

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: 2024

School number: 0679

School name: Willsden Primary School

School Profile:

Willsden Primary School caters for students in Year R-6. The school founded in 1954, is located in Port Augusta, approximately 3.5 hours north of Adelaide.

Our vision “Growing Good to Great” reflects the understanding that all school community members have potential to be the best they can be.

Staff at Willsden Primary School are committed to improved literacy and numeracy for all students. Our literacy approach includes junior primary students engaging in RWInc to develop early phonics and primary students engaging in the Department for Education 3-6 Spelling and Morphology approach. We have a whole school focus on developing the Big Six of reading and daily reading practise for every student. In numeracy we have a whole school approach to the teaching and learning the Big Ideas in Number to build a solid foundation for all students to transfer into problem solving, understanding and reasoning.

We celebrate student effort and success with lunch time activities and assemblies twice a term. Families perceive the school as a small community-based learning environment where everyone knows and looks after each other. Students demonstrate goodwill and care towards each other, with students of all ages prepared to support and encourage each other in learning and play.

Our school values of Respect, Honesty and Responsibility are reflected in all that we encounter, as we work together to grow “Good to Great” in our school community.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- School Principal: Linda Ritchie
- Deputy Principal: Lexia Fullerton
- Year of opening: 1954
- Postal Address and Location Address: 70-80 Elizabeth Tce, Port Augusta 5700
- DfE Region: Port Augusta/Quorn
- Distance from GPO (km): 304 Kms
- Telephone number: 0886422722
- Fax Number: 0886423524
- School website address: willsdenps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0679.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE student enrolment: 109

Primary	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Reception	11	28	17	9	18	16
Year 1	26	14	26	17	12	15
Year 2	18	23	16	24	18	10
Year 3	19	14	22	14	22	13
Year 4	22	20	14	19	20	21
Year 5	13	16	18	9	18	15
Year 6	24	16	14	20	9	19
Year 7	15	22	16			
Total	148	153	143	112	117	109

Number of Males	57
Number of Female	52
Number of Students on School Card	105
Number of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Students	82
Students with disabilities	14

- Student enrolment trends: Enrolments trends at Willsden fluctuate over time with transience a major issue as students move in and out of the school.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

Principal, Band A-4	Linda Ritchie	1.0FTE
Deputy Principal, Band B-2	Lexia Fullerton	1.0FTE
Wellbeing Coordinator, Band B-1	Sylvia Jadrych	1.0FTE
Aboriginal Education Leader, Band B-1	Sophia Crewdson	1.0FTE
Permanent Classroom Teachers	2 positions	1.0FTE
Contract Classroom Teachers	5 positions	1.0FTE
NIT The Arts	1 position	1.0FTE
NIT Science	1 position	1.0FTE
AECO Level 3	2 positions	70hrs p/w
Administration Support Staff	2 positions	61.5hrs p/w
Library Support Staff	1 position	30hrs p/w
Classroom Support Staff	7 positions	177.5hrs p/w
GSE Level 2	1 position	20hrs p/w

- Public transport access: The Town Bus stops on Abernathy Ave at the back of the school and connects with buses travelling to both Stirling North and Port Augusta West.

2. STUDENTS (AND THEIR WELFARE)

- **General characteristics**

Willsden Primary School is a category one school. We have a high Aboriginal student population, with a number of these being transient. The majority of students use English as an additional dialect or language and Aboriginal English is their first language. Willsden is a complex school in a low socio-economic area, but has strong parent and community involvement within the school.

Community engagement is a key part of our learning strategy.

- **Student well-being programs**

At Willsden Primary School we provide our students with access to the Open Parachute Program to support them to build resilience and wellbeing literacy. We create classroom norms with students with a focus on our school values Respect, Responsibility and Honesty to create a positive school culture.

- **Student support offered**

The Wellbeing Leader and Aboriginal Community Education staff are available to support students and families.

When required, the school supports students and families to access services provided outside of the school such as Child and Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

- **Student management**

The school values: respect, responsibility and honesty underpin the behaviour code of the school. A step process is followed and behaviours are documented to ensure we can support students to develop behaviour for learning.

- **Student government**

The school leadership structure at Willsden Primary is comprised of:

- Elected house captains and their deputies
- Student Voice Representatives elected from each class Reception to Year 6. This group meets fortnightly with the Wellbeing Leader/Principal, to focus on student wellbeing and learning in school. SVR are also involved in instructional rounds to contribute to the teaching and learning outcomes in the school.

3. KEY SCHOOL POLICIES

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

Priorities in the school are improving learner dispositions including curiosity, collaboration, persistence and resilience in reading, numeracy and writing to support progress for every student.

School and community connect to improve attendance and access to learning at Willsden Primary School to improve outcomes for all school community members.

4. CURRICULUM

- **Subject offerings:**

Programs are designed aligned to the Australian Curriculum. Subjects include: English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Health, History, Social Sciences, The Arts, and Technology. Specialist programs are provided in Science and The Arts.

We have a Specialist Adnyamathanha Language staff member who works one day a week planning and presenting Adnyamathanha lessons to our students.

- **Special needs:**

The school receives a range of supplementary funding to support students with behaviour needs, attendance support and special education. All students verified as a student with a disability is provided with funding to meet their learning needs as outlined in SMARTA goals in their One Plans. This ensures effective and targeted support is provided.

All Aboriginal students also have a One Plan to ensure their learning needs are met.

The school has an Autism Inclusion Teacher to support fellow educators on how to best support and educate autistic students.

- **Special curriculum features:**

Sound field systems are available in all classrooms to support all students and especially those with conductive hearing losses.

- **Teaching methodology:**

We have a whole school approach to teaching literacy and numeracy. We plan and access professional learning to improve our teaching practise and work as professional learning teams to share best practice and evaluate our impact on student engagement and learning. We promote high impact teaching strategies such as goal setting, questioning and formative assessment to consistently focus on moving student learning forward.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

The school uses a variety of assessment and reporting approaches. These include:

- Termly assessments are communicated through an assessment calendar and student achievement data is used to plan, teach and assess. This cycle helps us to always know where students are, where they need to be and how we can best support them to get there.
- Students are encouraged to be the drivers of their learning by co-constructing individual learning goals with their teacher and displaying these in the classroom to create a learning community.
- Formative assessment in the classroom on a daily basis to progress student learning.
- Teaching staff use See-Saw to communicate student progress throughout the school year.
- Meet the teacher afternoon is held early in Term 1. This is an introduction session and should provide parents with information about classroom expectations and how family can support student learning.
- Learning conversations between teachers and parents/carers are held in Term 2.
- Written reports are written and distributed in Term 2 and Term 4.

5. SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- Students participate in a range of Physical Education programs including Aquatics and Swimming. In addition to class-based curriculum the Year 4-6 students are eligible to participate in a range of SAPSASA programs including both team and individual pursuits in a number of sports.

6. OTHER CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Willsden Primary School we provide children with activities to enhance and compliment their educational experiences including:

- Choir which combines with the Whole Town Choir.
- Year 5/6 Aquatics Program
- Swimming program

7. STAFF (AND THEIR WELFARE)

- **Staff profile**

A high percentage of staff are new graduates or in their first five years of teaching. The school has structures and processes in place to ensure mentoring is provided to support early year teachers. This helps them to build their capacity as teachers over time and to move from graduate to proficient status. We also have proficient teachers who contribute to the mentoring of new graduate teachers in the school.

- **Leadership structure**

The Principal, Deputy Principal, Aboriginal Education Leader and Wellbeing Leader support the teaching and learning and management in the school. They meet weekly and work as a collaborative team.

Personnel Advisory Committee meets regularly to support staff voice in Human Resource planning and deployments.

- **Staff support systems**

Staff meetings are dedicated to Professional Development planned to support our Site Improvement goals. In this time staff also meet as teams to analyse student data and discuss and plan next steps for individual students.

- **Performance and Development**

All staff members participate in performance and development processes including induction upon appointment, support with planning and programming, behaviour management. Each staff member is expected to develop a Performance Development Plan including goals and actions to promote improvement/interest in their role in the school. Staff meet with their line manager three times during the year to establish and review their plan. Staff are able to ask questions, seek support and negotiate requests that will help them continuously move towards achieving their goals.

- **Staff utilisation policies**

Tier 2 staffing has been used to reduce class sizes across all year levels (R-6) to promote positive relationships and teacher student ratios.

8. INCENTIVES, SUPPORT AND AWARD CONDITIONS FOR STAFF

- **Housing assistance**

:Yes

- **Relocation assistance**

: Available through the DfE staffing unit.

9. SCHOOL FACILITIES

- **Buildings and grounds**

Majority of the schools' buildings have been on site since the 70's and as a result the classrooms are more spacious than more modern classrooms.

All classrooms are carpeted and have interactive screens and sound field systems.

The school has a large oval fitted with both football/soccer goals and a cricket pitch. It has a modern gym and an activity room. Students also have access to the school's bike track located on school grounds on a number of breaks throughout the week.

- **Heating and cooling**

All classrooms are fitted with refrigerated reverse-cycle air conditioners.
- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

All teaching staff are issued with a laptop computer that can be used with the interactive screen. This is to support teaching staff to integrate ICT within the teaching and learning program.

Upper Primary students are issued a laptop and iPad and the Junior Primary students are issued a iPad and have access to a bank of laptops in their block.
- **Staff facilities**

The staff room has a large space for both meetings, social gatherings and is a hub of activity before school commences each day.

A teacher prep area with four desktop computers is available in the staff area.

10. SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- **Decision making structures**

A school decision making policy exists to support collaborative decision making.

Governing Council ratifies the Site Learning Plan, Annual Reports and budget. The Site Learning Plan is the overriding framework which guides all that we do in the school. It reflects the school's priorities which are determined by student achievement, staff, families, and are in line with the Department for Education priorities.
- **Regular publications**
 - School newsletters are distributed fortnightly
 - School Facebook page is used regularly to communicate school activities and whole school requests from community.
 - Staff handbook is updated and published at the beginning of every year with additional changes.
 - Weekly Bulletin is produced once a week and emailed to staff.
 - A day book is used in the staff room.
 - An Annual Report is presented to Governing Council in February each year.
 - The school Magazine is developed each year and sent home to families at the end of the school year.
- **School financial position**

The school is in a healthy financial position.

11. LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **General characteristics**

Port Augusta City Council covers the city of Port Augusta, including Stirling North and the seaside homes located at Commissariat Point< Blanche Harbour and Miranda and has a population of 13,808 people (2016 Census).

Port Augusta is uniquely located on the Spencer Gulf, with the Flinders Ranges providing a spectacular backdrop. It is also known as the crossroads of Australia by both rail and roads.

- **Parent and community involvement**

We understand that connecting with the community is important in the education of every child. This is an area that we continue to build as we focus on community consultation and engagement to improve outcomes for students and the community.

- **Feeder or destination schools**

- Willsden Preschool is the prime feeder of students; but enrolments also come from the other Preschools including Augusta Park and Tji- Tji Wiltja/Flinders Preschool.
- The majority of Year 6 students transition to Port Augusta Secondary School.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

The local council operates a Child Care facility on Stirling Road (Birth to 4) and a private facility is available. Port Augusta TAFE provides courses across two semesters both long and short term. A UniHub has also been established to promote tertiary education for local people in the area.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

The local shopping precinct provides a range of shops and services.

- **Other local facilities**

- *Port Augusta is well sourced in terms of medical facilities including the PA hospital and several clinics, at least one that operates 7 days a week.*
- *The Council operates the Library and Wadlata Tourist facility.*
- *Art Galleries provide local and visiting artists with the opportunity to display their creativity.*

- **Availability of staff housing**

[Housing is available through the local rental market or through DTEI.- Building Management, Accommodation and Property Services (BMAPS). DTEI housing is supported by Facilities Services which is responsible for maintenance.

- **Accessibility**

Adelaide is accessible by bus, air and road. Buses depart twice daily and scheduled flights can be found on the Port Augusta or Whyalla Airport website.

- **Local Government body**

The local council is the City of Port Augusta.