

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 25/02/16

School number: 0775

School name: Gladstone High School

Contextual Statement:

Gladstone High School is situated 38 kilometres south east of Port Pirie in the Mid North of South Australia. The surrounding area comprises farming, predominantly cereal farms and sheep, with Industry in the region at Port Pirie and mining in the north of South Australia

The school has a very strong Year 7 to 8 Transition Program that involves close liaison with each of the feeder primary schools.

Understanding of, and sensitivity to, the diverse needs of parents from different towns/communities within the school's district (Appila, Stone Hut, Laura, Gladstone, Georgetown, Gulnare, Yacka, Narridy, Redhill, Merriton and Crystal Brook) is an important aspect of the Gladstone High School Community. Students belong to their own local town/community with inter-town interactions through sport and youth groups. Our current enrolment is 166 students and is predicted to remain at or above this level in the foreseeable future. Sport is an important part of the school and local culture and students participate in a range of sporting programs.

Gladstone High School is coeducational and approximately 31% of the families are school card holders. The majority of students are bussed in from the surrounding farming districts on DECD and a local contractor's school buses.

We have a strong focus and commitment to supporting all our students to achieve, and identify pathways to future education, and work. The agriculture and viticulture programmes and the recently established Trade Training Centre are an important part of our school, giving students the opportunity to put classroom learning into practice and develop industry level skills and accreditation.

The school runs a Flexible Learning Option and other students requiring a more personalised learning and social programs are supported by the Student Welfare Worker and Coordinator.

The school runs an extensive Doorway 2 Construction (D2C) program in Building and Construction which is well supported by local industry, TafeSA and RTO's.

Students are supported in the development of Personal Learning Plans through a comprehensive student wellbeing /pastoral care programme, work education programme, individualised counselling service and networking with local agencies including TAFE, employment agencies and universities. The school has in past years been a host school for international students studying through the Regional Study Abroad program as part of DECD International Education Services

1. General information

- School Principal: Mrs. Denise Higgins
- Deputy Principal: Mrs Lisa Key
- Senior Leader: Mrs. Kerrilyn Elmer
- Year of opening: 1907, current site 1973
- Postal Address: PO Box 70 Gladstone 5473
- Location Address: 16233 Horrocks Highway, Gladstone 5473
- DECD Partnership: Upper Mid North / Pirie Portfolio
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 203 km

- Telephone number: 08 8662 2171
- Fax Number: 08 8662 2050
- School website address: www.gladstonehs.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0775_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE student enrolments

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Year	8	55	39	38	48	35	42	30
Year	9	56	56	44	33	47	31	40
Year	10	44	59	51	38	28	45	27
Year	11	36	37.68	49	50	39	32.34	41.51
Year	12	25	20.94	30.4	44	42	29.6	26.4
Year	12P	1	1			4	6	2
TOTAL		201.06	209.07	213.8	213	195	185.94	167.91

School Card percentage	25%	56.8%	55.2%	48%	35%	31%
NESB Enrolment	1	1	2	2	0	0
Aboriginal Enrolment	7	7	8	9	6	8

- Student enrolment trends:

Current enrolment trends suggest numbers to remain steady at approximately 170 and above for the next 10 years based on current enrolment figures from feeder primary schools and taking into account population trends.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

Industrial Entitlement (Tier 1 Staffing Allocation)

Principal PCO4	1.0
Deputy Principal	1.0
Senior Leader	1.0
Coordinator Level 3	3.0
Teachers	10.4
Total Entitlement	16.4

Commonwealth and State Government Initiatives (Tier 2 Staffing)

Graduate Salary	0.1
Open Access	1.13

- Public transport access: No local public transport within township
- Special site arrangements:

Gladstone High is a member of the Upper Mid North B – 12 Partnership.

It is also a member of the Mid North Schools Education Co-operative (MNSEC) along with Booleroo Centre District School, Orroroo and Quorn Area Schools, Peterborough HS and Jamestown Community School. MNSEC involves teaching using Distance Education methods to provide a wider range of subjects for SACE/Post Compulsory students. It is an alternative delivery to the Open Access College. In addition MNSEC provides opportunities for students in Performing Arts (MNSEC Showcase), sport and social activities and for staff in curriculum development, training and development, as well as resource sharing.

Gladstone High School is a lead school for the Flinders Regional Trade Training Centre, a consortium of 4 local schools offering up to Certificate 3 across a range of industries.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Gladstone High School's steady enrolment trend can be attributed to new families moving into the district, and relatively consistent cohorts of Year 7 students making the transition from our feeder Schools. Several families have also exercised choice over the public high school that their children would attend including families from Wirrabara and Port Pirie. Choice of curriculum offerings and pathways and a sustainable senior secondary curriculum have been cited by parents as reasons for enrolment at Gladstone High School.

While the number of students with identified disabilities has remained stable the number of students requiring in class support for learning difficulties (as identified through student achievement data, NAPLAN results and referrals to the Education Office, Port Pirie) continues to grow, adding to the complexity of our enrolment.

- Student well-being programs

Gladstone High School is committed to ensuring that all students develop the skills to be effective members of the community. This requires students to develop communication, problem solving, decision-making, teamwork, and study/work skills.

Students in Years 8 to 10 are participating in a Pastoral Care Program for 2 lessons per week.

The Personal Learning Plan (Yr 10) is a scheduled subject for Semester 1. Students are supported in the development of Personal Learning Plans through a comprehensive student wellbeing/pastoral care programme, work education programme, individualised counselling service and networking with local agencies including TAFE, employment agencies and universities.

- Student support offered

Comprehensive student wellbeing /pastoral care programme inline with **DECD Wellbeing & National Safe Schools Frameworks**.

Student Intervention Team to identify and case manage students at risk and development of streamline referral processes for students at risk due to behaviour, disability, social or emotional factors.

Student Pathway Planning programmes, individualised counselling services and networking with local agencies including TAFE, employment agencies and universities.

Interagency support and initiatives including “be active”, Student Wellbeing Action Team (SWAT), Safer Partying, Core of Life, Cyber Bullying Programs

Camps, excursions, including Yr 8 Aquatics Camp, Yr 9 Ski Trip, Yr 10 Career Education Camp, subject excursions

Sport and physical activities such as the Fun Run, Knockout Sport, Year 8/9 9-a-side Football Competition, House Competition for Swimming and Athletics, and opportunities to compete against other schools and in State competitions

Increase in **counselling time** from 0.2 to 0.6 to reflect our entitlement

Student Leadership Promotion of student leadership and increasing student voice. Student Leaders are elected at each Year Level, including School Captains. They meet regularly and consult with the student body regularly about any issues. Student representatives are also for a range of school committees, including canteen, Grounds, Celebrating Student Success. The Student Wellbeing Action Team (SWAT) works the Student Welfare Worker, Northern Areas Council (NACYAC), Health and SAPOL representatives on social, health and local youth issues.

- Student management

Behaviour management at the school follows DECD Guidelines, and the Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Procedures are followed when necessary. Our recording and monitoring of students’ behaviour records are continuously being upgraded. Every effort is made to successfully engage students and those at risk of not completing traditional courses of study are encouraged to look at alternative pathways.

Clear documentation exists in the school to support students, staff and parents in behaviour management at each level, and parents receive copies of the policy and the Grievance Procedures at the commencement of each year.

- Student government

Student leaders are nominated by their peers at each year level at the beginning of the school year. The elected student leadership team consists of male and female school captains, (usually from the current Year 12 cohort) and one male and female representative from each year level. The Student Wellbeing Action Team (SWAT) also provides the opportunity for student voice and decision making. The SWAT is a voluntary group of students who represent student voice on the various committees that exist within the school and take action in areas of concern to student wellbeing and learning.

There are three Sports Houses at Gladstone High (Sullivan, Oswald and Richards/Gale) with Senior House Captains and Vice Captains and Junior Captains elected by house members annually.

Students are also involved with the Southern Flinders Health Better Living Group, Obesity Prevention and lifestyle Program (OPAL), and the Northern Areas Council Youth Advisory Committee (NACYAC)

3. Key School Policies

Mission Statement:

“Students realising their potential”.

Gladstone High School aims to provide a caring, supportive and challenging learning environment. The school encourages and supports individual students to develop independence, success oriented learning and self confidence. Successful learning in this school is based upon a partnership between staff, students, parents and the wider community.

CARE

LEARNING

CONFIDENCE

Values: *Doing your Best Honesty Respect Responsibility*

SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015-2017

Site Priority:

Improve the learning outcomes and life opportunities for all students at Gladstone High School

- **Improve Literacy & Numeracy Skills**
- **Increase Attendance Rates**
- **Improve SACE Achievement Standards**

Vocational Learning Pathways

- Vocational learning programs include Certificate 1 in Agriculture and Certificate II and III in Building Construction in partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board & TAFE SA.
- 21 students participated in Certificate II and III level training through various Registered Training Organisations across the following industries:
 - Agriculture
 - Aged Care
 - Plumbing
 - Building / Construction
 - Butchery
 - Engineering
 - Automotive
 - Motor Mechanics
 - Retail
 - Children’s Services
 - Hospitality
 - Community Services
 - Hairdressing

4. Curriculum

Teaching and learning programs developed using Australian Curriculum and are delivered through smaller class sizes. The school offers a full curriculum in seven of the eight Areas of Learning (The Arts, English, Health and Physical Education, Maths, Science, History and Geography, and Technology) taught from Year 8 through to Year 12.

The Middle School Curriculum

Our Middle School Curriculum and Pastoral Care programs are designed to enhance the social, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being of each student. It is aligned with the public charter for education and covers 7 of the 8 Areas of Learning and integrates where appropriate the identified essential learnings/key competencies.

Agriculture, Local Environment, Technology & Information Skills, are incorporated and utilised in teachers' programs where applicable.

The Senior Curriculum

Students entering senior school will follow a curriculum pattern that leads to the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). Gladstone High School offers a comprehensive range of subjects face to face, to enable students to complete their SACE. At Gladstone High School there is a strong focus and commitment to supporting all our students to achieve, and identify pathways to future education, and work. The VET, agriculture and viticulture programmes are an important part of our school, giving students the opportunity to put classroom learning into practice and develop industry level skills and accreditation.

It is also possible to take a combination of year 11 and year 12 subjects, and to study part time. Adult students are encouraged and supported to enrol in SACE subjects.

Year 10 students, to undertake 1 unit of SACE Stage 1 – the Personal Learning Plan

Open Access

To provide a wider choice of subjects and to meet special needs of individuals, students can enrol by negotiation in subjects offered by MNSEC and Open Access College (OAC).

Special Needs

A number of students attending the school have been identified as having specific learning needs, and each student within the targetted groups are provided with extra support. A support team ensures that a coordinated and integrated approach is adopted to meet individual student's needs. Extensive liaison occurs with community and other government support and service agencies.

- Teaching Methodology

Staff are encouraged and supported to utilise a range of teaching methodologies. There is a recognition and understanding of the changing needs of students as they develop from young adolescents to adults. We seek to ensure that they develop independent learning techniques with an emphasis on enquiry based learning and application of emerging technologies.

- Assessment Procedures and Reporting

The school has developed a comprehensive communication and reporting procedure that takes into account the different needs of each year level. Our current reporting program is 'Excellerous' and we report 4 times each year with parent interviews held 2 times a year. In Year 8, 9 and 10 the school reports against the Australian Curriculum.

The 3 Way Assessment Conferences, introduced in 2009, were continued and consolidated at Years 8 and 9 as a means of engaging both students and parents in a more authentic process of assessment and reporting.

Industry Pathways Program

D2C (South Australia's premier Vocational Education program for the building & construction industry). D2C supports the recruitment and induction of Gladstone High School students into building and construction and enables them to complete a broad range of industry competencies up to Certificate III level. The D2C program incorporates industry/community projects.

Pre-Trades Program: Students explore a range of Trades, in Partnership with TAFESA, and undertake a Pre-Doorways Construction Program

5. Sporting Activities

Students play sport primarily for their local communities. There are a number of opportunities to participate in knockout sports competitions, MNSEC sports days, MNSEC swimming and athletics carnivals, and lunchtime sport. Both the athletics and swimming carnivals generate a MNSEC side that competes in SSSSA competition in Adelaide.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

A wide range of activities aimed at promoting school pride, individual skills and talents and fostering participation added positively to the culture and ethos of the school.

For some years the school has conducted an Athletics Day and Swimming Carnival, including the Year 6 and 7 students from the feeder Primary Schools. We have an end of year Presentation Night which celebrates the successes of the year. The whole school also participates in the School Fun Run.

Year Level Camps 8-10 are held each year-

- Year 8's go to the Aquatics Centre at Pt Augusta,
- Most Year 9 students join Booleroo and Jamestown for a trip to the Snow or alternatively go on local excursions and day trips,
- Year 10s spend one week in Adelaide on a Careers Awareness Trip and another week on Work Experience
- Year 11's have the opportunity to undertake further Work Experience and various curriculum based camps and excursions.

The students have the opportunity to perform throughout the year, and the school band is noted for the quality of its performance. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the annual MNSEC Performing Arts Showcase.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Gladstone has a balance of experienced and beginning teachers. In recent years the school has recruited a number of graduate teachers. Staff either rent or take advantage of reasonably priced real estate and live in a number of surrounding centres including Laura, Georgetown, Crystal Brook, Pt. Pirie as well as in Gladstone. The school hosts a number of students undertaking teaching practicums throughout the year.

- Leadership structure

A School Leadership Team exists – Principal, Deputy Principal, Senior Leader (Student Wellbeing) and 3 Coordinators and School Administration Officer. Line Management is clearly defined for every individual staff member and all roles and responsibilities are defined and documented. The leadership team meets on a weekly basis.

- Staff support systems

Staff are encouraged to take a project management approach to professional learning which is linked to the Site Improvement Plan (SIP). Weekly staff meetings are also predominately set aside for professional learning and whole school development.

Teachers also belong to year level and curriculum teams that meet regularly as part of the school's formal meeting structure. Curriculum and Year level teams develop action plans that are linked to the goals of the SIP.

An extensive Induction Program exists for new staff and TRTs.

- Performance & Development

There is a structured Performance Management system of support at GHS. All staff are required to have a formal performance & development meeting during week 5 term and staff often meet with line managers on a more informal basis as well. All staff are expected to have performance plans linked to the priorities of the SIP where professional development strategies are identified. The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers is used to assist teachers in identifying areas for further development.

- Staff utilisation policies

Staff are encouraged to diversify their knowledge and skill base to provide flexibility in timetabling and to enhance their careers. T & D is provided to support staff in acquiring and developing these skills. DECD retraining programmes are offered to staff. PAC provides advice and is consulted regularly, meeting several times per term and more often as required.

- Access to special staff

The school has students involved in the Instrumental Music Program. The school works co-operatively with the IMS and Gladstone Primary, Laura Primary, St. Joseph's Parish and Georgetown Primary to increase student engagement in music

As a consequence of the school's priority to increase access to external agencies and personnel the school has a very well established and effective support network based on interagency support.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
N/A
- Isolation placement points
N/A
- Shorter terms
N/A
- Travelling time
N/A
- Housing assistance
N/A
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
N/A
- Designated schools benefits
N/A
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
N/A
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
Yes
- Locality allowances
The Country Incentives scheme operates over the first 5 years that a teacher spends in the school
- Relocation assistance
Yes
- Principal's telephone costs
Yes

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Buildings are SANCON construction built in 1973. In recent years the school has implemented a facilities upgrade which has specifically targeted the better management and development of learning environments to support student learning such as the newly refurbished learning hub incorporating the IT suite and seminar room, and upgrades to Science, Home Economics, Tech Studies and Art facilities. A further upgrade is planned for 2016 with roofing, ceiling and air-conditioning work to be undertaken.

A priority for the school is the focus on sustainable futures through the development of the school as an environmentally sustainable learning environment. We have a shared use agreement with Ewart Oval (town facilities). 6 hectares are used for agriculture and viticulture pursuits. We have a small purpose built winery and 1 hectare of shiraz vines. The Ag Studies "farm" also runs meat birds, layers, led steers, meat goats, as well as the stud sheep and the viticulture project. A small olive grove produces quality virgin olive oil and we also have a small mixed orchard.

- Southern Flinders Regional Sports Complex
Following funding received from the Commonwealth Government and in partnership with the Northern Areas Council (Ewart Oval Sporting Bodies), Catholic Education (St. Joseph's Parish School) and Dept Education & Child Development (Gladstone High School) there is a Joint User Agreement to use these facilities which are located on Ewart Oval next to the school. The facilities include a classroom, a 2 Basketball Court stadium lined for a variety of sports, a Function Centre and Industry approved Kitchen.
- Heating and cooling
All buildings have A/C and gas heaters provide heating in winter.
- Specialist facilities and equipment
The school currently has 1 specialist Computer Room, Resource Centre providing an area for distance delivery, Hall, 2 Science Labs, Art Room, Media Room, Home Economics Centre, and a Technical Studies Centre.

Extensive Grounds, vineyard, winery and other agriculture facilities are also a feature of the school.
- Student facilities
Year 12 common room, canteen, seminar room and counselling room used by the Student Welfare Worker. Students have access to the Internet and our computer to student ratio is currently 1:2, with the school moving to a parent purchase computer scheme and 'bring your own browser' scheme in 2014.
- Staff facilities
Staff have Email/Internet access and there is an extensive administrative computer network available for all staff. All staff have work preparation areas.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
Ramps in place to accommodate students and staff with disabilities.
- Access to bus transport
Premier Coachlines provide a regular service from Adelaide to Crystal Brook (21 kms) and Pt Pirie (38 kms). DECD buses and the local bus contractor in Gladstone are available for hire for excursions.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
The school has clearly documented decision making structures and procedures. School based committees include PAC, WH&S and Leadership. Grounds & Facilities, and Finance Advisory serve the Governing Council and have both staff and parent representation. Other Governing Council sub-committees include Canteen and Agriculture. Celebrating Student Success has staff, Council and student representation. Students are represented by a student elected Student Leadership Team.
There is also a MNSEC Management group that meets on a once per term basis to discuss issues that impact on the member schools.

- Regular publications
School/Community Newsletter is published each fortnight. Induction handbook is provided to all staff and the school handbook is accessible on the computer network. Daily Notices occur. MNSEC Handbook is revised annually and Information Booklet is provided upon request. A school magazine is published every year. Staff also access daily bulletins and regularly updated term planners. News is also circulated via Notice Boards and Local Services/Businesses.
- Other communication
School makes use of local press. We place high emphasis on positive publicity and pay for adverts in the local papers. We also subscribe to the local Gladstone Gazette and have materials in the Southern Flinders Discovery Centre located in the main street of Gladstone.
- School financial position
School is in a sound financial position. This is aided by Governing Council's commitment to fund raising with activities including a stall at the Laura Folk Fair and Gladstone Country Fair, grape, wine and other agricultural enterprises.
- Special funding
Gladstone High receives rural and isolated index funding as a CAP school and as such attracts substantial funding to offset the disadvantage of being in a rural location

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
The local community is made up of a number of "close knit" community groups that provide quality support to their members. Sporting, church, tourism and progress groups are active and do a sound job of promoting a region that is rapidly growing as a tourist destination as well as fulfilling the more traditional role of being en route to the Flinders. The Southern Flinders Tourist Region is concentrating on promoting itself as an area for people to enjoy peace and quiet and to avail themselves of the food, wine and accommodation options on offer.
The area has subtle variations in landscape with some exquisite picnic sites and some beautiful scenery to enjoy. Lifestyle is relaxed and the climate is pleasant with some hot summer days and some cold winter nights supplementing gorgeous spring and autumn weather and those brilliant mid-north starry nights.
There is a broad range of services available in the immediate area and more specialised services are available in Port Pirie.
The workforce is predominantly involved in primary industry and related services.
The major sources of employment aside from government institutions are ABB Grain Limited (Gladstone), Golden North (Laura), and the hospitals located at Crystal Brook and Laura.
Adelaide's CBD is just over 2 hours travelling and Port Pirie, with a population of 12,000, is 25 minutes by car.
- Parent and community involvement
Governing Council is committed to promoting Gladstone High as a centre of educational excellence. The Council is extremely supportive of new innovations that improve the learning environment for students and staff.

- Feeder schools

Gladstone High receives students from Crystal Brook Primary, Georgetown Primary, Gladstone Primary, St Josephs (also located in Gladstone) and Laura Primary. Each of these schools recognises Gladstone High as their “school of right”. Until their closure, Appila, Gulnare and Yacka primary schools also recognised Gladstone as their “school of right”. These communities still provide students to GHS.

- Other local care and educational facilities

Gladstone has the educational facilities outlined above and also has a Kindergarten. Each of the neighbouring towns has Childcare, Play Group and Pre-School facilities available.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

The town of Gladstone has the essential requirements for shopping and services. Adjacent towns have complementary services and Pt Pirie is a highly serviced regional centre.

- Other Local Facilities

Gladstone has a swimming pool and extensive sporting facilities are available throughout the district. A health centre operates 5 days per week serviced by 2 doctors from Laura and the local hospital is the Rocky River Health Services situated 10 km north of Gladstone. Crystal Brook also provides health services including a hospital.

In an effort to promote tourism in the region, each town has an active tourist outlet, and there are numerous tourist attractions throughout the school’s catchment area.

- Availability of Staff Housing

Accommodation Services have a number of homes available for rent in Gladstone and surrounding towns.

- Accessibility

Gladstone is about a 2-hour drive from the centre of Adelaide. Buses from Adelaide regularly service Crystal Brook and Pt Pirie.

- Local Government body

Northern Areas Council (www.nacouncil.sa.gov) services the majority of Gladstone’s catchment area. The Crystal Brook township lies within Port Pirie Regional Council.