy program. 2012 will be our 5<sup>th</sup> year as part of this program
  - All teachers have had training in Big Ideas for Number
  - Rainbow Reading is an intervention program for primary aged students.
  - The school employs a special education teacher to work with students in Years 5 - 7 in Literacy in a specialised instruction program.
  - Choir provided for Years 6/7 students.
  - Cultural Studies are taught and Indigenous perspectives are provided across all curriculum areas
  - Play and learning for Success (PALS) program is supported by Theme Room and play boxes to assist JP students with oral language development.
  - Co-ordination program offered in junior primary classes
- Teaching methodology:
  - Constructivist methodology is used to build on prior knowledge, skills and abilities in a sequential manner.
  - All new students are tested within the first 2 weeks of starting at Evanston in Literacy and Numeracy and this information is used to tailor programs.
  - Whole school testing occurs each year in September. Data from this, along with NAPLaN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) is carefully analysed by staff and this informs whole school directions for improvement and classroom teaching.
  - Interactive White Boards (Smartboards) are in all classrooms
  - Accelerated Literacy pedagogy underpins the Literacy program in all classes
  - Big Ideas in Number is used to support Maths programs
- Reporting to Parents
  - Parent/student/teacher acquaintance night is held in Term 1.
  - In Term 2 parent/student/teacher interviews are held and the Term 2 written report discussed.
  - In Term 3 parent discussions are by request by either the teacher or the parent.
  - At the end of Term 4 parents carers receive written reports. The reports provide explicit information of how each student is progressing, are easy to read and are in line with national requirements.

- Student assessment procedures

School testing includes assessment using:

- Running Records
- TORCH (a comprehension test) for Year 4-7
- BURT reading test
- SAST spelling test
- Narrative and exposition rubrics
- 1 minute maths tests
- Big Ideas in Number assessment tools
- NAPLAN tests for Year 3, 5, 7 students

- **Joint Programs**

Situated at Evanston Primary School is a “Virtual Children’s Centre (in a double Demac building). This Children’s Centre provides a range of programs for parents/carers and preschoolers e.g. Joeys, Learning through Play, Teenage Mothers Groups, and Women’s Writing Group etc. These groups are facilitated by a range of organisations including Gawler Health Services and Anglicare. The groups depend on the current local needs. A range of training programs Community Foodies, Mandatory Notification are offered through the “Virtual” Children’s Centre for the members of the local community, including school parents/carers. We have very close links with Gawler Health Services. Working from the Children’s Centre is a Community Development Officer. Part of the new building program is the development of a facility for the Children’s Centre which will include the existing Evanston Preschool Services.

## **5. Sporting Activities**

- The school participates in SAPSASA sporting activities under the Gawler and District zone. Occasional sporting exchanges with Gawler Schools take place. We participate in the local Swimming Carnival.
- Sports Day is a well attended event by parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends. In 2011 this was part of PE Week.
- Active after School Communities programs provide a range of activities for students after school. In 2011 we provided basketball, baseball and tennis. These after school activities are well attended by students.
- As a school, we fund specific skills lessons for students eg Footsteps Dance, Gymnastics and a range of clinics.
- Soccer practice occurs once a week for interested students facilitated by a qualified volunteer coach.
- We have a range of sporting activities being offered by staff at lunchtime many with a focus on Athletics.

## **6. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

At Evanston Primary School a range of events occur to further student learning. These include;

Upper School Choir

J - Rock

Camps and Excursions

Premiers Reading Challenge,

Sponsoring a World Vision child

Book Week

Cultural Week

Events for parents to celebrate learning i.e. Maths Day

NSW University Competitions

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Staff are keen to be working at Evanston Primary School. We have a pool of highly trained teaching and ancillary staff. The school supports student learning with additional SSO salaries. The school also manages the local Cluster TRT Scheme.

- Leadership structure

The leadership team is made up of Principal, Assistant Principal, School Counsellor and Coordinator.

- Performance Management

Performance management structures are in place to support staff development. A range of models occur such as individual meeting, cross year level dialogue, team meetings and written reflection.

- Staff utilisation policies

Tier 2 staffing for Special Education is used to fund a specialist teacher 4 mornings a week for Year 5-7 student. Other students with disabilities are supported by SSOs. All staff are trained in working with students with disabilities and learning difficulties. The school funds considerable additional SSO hours over entitlement to support identified students' learning.

## 9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The school consists of a mixture of single storey Demac buildings, wooden prefab and brick construction. We have a small gymnasium.

Extensive grounds include two ovals, two tennis courts and a basketball court. We have 3 large playground areas.

Through Education Works we are developing a new a Birth – Year 12 school which will be situated on Gawler High grounds. Building works have commenced.

- Heating and cooling

All classes and office areas are air-conditioned (heating and cooling).

- Specialist facilities and equipment

Facilities include a Gym, Activity/Theme Room, Computing Room and Pods of computers throughout the school, Library / Resource Centre, Out of School Hours Care, Canteen and a "Virtual" Children's Centre. Interactive White Boards are in all classes.



- Student facilities
  - Dental Clinic on site
  - OSHC Program available to students from Evanston Primary and St Brigids Catholic School.
  - The canteen building is used for the breakfast program and special lunch days. There is no regular canteen service.
  
- Staff facilities
  - All classrooms are single rooms. Some are quite large, one room is acoustically sound. We have a number of spaces from which specialist programs are run.
  
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
  - Ramps have been installed.
  
- Access to bus transport
  - Local bus services are available. There is a local taxi and mini bus services.
  - Students further than 5 kilometres from the school can use the Gawler High School Bus Services.
  
- Other
  - Rail Services within 0.5 km at - Evanston Station. This service enables the cost of many excursions to be considerably reduced.

## 10. School Operations

Staff committees include – Teaching and ancillary staff teams, Personnel Advisory Committee, Site Improvement Plan management group.

Staff/Parent Committees include: Governing Council, Finance, Grounds, Fundraising, IT, Out of School Hours Care, Uniform.

Regular publications

- Fortnightly newsletters are distributed to the youngest child in each family.
  - As a minimum teachers send home a newsletter once a term.
  - There is a staff weekly bulletin and a day book.
  - Email is used as a regular form of communication with staff
  - An annual School Magazine is produced.
- School financial position
    - The school is in a sound financial position.

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics

A cross section of socio-economic backgrounds is represented across our school. The school has a level 2 IoD

Parent and community involvement

The school's Governing Council plays an active role in the running of the school.

Parent involvement includes – support for classroom activities, Breakfast Club volunteers, special lunch days, committee representation.

- Feeder or destination schools

Evanston Primary School receives students from Evanston Pre-school. The majority of our Year 7 students enrol at Gawler High School for their secondary education. We have very close links with both the preschool and the high school. Transition programs are developed with these 2 sites to support children/students.

- Other local care and educational facilities

Five State Primary Schools are in the Gawler district.

Gawler High School is the local secondary school.

There are a number of private schools – primary and secondary in the region.

An OSHC facility is located at Evanston Primary School for 2 schools.

A private child care facility is close to the school, on the same road.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

There is a range of commercial and shopping facilities in Gawler.

- Other local facilities

Gawler has a wide range of facilities including a Recreation Centre, Swimming Pool, Gymnasium, Sporting Associations, Medical and Dental Services, Churches, Clubs and Service Groups.

- Local Government body

City of Gawler Council is located in Murray Street, Gawler.

## 12. Further Comments

- : Our school has a strong commitment to providing excellence in education and addressing individual student learning needs.