

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 31/7

School number: 0487

School name: Wirrabara R-7 Primary School

## 1. General information

### Part A

School name : WIRRABARA PRIMARY SCHOOL R-7  
School No. : 0487  
Principal : Mrs Jayne mainprize-Potter  
Postal Address : East Terrace, Wirrabara 5481  
Location Address : East Terrace, Wirrabara 5481  
District : Flinders  
Distance from GPO : 232 kms  
CPC attached : Yes  
Phone No. : 08 8668 4087  
Fax No. : 08 8668 4008

<b>February FTE Enrolment</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Kindy/Pre-Entry etc.					
Reception	2	1	2	2	
Year 1	1	3	1	2	2
Year 2	3	1	3	1	2
Year 3	2	4	2	2	
Year 4	2	2	1	2	2
Year 5	2	2	4	1	2
Year 6	3	2	3	2	
Year 7	1	5	2	3	2
	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>

## Part B

- **School website address:** [www.wirrabps.sa.edu.au](http://www.wirrabps.sa.edu.au)
- **School e-mail address:** [dl.0487.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0487.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- **Staffing:** We have a full time principal, a full time Primary (3-7) teacher & a part time R-2 Teacher . We have 4 female SSOs: finance / front office officer, an archiving officer, a Kitchen specialist and a Garden specialist are employed for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. The school has allocated 5 hours per week for a groundsman.
- **Enrolment trends:** declining enrolments
- **Special arrangements:** Wirrabara Primary school is part of the Rocky River schools cluster which comprises three other neighbouring schools – Laura, Gladstone and St Joseph’s Parish School. The schools have shared days for students (e.g. RR sports day, performances, Mastermind). Wirrabara PS will be closing at the end of 2017 and amalgamating with Laura PS and Laura Preschool.
- **Year of opening:** 1879

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics:** Wirrabara Primary school students are very welcoming of people, and generally quite happy and sociable. A family atmosphere is established within the school.
  - \*\*Relationships across the R-7 are nurtured through a cohesive atmosphere.
- **Support offered:** Students are supported by all staff throughout the day as needed.
- **Student management:** An effective School Behaviour Management Policy operates in the school. Generally behaviour is not a problem in the school.
- **Student government:** All students are a part of SRC which meets fortnightly. The SRC decide on activities for whole school participation. A chairperson, secretary and treasurer are elected for a half year term. School Captains and Sports Captains are decided early in the year enabling the chosen students to have input into the running of their school sports day, and in playing a leading role in the schools participation in Rocky River Sports Days.
- **Special programmes:** The school is a part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and the whole school spends 60 minutes in the garden and classes spend 90 minutes in the kitchen weekly. The program revolves around growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing. Parents and volunteers are encouraged to help in the garden and the kitchen.

### 3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:** Literacy and Numeracy are our core business. Strategies include: student voice, community involvement, Growth mindset traits and quality learning programs with a focus on achievement, engagement and wellbeing; creative thinking and problem solving; involvement in Premier's Reading Challenge, Accelerated Reader, and Australian Curriculum.

**\*\* School vision:** At WPS parents, staff and students work together to achieve the best outcomes for all students, through developing self confidence, a love for learning, encouraging a healthy lifestyle and focussing on essential skills.

### 4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:** Various programs are run in the classrooms to support students' learning, covering seven areas of the curriculum.
- **Special needs:** The school supports students with Special Needs.
- **Special curriculum features:** Accelerated Reader
- **Assessment procedures and reporting:** Term 1 - Acquaintance night occurs early in Term 1, where parents, teachers and children meet to share learning in classrooms. First Impression Reports are sent home during Week 11.

Term 2 – Parent Teacher interviews are held within the first 4 weeks. A Mid-Year written report is provided for each child at the end of the term.

Term 3 – Parent Teacher interviews are held

Term 4 - Term 4. End of year Reports are provided.

- 5. **Sporting Activities:** Children are involved in the Rocky River District Sports day and will amalgamate with Laura PS for 2017

: The school is a member of the North Eastern SAPSASA District.

: The school participates in sports at school and when offered by outside parties & there is an annual Walkathon.

### 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- **General:** A school concert is traditionally held in the last term of the school year.
  - : Swimming lessons are held at the Gladstone Pool either early in the year or at the end, depending on availability of instructors.
  - : A whole school camp is held biannually (odd years) and a 3-7 camp is held in alternate years.

### 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Leadership Structure:** Principal.
- **Staff support systems:** As a member of the Upper Mid North Partnership, Wirrabara Primary Staff access Training and Development activities planned by

the partnership, as well as any that come from other agencies or schools within the region.

- **Performance Management:** Meetings are held with individual staff members each term, as well as casual observations and discussions. Goals are set each term and discussed. The Principal provides feedback. Staff are encouraged to attend Training and Development relevant to the School's Site Improvement Plan.

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

- **Designated schools benefits:** Applies
- **Medical and dental treatment expenses:** Applicable
- **Relocation assistance :** Applies

## 9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds:** Solid Stone block housing the Admin area, computers, Primary classroom and the Library. 3 transportables house the K-3 class, a general purpose teaching area and a Kitchen. Grounds are extensive with an Oval, tennis/basketball/netball court, a large outdoor learning environment, vegetable garden, orchard and playground.
- **Cooling/Heating:** All rooms have good air conditioning and heating.
- **Student facilities:** Tuck Day occurs 1 day per week – run by the parents
- **Access to bus transport:** A bus runs from Wirrabara Forest to the school daily.  
: A bus is hired for excursions.

## 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures:** The school operates through consultation and shared decision-making.
- **Regular publications:** A fortnightly update and a learning journal is sent out to all parents and put on the school web-site.
- **Other communication:** When necessary, teachers will use diaries and/or communication books to request to see parents and as an informal manner of communication. Whole school Assemblies are held twice per term and parents are encouraged to attend.
- **School financial position:** Adequate
- **Special funding:** Grants are actively pursued as needed.
- **The school has a Facebook Page**

# 11. Local Community

- **General characteristics:** Wirrabara is a farming area located close to the Wirrabara Forest where a number of orchards exist & an increasing interest from tourists is evident, as well as there being other small important businesses within the town.
- **Parent and community involvement:** Great community and parental support occurs through various activities offered to students and community members. Traditional sports dominate the local area – Football, Netball, Lawn bowls, Tennis, Cricket and a picturesque 18-hole Golf course. Parents are actively involved in the Stephanie Alexander Garden. A playgroup run by the parents is operated in the school on a weekly basis.
- **Other local care and educational facilities:** The current school of right is Booleroo District Community School, however some families choose to utilise Gladstone High School. Medical facilities are available at Laura Hospital (18kms) and Booleroo Centre Hospital (26kms). A local doctor consults in Wirrabara regularly. Childcare is available in Booleroo Centre, Melrose and Laura.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:** Service Station/Roadhouse, IGA supermarket/ Post Office, Craft Shop, local orchards with organic fruit and vegetables, nearby vineyards and a Hotel. An electrician, builder and home renovator businesses are also available in the local area.
- **Other local facilities:** Wirrabara Forest is located nearby. This provides walking trails, bike trails as well as being part of the Heysen and Mawson trails. Picnic grounds, camping ground and BBQ facilities are also located throughout the forest. Basic camping facilities are located in the town at the local sporting reserve. Wongabirie Park is located in town and is on the banks of the Rocky River. A playground, BBQ area and established rotunda as well as town information can be found there. Wirrabara Producer's Market occurs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month and at Easter in the town.
- **Availability of staff housing:** private rental properties are available
- **Accessibility:** A scenic and pleasant drive from Adelaide, up the main highway towards Port Augusta, then turn off to Crystal Brook, Gladstone, Laura and follow the signs to Wirrabara. Clearly signposted the whole way. Within 1 hour of Port Pirie to the west, Port Augusta to the North, Jamestown to the East, Clare to the South and within 3 hours of Adelaide.
- **Local Government body:** Mount Remarkable Council, PO Box 94 Melrose.  
Phone 8666 2014