



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 23/5/24

School number: 0340

School name: Ascot Park Primary School

School profile:

Our school values of respect, responsibility and excellence guide us to achieve our mission:

For every child to achieve their best academically and socially, demonstrating confidence, resilience and independence so they are able to make strong decisions and contribute positively to their community.

We are proud of our diversity and value the individual needs and interests of each student. Our spacious, supportive and happy learning environments, along with high expectations, give all students the opportunity to achieve their academic, social, emotional and physical potential.

We are a Department for Education funded specialist PE and sport school. After poor representation in gymnastics at the Seoul Olympics, Gymnastics SA received funding from the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) to be able to identify children with talent at an early age. In 1988, a partnership with the school was formed and so we became the Gymnastics Focus School. As gymnastics numbers began to drop, the school broadened its options. In 2014 we became a more general specialist PE and sport school where soccer was offered as well as gymnastics.

The school offers Performing Arts as a specialist subject. Interested years 5-6 students participate in choir each week with students from our campus schools, SA School and Services for Vision Impaired (SASSVI) and Kilparrin Teaching and Assessment School, as part of the Festival of Music. The choir also performs at our end of year celebration night. We offer Auslan as part of the languages curriculum.

We have a strong connection with the community, offering a weekly Gymplay program for toddlers and preschool children. Links with local preschools, including Ascot Park Kindergarten are well established and they visit the gym each week for expert instruction in movement and coordination activities. Students can participate in Children's University which provides numerous extra-curricula activities, culminating in a graduation at Adelaide University at the end of the year. Our facilities are hired extensively to various community groups.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Sam Kennedy
- Deputy Principal's name: Richard Kemp
- Year of opening: 1926 (the current school was built in 1974)
- Postal Address: 1-37 Pildappa Avenue, Park Holme 5043
- Location Address: 1-37 Pildappa Avenue, Park Holme 5043
- Department for Education Partnership: Marion Inland
- Geographical location: 10 kilometres south-west from the GPO
- Telephone number: 08 8276 3055
- Fax Number: 08 8277 9007
- School website address: <http://www.ascotpkps.sa.edu.au>
- School email address: dl.0340_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Reception	16	17	25	26	36	23	39	27	34
Year 1	11	14	18	29	25	37	28	34	28
Year 2	19	14	16	30	29	22	40	25	35
Year 3	14	19	16	20	27	28	18	31	25
Year 4	22	11	21	21	23	24	27	18	25
Year 5	10	23	18	25	21	22	25	21	16
Year 6	18	9	25	15	25	15	20	23	20
Year 7	13	19	10	16	21	22	-	-	-
TOTAL	123	126	149	182	207	193	192	179	183
ATSI students	3	4	11	14	16	17	20	20	14
EALD students	53	47	43	36	48	58	74	67	29
Students with a disability		8	12	17	21	20	22	17	16
School card percentage	41	42	49	50	49	46	33	39	23

- Student enrolment trends:
Enrolments have shown steady annual growth since 2017, with the exception of the last 2 years where the COVID pandemic has impacted international families.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

Principal	1.0
Deputy Principal <i>Student wellbeing, engagement and support</i>	1.0
Teaching staff	11.8 FTE
SSO permanent hours (inc admin / IT)	217.7 hours
ACEO	14 hours
Groundsperson (GSE2 & 3)	25 hours
- Public transport access:
Buses travelling north and south stop outside of the school on Marion Road. The railway station is about 0.5 km away from the school.
- Special site arrangements:

Ascot Park Primary School is the only primary specialist PE and sport school funded and endorsed by the Department for Education. We offer before school gymnastics and after school soccer and netball programs for years 2-6 students and JP students can participate in 'come and try' sessions for different sports on Wednesdays after school. Our PE teacher provides general PE and gymnastics lessons to all classes.

SASVI and Kilparrin share our site and students from SASVI regularly visit and have lessons with classes. The Park Holme campus of the Warradale Community Children's Centre is situated in the south-east corner of the site.

The Adelaide Nepali School uses 2 of our learning spaces every Saturday morning in term time and provides Nepalese children (many of whom are enrolled at Ascot Park) the opportunity to keep their language and culture alive.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

The school's index of disadvantage is 3. Currently there are 8 composite classes from Reception to year 6. Students come from 24 different cultural backgrounds and we have 14 Aboriginal students. 16 students have an identified learning disability and attract funding which is used for extra learning or behaviour support.

A high level of transience is experienced due in part to mobility of families in short term rental accommodation and parents who are students at Flinders University completing their studies.

A transition program and visits are organised for our year 6 students by Hamilton Secondary College and other local high schools. In term 2 and 4 new children who will begin Reception in the next intake experience an orientation to school, visiting their new classroom over 3 visits, increasing in time each subsequent week.

- Student wellbeing programs

The school also uses classroom practices and strategies from the Berry Street Education Model for supporting social-emotional wellbeing and engagement. All staff have been trained in SMART practices (strategies for managing abuse related trauma).

Targeted social skills programs include *You Can Do It Education*, *Zones of Regulation*, *Play Is the Way* and *What's the Buzz*. A focus on protective behaviours is supported through each class teaching the *Keeping Safe* Child Protection Curriculum. Our Golden Rule, *Treat others as you would like them to treat you*, underpins all programs and activities.

The Deputy Principal's role comprises the student wellbeing leader role. Buddy classes operate across the school. Breakfast Club is run by volunteers from *KickStart 4 Kids* and *Foodbank* and is open to all students on Wednesday mornings.

- Student support offered

There is strong SSO support provided to students with special needs. EALD and ATSI support is also provided to individuals and small groups of students. We have community mentors working with some of our students.

A Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) is appointed to the school for 9 hours a week to support families, students and staff. The PCW and school works with groups including BaptistCare, MarionLife and Foodbank to help support families in need.

- Student management

The school's behaviour management policy provides a whole school framework for managing student behaviour and creating safe, orderly and productive learning environments. The school's behaviour code describes a range of specific behaviours that we expect and strategies

for supporting students to manage their own behaviour appropriately. The anti-bullying policy has recently been reviewed.

- Student government
Students at all levels of schooling are encouraged to be involved in contributing to decisions about their own learning, classroom management and organisation. They contribute to whole school decision-making through structures such as regular class meetings and fortnightly VOK meetings (Voice of Kids).

House captains, selected each year by a panel represent the school at a number of events including our annual sports day.

- Special programs
 - Off to a Great Start – first 2 weeks program
 - Specialist subjects – PE/gymnastics, Performing Arts, Auslan and Science
 - Specialist PE and sport
 - Festival of Music choir
 - Children’s University

3. Key School Policies

- School improvement plan (SIP) and other key statements or policies:
 - The priority on the current SIP is reading improvement.
 - The school also has an action plan that continues to support the staff and school in improving literacy and numeracy, sport and PE and wellbeing.
- Recent key outcomes:
The school has worked extensively on continuous improvement in relation the the External School Review directions of 2022. Work has included continuity of learning for students through increased curriculum planning and developing sequenced units of work that engage, differentiate and challenge students. Teachers have had time to collaboratively plan and receive feedback on their teacher practice through observations. Teachers and leaders use data to inform planning.

Specific student and cohort achievement improvements can be found in the Annual Report.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings:
Teachers use the Australian Curriculum to plan, design, teach and assess in 8 learning areas incorporating the 7 general capabilities and 3 cross-curriculum priorities. Our current specialist subjects are PE/gymnastics, Science, Auslan and Performing Arts (dance, drama, music).
- Special needs:
 - EALD support (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) for students for whom English is not their first language
 - Learning plans (one plans) for learners with an identified learning disability, Aboriginal students (monitored by the AET and ACEO) and for students in care
 - *Corrective reading*, *MiniLit* and *MacquLit* literacy intervention programs
- Special curriculum features:
 - Specialist PE and sport
 - Outdoor learning supported by new nature play space
 - Community garden provides opportunities for students to grow produce and develop positive food habits through fun, hands-on learning

- Teaching methodology:
Teachers use the SA Teaching for Effective Learning framework (TfEL) to plan and teach. There are a variety of professional learning communities (PLCs) within the school and partnership for teachers to share and collaborate. All learning spaces have interactive TVs and all students have access to class sets of ipads and laptops as well as the computer room.

Quality teaching and learning is monitored through performance and development practices including professional conversations, relevant professional learning, classroom walkthroughs and observations. Teachers use explicit direct instruction teaching practices, aligned to the schools focus in reading improvement.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting
Teachers use diagnostic, formative and summative assessment strategies and assess against the Australian Curriculum achievement standards. There is an annual assessment and reporting schedule that teachers abide by including how we report to parents:
 - Acquaintance night term 1, week 3
 - 3-way learning conversations – end term 1
 - Written reports – end term 2 and 4
 - Parent-teacher interviews – term 3
 - Informal meetings throughout the year as requested by either teacher or parent
- Joint programs
We are part of the Marion Inland Partnership of schools in the Noarlunga 1 Portfolio. Staff from each school and preschool meet on combined student free days, some staff meetings and other times in areas of interest or projects eg early years.

5. Sporting Activities

- Specialist PE and sport program
- *Gym for All* school
- SAPSASA events eg swimming, cross-country
- Knockout sport – netball and soccer
- Sports day held annually, usually end of term 1
- Swimming (R-5) and aquatics (year 6) programs in term 1
- Sporting clinics organised by PE teacher throughout the year
- PE week
- Jump Rope for Heart annual participation

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Festival of Music choir
- Children's University
- Lunchtime student activities include garden, sport, STEM, library, yarning circle

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile:
 - 10 classroom teachers working from 0.6 to 1.0 inc complex special class (1:1)
 - 4 specialist (NIT) teachers working 0.3 to 0.6
 - 1 EALD teacher
 - 1 Aboriginal education teacher (AET)
 - 1 Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO)
 - 14 SSOs (School Services Officers) providing administrative and curriculum support including library, ICT, WHS, PR/social media, specialist sport
 - 2 Groundspersons
 - OSHC Director employed by Governing Council
 - Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) employed by the School's Ministry Group

- Leadership structure:
 - Principal
 - Deputy Principal *Student wellbeing, support and engagement*
 - Senior leader *Curriculum*
 - HAT teacher – *Reading Coach*
- Staff support systems
 - Professional learning communities within the school include co-planning teams, working teams, TLCs (teacher learning communities), unit teams and teams formed by special interests
 - PAC
 - Staff meetings are held on Tuesdays 3.30-5pm
 - SSO meetings
 - Professional learning is aligned to department and school priorities
- Performance Management
 - Professional development meetings for teachers with Principal or Deputy Principal to focus on SIP, student learning and own professional learning goals
 - Professional development meetings for ancillary staff with Business Manager
- Staff utilisation policies

Each year, PAC consults with staff about their preferred roles for the following year. Decision making through this process includes consideration of the school's needs and priorities, staff skills and interests, department guidelines and available resources.

 - Year levels
 - Specialist subjects
 - AET teacher
 - EALD teacher
 - SSO positions support admin, library, ICT, WHC, curriculum
 - Aboriginal Community Education Officer
- Access to special staff
 - The school accesses department support staff including Speech Pathologist, Psychologist, Behaviour Support Coach, Special Educator, Social Work (truancy)
 - Outside agencies utilised include CAMHS, Baptist Care, Connected Self, Connected Psychology, Autism SA

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The school was built in 1926 and rebuilt in 1974. The school is two large single-story, solid brick buildings. Most classrooms have access to shared wet areas. There is also a library, computer room, performing arts room, gymnastics hall and a large sports centre. All rooms were painted and re-carpeted in 2021. The buildings are centred around three courtyards that provide quiet sitting areas. There is a large oval, playground and netball and basketball courts. In 2019 work was completed on a new nature play space and community garden which was funded through the 2017 'Fund My Neighbourhood' grants.
- Heating and cooling

Every classroom is airconditioned and heated with a 'climate air wizard' providing natural climate-controlled ventilation. Offices have individual air conditioning units.

- Specialist facilities and equipment
There are computers and an interactive TV in each class. There are class sets of iPads for JP students and class sets of laptops/tablets for primary students. A computer suite for explicit computing and keyboarding lessons is situated alongside our spacious and open plan library.
- Student facilities
VOK (Voice of Kids) members are rostered on each day at the netball shed to lend out sports equipment for students to use at play times.

The school has a fitted canteen space. It is currently not open and the school and governing council are in the process of finding a new provider.

- Staff facilities
There is a welcoming staff room with adjacent toilets. Many classrooms have adjoining shared prep and storage rooms. There is a meeting room in the admin building which provides space and privacy for meetings.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
There is a disabled toilet with a shower. The car park has a clearly signed disabled park to be used during school hours and buildings are accessible.
- Access to bus transport
The school owns a small bus and there is public transport available along Marion Road.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
Governing Council meets twice a term and has the following sub-committees: finance, OSHC, and canteen. Staff have opportunities to contribute to decision making through staff meetings, SSO meetings and PLCs. PAC advises the principal. VOK is also consulted on matters pertaining to students.
- Regular publications
 - Whole school newsletters published 3 times per term on ClassDojo and our website (hard copies are available at the front office)
 - Class newsletters sent home at the beginning of each term
 - We use Microsoft Teams for daily and weekly communication to staff.
- Other communication
 - School's website <https://ascotpkps.sa.edu.au/>
 - Facebook page
 - *Class Dojo* app for class use
 - Academy Education Solutions software for absences
 - Intranet for staff
 - Meeting minutes – staff, PAC, SSO
 - Annual calendar (staff room whiteboard)
 - Term calendars for families
 - Staff handbook
 - Parent information handbook
 - OSHC family handbook
 - Community noticeboards
 - Marion Rd / Pildappa Ave corner electronic sign
- School financial position
The school is in a sound financial position.

- Special funding
 - Specialist PE and sport
 - The school applies for grants when relevant

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
The local community is varied and has a wide mix of nationalities. There is also a mix of rental and private home ownership in the school community. There is transience and also families who have been associated with Ascot Park for two or three generations. Unemployment and education levels vary and the level of school card reflects the needs of the community.
- Parent and community involvement
There are numbers of parent volunteers that support class and school programs and students' learning and library. We enjoy a very positive association with organisations such as KickStart4Kids and MarionLIFE.
- Feeder preschools or destination schools
Feeder kindergartens include Ascot Park and Oaklands Estate Kindergartens. Students also enrol after completing new arrivals programs. The predominant destination school is Hamilton Secondary College and also includes Springbank, Brighton, Seaview, Mitcham Girl's and Adelaide high schools.
- Other local care and educational facilities
The Park Holme campus of Warradale Children's Centre childcare is situated in the south-east corner of the school. The Park Holme library (Marion Library Service) is on Duncan Ave, opposite the school. Flinders University and the Australian Science and Mathematics School are 5km south.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Park Holme Shopping Centre is a five-minute walk and Westfield Marion is a five-minute drive. Castle Plaza at Edwardstown is a ten-minute drive as is the main commercial area of Glenelg.
- Other local facilities
 - SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre 4km
 - Marion Outdoor Pool 1km
 - Marion Leisure & Fitness Centre 1.5km
 - Flinders Medical Centre 5km
- Local Government body
The Marion City Council is the local body and has supported the school in various ways.

12. Further Comments

Ascot Park Primary School is part of the Marion Inland Partnership that includes Ascot Park Kindergarten, Forbes Children's Centre, Mitchell Park Kindergarten, Plympton South Kindergarten, Clovelly Park Primary School, Forbes Primary School, Kilparrin Teaching and Assessment School, SA School and Services for Vision Impaired (SASSVI), Australian Science and Mathematics School (ASMS) and Hamilton Secondary College.