



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/17

School number: 0142

School name: EVANSTON GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Evanston Gardens Primary School Vision:

“We are working in partnership towards an education that is excellent, relevant and inclusive of all students in a safe, caring, success oriented environment”.

Evanston Gardens Primary School Values:

- Respect
- Perseverance
- Problem solving

1. General information

- School Principal: Mrs Libby Clift
- School Counsellor: Mrs Narelle Christiansen
- Year Opening: 1908
- Postal Address: 71 Angle Vale Road, Evanston Gardens SA 5116
- Location Address: As above
- Partnership: Greater Gawler
- Telephone number: (08) 85 222 082
- Fax number: (08) 85 23 0495
- School website address: www.evangdns.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0142_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Road distance from GPO: 40km
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OHSC): No
- Playcentre: at Evanston Gardens Community Centre (adjacent to the school)

Full Time Equivalent Student Enrolment (February)

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Reception	14	27	21	29
1	19	14	23	16
2	20	20	19	21
3	22	23	20	14
4	19	22	18	19
5	10	14	21	15
6	8	8	14	21
7	2	9	8	10
TOTAL	114	137	144	145
ATSI		9	11	11
EALD	2	2	4	5
SCHOOL CARD	55%	54%	54%	TBC
DISABILITIES		11%	11%	11%

Student enrolment trends:

Student enrolments are steadily increasing. New housing in the area and redevelopment may see further increases.

Staffing Numbers:

- Principal
- School Counsellor (0.43 topped up to 0.6)
- Six classroom teachers (two 0.9)
- 0.4 Performing Arts/Choir
- 0.4 Japanese
- 0.1 Science NIT
- 0.4 Teacher Librarian
- 0.4 Teacher Civics and Health / release

SSO Hours:

- Finance/admin officer (37.5 hours per week)

The school employs 6 other SSOs (School Services Officers) with varying hours for classroom, early years support, intervention, behaviour support (RAAP)

- ACEO (Aboriginal Community Education Officer)15 hours week
- Groundsperson 14 hours week
- Pastoral Care Worker (employed through School's Ministry Group)
- Playcentre attached to the school 2.75 hours week (SSO2)

Public transport access:

This is limited. The Gawler to Adelaide train stops at Tambelin station which is approximately 1km from the school. Most students walk, cycle or come by car.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

Most students come from the Evanston Gardens housing area, however students also travel from nearby suburbs (e.g. Angle Vale, Lewiston, Munno Para, Gawler suburbs) also attend.

- **Student well-being and support**

Positive Education is a strong focus and framework across the school and all current teachers have been trained as well as some SSOs. Gratitude, growth mindsets for learning 'bucket filling' (positive acts) and mindfulness are some of the focii. The school has a Wellbeing team led by the School Counsellor to look at the school needs and initiatives in light of data. Positive Education is also a partnership focus across local schools & Preschools.

A Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) works with staff, students and the school community to meet a variety of needs. The school has a breakfast program run by parent volunteers and aided by student leaders and the PCW. Kimochis are a new initiative in several classes (teacher and PCW working together). They embody the ideas of social literacy in a practical way using Kimochis. (toys with feelings).

- **Student support**

Students are supported by their teachers in their learning (Wave One teaching)

Student Intervention Programs include:

- A Co-ordination Program for Junior Primary (Early Birds). All receptions are screened.
- MiniLit (Minimising Literacy Intervention) small group and MulitLit (Making Up for Lost Time In Literacy). These are very structured, research based programmes, to improve decoding/fluency and basic reading skills. Students work with SSOs in small groups and they are selected on the basis of learning data. Progress is reviewed regularly.
- We are involved with an Oral Language Program (Reception to Year Four) with a DECD Speech Pathologist working with four classes over the year. This is a

partnership initiative to improve oral language skills in relation to reading comprehension using a literacy based approach.

- Quicksmart – A research based programme that builds fluency and automaticity in numeracy in Yr. 4-7. Students are selected on the basis of learning data (eg. Naplan, PatM)
- SSOs also work in classrooms in the Early Years to provide extra support
- Students with Negotiated Education Plans are supported according to their documented plan (Wave 3)
- We have a yard program for some students (SSO)

Some students have an Individual Education Plans (ILPs) and Individual Learning Plans in place for their needs.

Student Management

The School Behaviour Code is regularly reviewed (2014, 2016) in conjunction with the school community and the partnership Behaviour Coach. Positive behaviour is encouraged through class awards at Assembly, individual class practices promoting positive behaviour and 'bucket filling' awards for positive yard behaviour given out at Assembly and published in the newsletter. We use the proactive restorative process to help to support students with conflict, bullying and to see another's perspectives thereby reducing the risk of re-occurrence. Our school uses the partnership Behaviour Coach to support students, staff, families and staff as needed. The Behaviour Coach also supports staff with Training and Development.

Student Government

The school Counsellor with other teachers are further developing student Leadership Teams in areas such as Fundraising, Wellbeing, PR, Grounds, Learning, to promote student voice in the development of our schools community. Students are very enthusiastic.

3. Key School Policies

The following information is available on the schools website (www.evangdns.sa.edu.au).

- The current school Improvement Plan (Literacy, Numeracy, wellbeing) aligned with Partnership Plan.
- The most recent Annual Report
- Key School Policies

Curriculum

The school continues to implement the Australian Curriculum as a whole school, Non Instructional Time (NIT) are in the areas of The Arts, Science, Japanese, Civics & Citizenship and Child Protection. The teacher librarian supports classes with resource Based Learning and also provides NIT (Literacy focus).

The school Counsellor and ACEO work with families, class teachers and SSOs to develop implement Individual Learning Plans (ILPs). The Counsellor also manages the collaborative process for Individual Education Plans for students requiring these. The Principal currently manages the special education programs including DECD referrals for students identified as needing these and Negotiated Education Plans in collaboration with staff and families and will share this with the counsellor from 2017.

Teaching Methodology

Staff have been working in Teacher Learning Communities in 2016 using a structured approach regarding formative assessment (Dylan Wiliam) to further improve their collective knowledge and practice. Staff are very enthusiastic.

In 2017 staff will continue to work in Professional Learning Communities (Junior Primary, Primary, Non Instructional Teachers) looking at areas such as differentiation, effective questioning & feedback 'productive struggle' assessing and planning collaboratively and sharing practice.

Teachers will be training in the following areas in 2017,

- Thinking Maths
- Seven Steps to Writing
- STEM (Science Technology Mathematics)
- Moderation in Maths

The school has recently reviewed its Literacy (2016) and Numeracy (2016) agreements.

Assessment procedures and reporting

A parent information night is held in Term One and parent interviews at the end of Term One. Parent teacher interviews are available on request throughout the year. A formal report is made available in Term 2 and 4. We have recently reviewed our reporting format. (2016)

5. Sporting Activities

The school has an annual Sports Day consisting of tabloid and team events. Students are allocated to house teams. We have been involved in the 'Sporting Schools' Programme in a range of areas such as Tri Skills (gymnastics) and T Ball. Year 6/7 students access

SAPSASA. Swimming in term one is for Receptions to Year 5 whilst the Year 6/7's undertake Aquatics at West Lakes. Our hall is used at various times for Physical Education or lunch time activities.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Annual Grandparents and Special Visitors Day
- Regular Breakfast Club
- Annual recognition of Harmony and Anti Bullying Days
- Festival of Music (choir)
- Snake Education

7. Staff and their welfare

Staff Profile (Please see section 2)

Staff members bring to EGPS a range of expertise and experience from a diversity of teaching experiences. There are a mix of contract and permanent staff. Various funding grants are used to employ SSO staff (e.g. RAAP, SWD grants). Staff are mutually supportive of each other. Specialist support services can be accessed through the Gawler Office.

Leadership Structure

There is a full time Principal and a School Counsellor (0.6)

Performance Development

Staff are encouraged to further increase their skills and capacity through development and discussion and monitoring of their own performance plans and goals using DECD guidelines (and proformas) as a basis. This considers their strengths, achievements, learning and training needs and goals especially in relation to improvement of student learning. The Principal is line manager for almost all staff. The administration Officer manages the administrative role of several staff.

Staff are also encouraged to share practice formally and informally to collaboratively increase their development.

8. School Facilities

Building and Grounds

Considerable work goes into the upkeep of our very large grounds. The current administration and library buildings were built in 1908 with temporary buildings added. All buildings are air conditioned (heating/cooling).

The school is currently undergoing a major capital works program with 4 new classrooms built in 2016 and a wet area, work has begun on refurbishing the library into an administration area (complete April 2017). Two classrooms have been removed to make way for a basketball court. In 2017 the current administration building will become the library (due for completion August 2017). There will be associated landscaping and play areas developed whilst keeping our playgrounds.

Specialist Facilities

- The school has a small multipurpose hall
- Each teaching area has an interactive whiteboard
- We currently use a double classroom for Non-Instructional Time in Performing Arts, Asian Studies and Science although this will change with the redevelopment

Access

Most of the school has ramps to allow for disabled wheelchair access. The nearest dental clinic is at Evanston.

9. School Operations

Decision making structures

- Staff meetings are generally held on a Wednesday with a consensus approach. Staff have various areas of responsibility
- Staff committees include: Personnel Advisory Committee, Work Health & Safety, Wellbeing, IT and Social Committee
- SSOs also meet regularly as a group
- Governing Council meets twice a term. It has a very active fundraising group

Regular Publications

Newsletters are sent home fortnightly and individual teachers also produce their own newsletters to inform parents about their activities and learning. The school has an enrolment pack for prospective parents. We have also have an SMS system and use the skoolbag app.

School Financial Position

The school is in a sound financial position.

11. Local Community

General Characteristics

The school community comprises of a cross section of socio-economic backgrounds with over 54% of families being on school card. In the vicinity of Evanston Gardens is a Community Centre adjacent to the school, run by the Progress Association which houses various activities such as a free Playgroup on Wednesday and Friday. Karbeethan Sports field is close by on Angle Vale Road (this hosts a number of sports such as soccer hockey & softball soccer). Our families access both of these facilities. The nearest commercial centres are several kilometres from the school at Evanston with extensive commercial, sporting, medical and other facilities available in Gawler.

Parent and Community Involvement

Parents and extended family involvement in Sports Day, the End of Year Concert and Special Visitor (Grandparents) Day is high. We have a number of volunteers who work in classrooms, the Resource Centre and help on excursions. Governing Council meets twice a term with a very active Fundraising Committee and a Finance Committee.

Feeder and destination schools

The student population is transient with many students moving in and out of the local area. Students beginning school came mainly from Gawler Birth to Twelve Pre School, some from Zion Lutheran Pre School and a variety of other Pre Schools and day care centres. Some students have not attended Pre School.

Students completing Year Seven progress to a range of DECD, Catholic and Independent Secondary Schools, Gawler District B-12 College being the most popular destination.

Local Government

Evanston Gardens Primary is within the boundaries of the Corporation of the Town of Gawler. They provide an excellent range of local services including the library next door to the school in the Evanston Gardens Community Centre.