



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

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 Julie Petersen  
 Postal Address : Kingston Road, Port Pirie 5540  
 Location Address : 24-28 Kingston Road, Port Pire 5540  
 School Web address : <https://risdonpkps.sa.edu.au/>  
 School email address : dl.0685.info@schools.sa.edu.au  
 Partnership : Pirie Parntership  
 Road distance from GPO : 225 kms Phone No. : 08 86322226  
 CPC attached : No Fax No. : 08 86325085

### February FTE Enrolment

	2016	2017	2018	2020	2021
Foundation	47	50	55	44	46
Year 1	52	47	47	33	44
Year 2	61	51	44	49	32
Year 3	54	55	49	46	49
Year 4	50	55	54	42	44
Year 5	42	48	52	39	40
Year 6	52	45	50	49	41
Year 7	50	50	46	9	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>296</b>
FTE Enrolment	408	402	397	311	296
School Card	133	114	170	113	120
NESB	0	0	3	1	3
Aboriginal FTE enrolment	45	41	40	22	23
Students with Disability	36	33	28	21	16

## Part B

- **Principal**

Julie Petersen

- **Deputy Principal**

Taran Harradine

- **Student Wellbeing Leader**

Carly Pavy

- **School e-mail address**

dl:0685\_info@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Staffing numbers – 41 staff members in 2021**

Teaching Staff (including Principal & Deputy Principal)

Student Wellbeing

Classroom teachers x 15

NIT teachers (Science, Health and PE, Music and Italian) x 4,

Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET .43),

School Services Officers (15) in a variety of roles including: Business Manager, Admin, Finance, ICT, Classroom Support and Resource Centre.

Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO – 15.4 hours),

Grounds person (16 hours),

Canteen manager- 5 days a week

- **Enrolment trends**

- **Special arrangements**

Projected enrolments for 2022 is approximately 300.

Involvement in Pirie Portfolio (7 Primary Schools, a 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 2 School of disadvantage.
- 40% of students are school card holders.
- 5.41% of students are identified with a disability and have a One Plan..
- 7.77% of students are ATSI and 1.0% of students identified as EALD. 3 students are identified as Non English Speaking Background.
- 9 students are under the Guardianship of the Minister

- **(Pastoral) Care programs**

- The school has a fulltime School Wellbeing Leader (SWL) role.
- Interagency support is available through, CAMHS, DCP, Uniting Care Wesley and Yourtown.

- **Support**

DfE 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**

- The school has adopted the Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) whole school approach to teaching and learning which aims to improve all students' self-regulation, growth and academic achievement. The teaching strategies incorporate evidence-based trauma-aware teaching, positive education, and wellbeing practices. Our comprehensive Behaviour Policy is underpinned by the BSEM Principles with a focus on 'rebuilding the relationship' through Restorative Practices.
- The Student Wellbeing Leader, Aboriginal Community Education Officers and Aboriginal Education Teacher work with leadership, staff and interagency Support Services, in liaison with families to develop individual programs to meet the needs of students.

- **Student Government**

- Student leadership is fostered through student participation in the Student Representative Council, Kidsco. R-6 class reps meet each fortnight with the staff facilitator. Classes hold regular class meetings and report to Kids Co. Three whole school assemblies occur each term, hosted by the rostered on class, and supported by the two School Captains and Vice Captains. Kids Co organises fundraising, special days and suggests improvements for school equipment, resources and ground facilities.

## • **Special Programs**

- The Students at Risk Team meet regularly to assess student needs and to identify intervention. Support is provided through: a) additional classroom support, b) small group work with a specific literacy/numeracy focus (for example, Phonics & Quicksmart), C) 1:1 support (for example Speech) or d) social skill development.
- During Term 4, a well-structured transition program occurs for a) preschool to school students and b) year 6 students to high school, with an extended transition for students with disabilities.
- A range of indoor and outdoor break time activities are offered to cater for the diverse student interests and to support social skill development through structured play.
- Premier's Reading Challenge is implemented across R-6.
- The Literacy Pro library is available to Years 3-6 students. Students have access to a selection of books either online or hard copy. Reading growth can be measured through Lexiles.
- Year 5/6 students are involved in SAPSASA events during the school year.
- Breakfast Club is held three mornings a week, coordinated by SSO's and supported by volunteers. The program is financially supported by Nyrstar and KickStart.

## **3. Key School Policies**

### • **Statement of Purpose**

Risdon Park Primary School provides quality care and education to students of Reception to Year 6. It was opened in 1955 and rebuilt into a permanent brick structure in 1975.

The school consists of three, 6-unit open space buildings. Students are grouped into 15 classes in both single and composite year levels. Students are provided with every opportunity to be successful through: the flexible learning options that an open space classroom environment offers, our expert staff, small class sizes, extensive in class support, structured play activities, cross school buddy classes and contemporary classroom technology.

Our picturesque and spacious grounds also provide a vibrant environment for students to enjoy during break times.

Student enrolment is currently 300. Numbers have been consistent.

Parent, grandparents and other community members are actively encouraged to be involved in the school. Our staff and students are supported by an active and involved Governing Council which contributes positively to our school community through improvement of facilities and future planning.

At Risdon Park Primary School we ensure that volunteers meet DfE's Child Protection expectations by securing Police checks and the required RAN training.

### • **Core Business-Vision**



At Risdon Park PS, **when we enrol the child, we enrol the family!** Our mission is to work in close partnership with families to provide the highest possible quality of education and care. Our priority is to ensure children enjoy school and are successful.

At Risdon Park PS we provide an inclusive, safe and supportive learning environment. We strive for excellence and our vision is to nurture and academically challenge each student through our commitment to the **Six Givens** and **Three Imperatives**. We foster a positive and productive mindset through our core values of: **Respect, Responsibility, Confidence** and **Persistence**.

### **The 6 Givens for Every Learning Environment**

1. Atmosphere of High Expectations
2. Quality Relationships
3. Positive Classroom Tone
4. Excellent Presentation and Handwriting
5. Correction of Student Work and Constructive Feedback
6. Excellent Classroom Display- Relevant and Educationally Stimulating

### **The 3 Imperatives for Engagement**

**All staff will ensure that:**

- Students are safe, have trust, respect and feel valued
- Students have work at their level
- Students have friends at school

We promote lifelong learning and the development of leaders. We understand that each individual can positively contribute and add value to the school community, and the wider community. This is resonated through our mantra: "**Together we learn, together we achieve**".

## **• SITE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES - Improvement Priorities for 2019-2021**

- **Literacy: Increase Reading Achievement**
- **Numeracy: Increase student's ability to problem solve.**

**Literacy for all is a social justice.** We are committed to using evidence based approaches such as Explicit Instruction and Direct Instruction to provide a high quality reading program. Our structured and routine literacy block ensures daily practice of the essential reading components. This includes a Phonics/Phonological Awareness Warm-Up, Jolly Phonics/Grammar, Spelling Mastery and Guided Reading. Guided Reading is extensively resourced across R-6 to enable small groups and a differentiated reading program to extend all learners.

**Numeracy-Using mathematical skills and knowledge purposefully.** The Risdon Park PS Problem Solving Agreement provides a whole school explicit process for teaching problem solving. Students use manipulates, visual and abstract strategies to solve real life problems and explain their reasoning.

**Teachers have the greatest impact on student learning.** Priority is given to developing the expertise of our staff in evidence based teaching practice. **All students have a right to high quality care and education.**

- **Monitoring and Review**

Risdon Park Primary School self-review cycle is a comprehensive process and operates through the 3 year Site Improvement Plan in line with the Department for Education's Quality Improvement Planning Model. This cycle allows for ongoing monitoring and review of our improvement priorities and targets with the aim of maintaining momentum for continuous improvement.

- **Planning and review structures include:**

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

## 4. Curriculum

- **Curriculum Areas**

Risdon Park Primary School delivers and reports on all Learning Areas of the Australian curriculum which provides a diverse and comprehensive education for students. These include: Mathematics, English, Science, The Arts, Technologies, Languages (Italian), Health & Physical Education and History and Social Sciences

The Combined Schools' Choir, Instrumental Music Program and Hip Hop Dance are additional enriching learning activities offered.

- **Open Access**

Available on application;

- **Special needs**

Students at Risk Team comprised of The Principal, Deputy and Student Wellbeing Leader meet regularly to assess student needs as referred by staff. The process for identifying and referral of students is documented and shared with staff during the Induction process.

- **Support programs include:**

- Differentiated small Guided Reading groups.
- Phonics/Phonological Awareness R-1.
- Heggarty R-4
- Wave 1: Spelling Mastery R-4.
- Speech/Language programs are individualised according to student needs.
- Quicksmart Maths intervention (Year 5).

- **Teaching Pedagogy**

- Explicit Instruction and Direct Instruction of the Big 6 Components of Reading.

- R-6 Differentiated Guided Reading Groups.
- R-6 Peer Group/Cross age learning.
- Explicit teaching of mathematical worded problem solving process outlined in the RPPS Agreement.
- Science, Italian, Health &PE and Music are delivered by a specialist teacher.
- Berry Street Education Model-Daily morning circle time activity and brain beaks.

## • Reporting Procedures

- Reporting practices are consistent with the (DfE) 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 occurs in various forms and at specific times during the year.
- Markit is a data tool used to track every child's progress and to flag intervention if necessary. It allows teachers to progressively assess student achievement and evaluate how a student is progressing.

### Reporting events

#### Term 1

Week 3 "Meet and Greet" evening

Week 8 & 9 Carer/Teacher Interviews (Online booking system)

#### Term 2

Week 10 Semester one written reports

#### Term 3

Week 8 & 9 Optional Carer/Teacher Interviews

#### Term 4

Week 9 Semester two written reports

Other methods of communicating student learning / achievement at Risdon Park PS throughout the year.

- Class Dojo
- Facebook
- Fortnightly Newsletter
- Class communication books / diaries with weekly feedback
- Formal meetings, e.g. Governing Council, & Committee Meetings
- Individual meetings with psychologists, speech pathologists, interagency support personnel in developing individual student plans (One Plan)
- Attendance at whole school events e.g. Sports Day, Assembly
- 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

- A diverse range of lunchtime activities, indoors and outdoors are organised for students.
- Important events such as Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC, Harmony Day, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day are celebrated.
- Book Week is an annual celebration and concludes with a parade.
- Kids Co 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.
- Dance and Gymnastics programs occur biannually.
- Year 4-6 Choir program which enables participation in the local Combined Schools' Choir performance.
- Class camps & excursions –Annual Year 5/6 Camp. R-6 Camps and excursions to enrich the curriculum are endorsed.
- R-7 Annual Swimming Program

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

### • Staff profile

The leadership team consisting of the Principal, Deputy and Student Wellbeing Leader with tenured positions ranging from 3 to 5 years creates stability. Over recent years, RPPS has had a high staff turnover resulting from staff taking leave, retiring and moving with Year 7's to high school. This created a number of temporary positions, many of which were filled by graduate teachers and / or new teachers in their first three years of teaching.

### • Leadership structure

The Core Leadership Team is comprised of the Principal, Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing Leader and Business Manager.

### • 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, develop and implement Unit Protocols. Teachers are responsible for collaborating in year levels to moderate student work.

Weekly staff meetings occur followed by professional learning. The focus of professional learning is to develop staff expertise in implementing actions of the site improvement priorities. Staff professional learning is highly valued and opportunities are provided for staff to collaborate, share their knowledge and learn from one another. Emphasis is placed on whole staff professional learning.

- **Performance Management**

- The Principal, Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing Leader and Business Manager hold the Line Management responsibilities at Risdon Park PS.
- A clearly documented Performance Development process exists. This includes the time and nature of formal and informal meetings, classroom observations and comprehensive feedback. All staff are required to develop a Personal Performance Plan which involves identifying goals with reference to SIP and personal priorities. Termly meetings occur with the line manager to reflect on successes, establish next actions and possible professional development. The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers is a reference point for Teachers in developing their Personal Performance Plans. Job and Person Specifications are referred to by SSO's during the Performance Management process.
- Seeking and responding to feedback from students bi-annually is integral to the process.

## **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.

- **Travelling time**

Travelling time can be included in the 37.5 hours' training and development record due to distance from Adelaide.

- **Housing assistance**

Government Housing is available in Port Pirie.

- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**

This applies to Risdon Park Primary School.

## **9. School Facilities**

- **Buildings and Grounds**

Classroom provisions include three six-classroom open-space units; two transportable buildings used as Science and Italian and two double transportable buildings used for Health and PE and Music.

Funding from DfE in 2016 enabled the re development of the yard area to provide students with an outdoor space to include a basketball court and 4 square areas.

- **Cooling**

All learning and administration areas are provided with split system cooling.

- **Specialist facilities**

The modern and extensive Resource Centre is well equipped with a wide range of books and non-book resources, access to the Internet and updated interactive visual technology.

A recent upgrade to the IT infrastructure has enabled school wide WIFI access. The spacious IT Suite has 30 desktop computers, and students have access to 30 laptops which are networked. Students and staff have access to computers in each classroom and teacher preparation area. All teachers are provided with a laptop.

All computers, including those in the staffroom and front office provide access to the Internet. The school boasts a fibre optic internet which gives high speed internet.

All classrooms will have up to date interactive whiteboard technology.

- **Student facilities**

The school canteen operates five days a week. The Governing Council employs the Canteen Manager. Students have access to the Computing Room and Resource Centre during some breaks.

- **Staff facilities**

A recently upgraded staffroom is well equipped to meet the needs of staff. Each Unit has a teacher prep area/office which has the necessary resources and technology.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

Wheel chair access is available to all learning areas. A disabled toilet is available.

- **Access to bus transport**

Public transport is available for students throughout Port Pirie. Students who live out of town have access to a Department school bus.

## 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

Staff, parents and students are able to have input into the school operations via the PAC, Leadership team, Staff Meetings, Governing Council and its sub-committees; staff learning teams and Kids Co. (Student Representative Council)

A number of parent surveys are sent out during the school year to seek feedback from parents on identified issues. Students are surveyed biannually.

- **Regular publications**

Newsletters are published fortnightly for the whole school community. Class Dojo and the Schools Facebook page are regularly used as a means of communication. Staff are kept informed of daily events through the daily bulletin, Microsoft Teams, emails and text messages. A staff induction package for new staff and TRT's informs of the school processes, routines and expectations.

- **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. Class Dojo is used by all teachers and the majority of families.

- **Online School Payment**

The Qkr! app is available for families of students at Risdon Park Primary School.

Qkr! by MasterCard is a secure payment app for schools and can be downloaded for free from the App Store for iPhone & iPad or from Google Play for Android phones and tablets. It can also be accessed on the web from a computer

- **School financial position**

The school operates with a pre-planned, prioritised budget and is closely monitored.

The school receives funding grants such as, Rural & Isolated Funding, APAS, Better Schools Funding, Early Assistance and Literacy and Numeracy.

## 11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Port Pirie, has a population of approximately 17,000 in the Council area. It mainly 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. Parents/grandparents volunteer in classrooms, at sporting events (SAPSASA), during whole school programs and in the canteen.

Governing Council and subcommittees meet twice a term.

The Governing Council's focus is on:

- Strengthening communication between the school community.
- Being a voice in the development of the schools vision.
- Improving grounds and facilities.

- **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 inter-denominational R-12 school and one Catholic School with separate campuses for Preschool-6 and 7-12 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. SA Ambulance Service, Metropolitan Fire Service and the Regional Police Station service the area. A quality hospital services Port Pirie and Districts; with access to visiting specialists. The city has a quality public library service. Good facilities are available for a variety of sport and recreational activities, including a synthetic hockey and soccer surface. The Port Pirie Sports Precinct is a vibrant sporting hub in the centre of Port Pirie comprising two modern buildings with facilities of a high level attracting national sporting events, including pre-season AFL and A-League matches. It accommodates multiple sports such as football, cricket, soccer and baseball. The Aquatic Centre is a modern facility for the community comprising; Gymnastics, squash courts (x3), multi-use program room, Canteen/cafe and change rooms; Indoor learn to swim pool, lagoon pool and water play equipment, as well as offices and amenity areas.

- **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 from 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.