

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 25/07/17

**School number:** 0685

**School name:** Risdon Park Primary School

## 1. General information

### Part A

School name : RISDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL  
School No. : 0685 Courier : Port Pirie  
Principal : Mrs Carolyn Clinton  
Postal Address : Kingston Road, Port Pirie 5540  
Location Address : 24 – 28 Kingston Road, Port Pirie 5540  
Partnership : Pirie Parntership  
Road distance from GPO: 225 kms Phone No. : 08 86322226  
CPC attached : No Fax No. : 08 86325085

February FTE Enrolment	2015	2016	2017
Primary			
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.			
Foundation	47	47	50
Year 1	59	52	47
Year 2	54	61	51
Year 3	45	54	55
Year 4	48	50	55
Year 5	53	42	48
Year 6	50	52	45
Year 7	60	50	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>402</b>
July total FTE Enrolment	416	408	402
July School Card (Persons)	160	133	114
NESB Total (Persons)	8	8	3
Born O/S & in Aust less than 1 yr (Persons)	0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	33	45	41
Students with Disability	30	36	33

### Part B

- **Principal**  
Carolyn Clinton
- **Deputy Principal**  
Damien Mellow
- **School Counsellor**  
Carly Pavy
- **School e-mail address**  
dl:0685\_info@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Staffing numbers** – 50 staff members for 2017
  - Teaching Staff (including Principal & Deputy Principal)
  - School Counsellor (.6) and Behaviour Education Support Teacher (.4)
  - Classroom teachers x 16 (7 Graduate teachers in first year of teaching)
  - LOTE teacher, NIT teachers x 4,
  - Intervention Support Teacher (.8),
  - Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET .4),
  - Reading Support Teacher (.2)
  - School Services Officers (17) in a variety of roles including: Admin, Finance, ICT, Student and Classroom Support, Support of Students with Disabilities and challenging behaviours, garden program, Resource Centre, Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO – 16.5 hours),
  - Grounds person (12 hours),
  - Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPS worker between 8-10 hours a week).
  - Canteen manager- 5 days a week
- **Enrolment trends**
  - Expected enrolment for 2017 approximately 400 enrolments
- **Special arrangements**
  - Involvement in Pirie Partnerships (7 primary schools, Special School, one Secondary School), Bookmark Cluster, Finance Officers Hub Group, Port Pirie District SAPSASA.
- **Year of opening**
  - 1955.
- **Public transport access**
  - Town public transport available.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

Risdon Park Primary School is a Category 4 School of disadvantage.

  - 28.5% of students are school card holders
  - 8.25% of students identified with a disability and have a Negotiated Education Plan.
  - 5% of students have been identified with language and communication difficulties and receive in-school support
  - 10% of students are ATSI and 1.0 % of students identified as EALD. 3 students are identified as Non English Speaking Background
  - 11 students are under the Guardianship of the Minister
- **(Pastoral) Care programs**
  - The school has a part-time School Counsellor (0.6); and this year also a part time Behaviour Education Support teacher (0.4) to cover the days when the School Counsellor is not on site.

Interagency support is available through, CAMHS, DCP, Uniting Care Wesley and Yourtown.

- **Support**

DECD support is accessed from Support Services in the following areas:

- Attendance
- Hearing
- Students with Disability
- Speech
- Behaviour
- Psychology
- Senior Social Work
- Family Focus.

- **Student Behaviour Management**

A comprehensive Behaviour Education, which outlines positive in-class and yard behaviour; and is underpinned by the Partnership Learning Qualities. Yard and Class behaviour Codes and procedures were reviewed in 2016.

The Engagement for Learning team meet twice a term and regularly review the Behaviour Education plan.

In 2014 Pirie Partnership of sites conducted a comprehensive and inclusive process to identify 4 common qualities that we would like our students, staff and families to value. The qualities of Respect, Responsibility, Persistence and Confidence have been woven into our first 15 day program and explicit teaching of these Qualities are regularly re-visited through the year. The Qualities are also woven into our common language of the school and awards are presented to students at Whole School Assemblies who demonstrate the identified focus Quality for that period of time.

Parents/Caregivers and Interagency teams are involved in developing Student Behaviour Plans when necessary.

- **Student Government**

SRC (Kids Co) class reps R-7 meets every fortnight with staff facilitators – School Counsellor and the Behaviour Education Support Teacher. Classes are encouraged to hold weekly class meetings. Three whole school assemblies are held each term and led by our two School Captains and two Vice Captains. Kids Co organises fundraising, special days and makes suggestions for improving school equipment and resources, particularly in relation to class and grounds facilities.

- **Special Programs**

A range of programs led by, Counsellor, Behaviour Education Support Teacher, AET and ACEO, CPS Worker and School Services Officers; cater for small groups of students with special needs in Literacy and Numeracy, social skills, life skills and behaviour. These include the organic garden (which has a strong focus in the school), Social Skills – True Colours and Rage program, Disability Swimming, and identified students through Yourtown programs.

A Reading Room Program, operated by the Intervention Support Teacher (Nicole Ferme), School Services Officers, caters for small groups of Year 1 and 2 students requiring additional reading support through the implementation of the Mini Lit Program.

Multi Lit intervention programs target students in year 3 to 7 working 1:1 with an adult for 4 sessions a week on reading and decoding skills.

An SSO is employed 12 hours per week for work with classes and small groups of students in an alternative garden program.

Transition Opportunities are also available for year 6/7 students at John Pirie Secondary School throughout Term 4 with an extended transition for students with disabilities.

A range of lunchtime activities are offered throughout the school.

Premier's Reading Challenge is implemented across all year levels at RPPS.

Year 6/7 students attend numerous SAPSASA events during the school year.

A Breakfast Club is held two mornings a week under the coordination of the SSO Cassie Bond, CPS worker Vianna Fasciano and parent volunteers. The Breakfast program is run under the "Breakfast in a Bag" strategy and is financially support by Nyrstar and Regional Health Food Bank.

### **3. Key School Policies**

- **Statement of Purpose**

#### **Contextual Influences**

Risdon Park Primary School provides quality Reception to Year 7 schooling for students in Port Pirie. Opened in 1955, and rebuilt into a permanent brick structure in 1975.

The school consists of three 6-unit open space buildings, which are partly partitioned to enable individual classes to operate. Students are grouped into 16 classes in both single and composite year levels.

Term 1 student enrolment is 400. These numbers have remained steady over the past two years and enrolment expectations are expected to remain steady over the next few years.

Parent, grandparents and other community members actively engage in different ways and in different volunteer roles throughout the school. Governing Council and its sub-committees are active in the students' education and general welfare. At Risdon Park Primary School we ensure that volunteers meet DECD's Child Protection expectations by securing Police checks and the required RAN training.

#### **Core Business**

RPPS provides access to the curriculum through quality teaching and learning programs in an environment that is caring and supportive. We aim to achieve successful learning experiences for students through positive student/teacher/parent relationships and a focus on quality teaching/learning with high performance outcomes.

### **Our vision:**

**We are a diverse community of individuals who support each other to be engaged in our learning**

**Taking on challenges through goal setting, demonstrating resilience and confidence, enabling us to achieve high standards in all aspects of our lives**

**Together We Achieve**

### **Our Qualities:**

*Respect, Responsibility, Persistence, Confidence*

- **OUR PRIORITIES - Improvement Priorities for 2015 - 2018**
  - **Numeracy**
  - **Engagement**
  - **Powerful Learning** (Australian Curriculum Numeracy & Teaching for Effective Learning Framework – TfEL)
  - **Literacy – Reading Comprehension**
  
- ICT continues to be a priority across the school, with equipping teachers and SSO with iPads to use for planning, researching and using with students. A bank of 15 laptops are also available for primary age students to access.
- ICT professional learning is a priority for staff. An ICT committee develops and reviews in consultation with Risdon Park PS staff.
- Risdon Park PS Intervention processes mirror DECD's 3 Waves of Intervention process. Students are identified for wave 2 intervention in Reading in the first 3 weeks of term 1 with intervention programs starting in week 4 of term. Data is regularly collected to track individual student progress. In 2017 Risdon Park PS will be using the Quick Smart Maths Intervention program, which will target student numeracy knowledge and skill level from years 4 – 7. This program aims to identify students who require wave 2 Intervention in Numeracy.

### **Monitoring and Review**

Risdon Park Primary School self-review cycle is a comprehensive process and operates through 200 day action plans from term 1 to term 4. Our cycle allows for ongoing monitoring of our improvement priorities with the aim of maintaining momentum for continuous improvement with no time lag or “down time”.

Staff and Governing Council work in and with Improvement Teams. Action plans are revised in term 1, while still in implementation mode with new action plans implemented in terms 2 and 3. Evidence is strategically gathered through term 2 and 3. Term 4 evidence is analysed for the purpose of the comprehensive class placement process for the following year and in preparation of writing Risdon Park PS Annual Report.

In 2017 Risdon Park Primary School will have 3 Improvement Teams in operation to focus on each of the Improvement Team priorities. Teams meet regularly, two times in staff meeting in term 1, twice in term 2 and 3 and once in term 4 to monitor the progress and achievement in our improvement priority areas.

## **Planning and review structures include:**

- Leadership Team
- Strategic Data Collection & Analysis,
- Supportive Performance Processes including classroom observation with extensive constructive feedback.
- Kids Co. (Student Council)
- Governing Council.
- Parent/Teacher/Student interviews.
- Sub-committees of Governing Council.

## **4. Curriculum**

### **Curriculum Areas**

Risdon Park Primary School is in line with National and DECD's in the delivery of the Australian curriculum with all areas being reported on:

- Geography (from reception)
- Civics & Citizenship (from year 3)
- Economics & Business (from year 5)
- The Arts(from Reception)

Mathematics, English, Science and History continued to be implemented and reported upon twice a year.

The complete Australian Curriculum will be implemented by the end of 2017.

Other curriculum areas including, Health and PE, Technology and German are implemented through the South Australian Curriculum and Accountability framework.

In addition we offer yr 5, 6 and 7 students the opportunity to participate in an Instrumental Music Program (brass, woodwind, piano and guitar) and Combined Schools' Choir.

- **Open Access**

Available on application;

- **Special needs**

Intervention Support Teacher, leads the Students at Risk Team as required (SIT) comprised of class teachers and principal and / or delegate. The process for identifying and the referral of students with special needs is shared with staff members during the Induction of new staff.

### **Support programs include:**

- Reading Room – for Yr 1 students requiring additional reading support
- Additional reading groups for Yr 1, 2 and 5 students
- Living skills
- Gardening
- Swimming – during terms 2 and 3 for some students on NEPs
- Speech/Language programs are individualised according to student needs

- Coordination program- fine and gross motor skills development for children from Reception to Year 2.
- Community – Road safety.
- Parent volunteers assist with individual programs with several students.

- **Teaching Pedagogy**

16 single classes in three, six class Open Space Units.

A few teachers elect to do some team teaching, streaming across two classes, and peer group/cross-age tutoring especially for reading sessions. 'In-class' SSO support and alternative programs are operating for students with learning difficulties.

In 2017 Risdon Park PS have a Coordinator: Powerful Learning which will have a focus on Visible Learning project through Partnership collaboration and the leading of the Numeracy Improvement team.

- **Reporting Procedures**

Reporting practices are consistent with the (DECD) policy. We aim to report student progress in ways that are meaningful, efficient to implement and effective in their practice.

Reporting both formal and informal takes place on various forms and these, together with the timeline for 2017, are listed below.

Teachers also report informally to parents in many ways throughout the year, for example letters, discussions, appointments/interviews, students' work, class events, newsletters.

**Term 1**

Week 3	Acquaintance evening
Week 8 & 9	Parent / Teacher Interviews (Booking system through online process)

**Term 2**

Week 10	Formal Written Report
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**Term 4**

Week 9	Formal Written Report
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- *Please note that teachers and / or parents can arrange an interview in any term*

**Other ways that we report / communicate student learning / achievement @ Risdon Park PS throughout the year.**

- Review meetings for NEP's, ILP's, IEP's
- School newsletter goes home fortnightly
- Class communication books / diaries with weekly feedback
- Individual classes student Portfolios
- Parents / caregivers spending time in classrooms, going on excursions and camps
- Formal meetings, eg Governing Council, & Committee Meetings
- Individual meetings with psychologists, speech pathologists, interagency support personnel
- Attendance at Whole School Events eg Sports Day
- Phone calls home

## 5. Sporting Activities

- Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of out-of-hours sport either in a school or community team. Students are invited to try out for selection in a variety of SAPSASA sport teams. The school holds an annual sports day in Term 3. Many sports skills sessions and carnivals are provided throughout the year, so that students at all year levels have the opportunity to learn the basics of a variety of sports. Risdon Park Primary School students participate in Inter-school Sports Day early in term 4 (all Pirie Primary Schools including St Marks and Mid North Christian College participate).
- The school supports several sporting teams in local competitions. These include Soccer and Netball. Regular trainings are held at the school oval for soccer.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Weekly lunchtime activities are organised for students by our CPS Worker, AET and ACEO, School Counsellor & Behaviour Education Support Teacher.

Whole School Celebrations such as Harmony Day take place each year.

Book Week performance and Dance programs are conducted either annually or bi-annually.

Kids Co (SRC) coordinates a fundraising event for a nominated charity or school project once a semester e.g.; World Environment Day, Clean Up Australia Day, Childhood Cancer.

Footsteps Dance program is run bi-annually. Gymnastics program run bi-annually.

The school has a Yr 5, 6, 7 senior students Choir, which participates in a local Combined Schools' Choir performances in the Keith Michelle Theatre.

Our LOTE (German teacher) promotes students entering competitions; and supports them to attend celebrations in Adelaide. Over the last few years we have been highly successful in the state Schutzenfest competition.

Annual Risdon Got Talent Quest implemented by CPS worker, Deputy Principal/ School Counsellor and Kids Co in term 4.

Class Camps & Excursions – Year 6/7 have an Annual Camp other year years hold sleep-overs, camps and excursions through negotiations with Leadership.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

Over the past two year RPPS has had a high turn over of staff due to taking leave, with a few staff members retiring. This had led to a number of temporary positions, many of which have been filled by graduate teachers in their first year of teaching and / or new teachers in their first three years. A number of part time staff take up NIT (non-instruction time) positions or other non-classroom positions within the school.

- **Leadership structure**

The Core Leadership Team is comprised of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Counsellor, Improvement Coordinators having responsibilities in Numeracy Improvement and Powerful Learning. The Intervention Support Teacher is also a member of the Leadership team

An Admin Leadership team is comprised of Principal, Deputy Principal, Counsellor, Finance Officer and two Front Office SSOs.

Both teams meet on a weekly basis.

- **Staff support systems**

Staff members are responsible for disseminating information and acting as a focus/contact person for at least one area of study; and for cross-curricular roles. Staff work in Unit teams to discuss and come to agreements on Unit processes and procedures, plus moderation of student work in like year levels.

Staff meet 3 times a term in Learning Teams to implement and discuss Australian Curriculum, pedagogy and planning around Numeracy. This has provided valuable mentoring, collaboration and help support staff with their ongoing professional development.

Staff are strongly encouraged and supported to attend professional development opportunities that are offered within the Partnership and at a state-wide basis, together with regular times being available for in-school roles and priorities.

Regularly throughout the year Rosslyn Sheppard (Maths consultant) will spend at a week at Risdon working alongside teaches to help support the planning and knowledge of the Maths curriculum.

- **Performance Management**

The Principal, Deputy Principal and School Counsellor hold the Line Management responsibilities at Risdon Park PS.

A clearly documented Performance Development process is documented which includes formal and informal meetings, classroom literacy observations and comprehensive feedback. Teachers in partnership conduct observations in nominated areas and provide feedback to their colleagues.

All staff are required to develop a Personal Performance Plan and discuss and reflect on improvement strategies with their line manager. The Australian Profession Standards for Teachers are reflected and addressed in Teachers Personal Performance Plans.

In 2017 teachers are encouraged to seek feedback of their practice from their students, with the support of TfEL (Teaching for Effective Learning framework).

Induction Processes were reviewed in 2016. A buddy system exists for new staff members to become acquainted with life and work at Risdon Park PS and informed about policies, procedures, and routines.

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

- **Isolation placement points**

Risdon Park Primary School attracts 2.0 points.
- **Shorter terms**

No additional incentive to the government incentive – 10 week fourth term, if the 37.5 hours training and development is completed.
- **Travelling time**

Because of our distance from Adelaide, negotiated travelling time can be included in the year's 37.5 hours' training and development record.
- **Housing assistance**

There is some Government Housing available in Port Pirie.
- **Cooling for school buildings**

Refer to School Facilities section below.
- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**

This applies to Risdon Park Primary School.

## 9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and Grounds**

Classroom provisions include three six-teacher open-space units; two transportables used as Science/Technology and LOTE German rooms; two double transportables used as a nitbased Health and PE room.

Funding from DECD has seen the school in 2016 be able to re develop its back yard area to provide students with an outdoor space with basketball court and 4 square areas.

In 2017 Risdon will start the process of painting all areas externally and re carpeting all rooms through a grant from DECD.
- **Cooling**

All learning and administration areas are provided with split system cooling.
- **Specialist facilities**

The Resource Centre is well equipped for school use, with a wide range of book and non-book resources, access to the Internet and CD Rom and TV and video facilities. A new interactive TV has also been installed.

The LOTE room is a separate transportable classroom which has recently been reclad and relined and fitted with new windows and carpet. A SMART board has also been installed in the LOTE room.

A newly refurbished IT Suite is large and has 30 computers which are networked; together with one in each classroom and the three Unit teacher preparation areas; and 6 in the Resource Centre. All these computers, plus those in the staffroom and front offices, provide access to the Internet.

All classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards (SMART boards) with new interactive TV being purchased if replacement is needed.

- **Student facilities**  
The school has a canteen that operates at recess and lunchtimes five days a week. The Governing Council employees the Canteen Manager. Students have access to the Computing Room and Resource Centre some lunchtimes. They also have use of the school hall.
- **Staff facilities**  
The staffroom is equipped to meet the needs of staff each teaching unit has a teacher prep area/office, equipped with computer and printer facilities.
- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**  
Ramps are in place to each teaching unit, for wheelchair access. The school has one toilet for the disabled.
- **Access to bus transport**  
Public transport is available for students throughout Port Pirie, but is infrequent other than before and after school pick-ups. Students who live out of town also have access to a number of DECD's school buses.

## 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**  
Staff, Parents and Students are able to have input into school operations via the PAC, Leadership team, Staff Meetings, Governing Council and its sub-committees; staff learning teams and SRC (Kids Co).  
A number of parent surveys are sent out during the school year to seek feedback from parents on identified issues.
- **Regular publications**  
Newsletters are published fortnightly for the whole school community. Staff are kept informed of daily events through notices on LearnLink. A comprehensive staff Induction containing information is provided for each person at the beginning of each year, as is a TRT reference handbook.
- **Other communication**  
Junior students have a Communication Book, while the Middle and Upper Primary students have a diary. Regular use by both the students and their parents is an expectation. A weekly report is used by all class teachers to inform parents of their child's learning and qualities displayed throughout the week. Positive feedback has been received about this process.
- **School financial position**  
The school operates with a pre-planned, prioritised budget and is closely monitored.
- **Special funding**

The school receives some funding through, Rural & Isolated Funding (formerly CAP), APAS, Better Schools Funding, Early Assistance and Literacy and Numeracy.

## 11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Port Pirie, with a population of approximately 16,000 in the Council area, in the main depends upon the Nyrstar smelter for employment. The retail sector attracts out of town patronage. The city is noted for its friendliness. Sporting opportunities are wide and varied. Cultural opportunities are provided through regular local groups and events at the Keith Michelle Theatre.

- **Parent and community involvement**

The Governing Council and its associated sub-committees provide outstanding service and support to the school. Some parents/grandparents are involved through volunteering in classrooms, sporting events (SAPSASA) and whole school programs plus in the canteen on a daily basis.

Governing Council and subcommittees meet twice a term

In 2017 Governing Council's focus will be:

- Working and communicating with the school community
- Being a voice in the development of the schools vision and Ricky Risdon – a character develop to help students connect more to their learning.
- Grounds review

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

Port Pirie has two Child-Care Centres, four Pre-schools, four Public Primary Schools, one Public Secondary School, one interdenominational R-12 school and one Catholic School with separate campuses for Preschool-7 and 8-12 students. Port Pirie has a large TAFE campus, which is part of the Spencer Institute of TAFE.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Port Pirie is well serviced by a variety of retail and business outlets, which are located in the City Centre, Pirie Plaza and along Main Road. These include hardware, supermarkets, specialty shops, three motels (servicing the Flinders Ranges), cabin park, two caravan parks, furniture/carpentry, hardware, homeware, car dealerships, service to the surrounding rural area.

- **Other local facilities**

There are several doctors, dentists and other health care providers available in Port Pirie and Districts. We have an SA Ambulance Service, Metropolitan Fire Service and Regional Police Station. We have a quality hospital servicing Port Pirie and Districts; with specialist access on a visiting basis. There are several sporting clubs available for social gatherings. The city has a quality public library service. Good facilities are available for a variety of sport and recreational activities, including a synthetic hockey surface.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Government rental is accessible, as are other rental or purchase options. These are advertised privately or through the numerous local Real Estate agents.

- **Accessibility**

Port Pirie is approximately 10 kilometres off National Highway One. Accessibility by road from Adelaide to the south; Port Augusta the Far North and Eyre Peninsula to the north, is by very good highways. The Premier *Stateliner* coach group offer a number of regular services each day; with coaches from Alice Springs, Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta making scheduled stops in Port Pirie.

- **Local Government body**

The Port Pirie Regional Council is the local governing body. The mayoral and council offices are located in the City Centre.