

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 03/17

School Number: 0658

School name: Forbes Primary School

1. General information

School Name : FORBES PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No. : 0658
Courier: Southern Adelaide
Principal : Mr Iain Elliott

Postal Address : 80 Thomas Street, South Plympton 5038
Location Address: 80 Thomas Street, South Plympton 5038
Website address: www.forbesps.sa.edu.au
Distance from GPO: 7 kms Phone No. : 08 82934343

There is a Children's Centre on site which provides preschool and childcare services.
Children's Centre contact number is 8293 9000.

March FTE Enrolment 2017		
Primary	Special Small (3-7)	11
JP	Special Small)R-2)	7
	Reception	28
	Year 1	36
	Year 2	22
	Year 3	48
	Year 4	33
	Year 5	43
	Year 6	19
	Year 7	27
TOTAL		273

Year	Enrolments	ATSI	SWD	NESB	GOM	School Card
2013	292	31	31	62	3	82
2014	297	38	38	69	5	95
2015	282	39	44	70	7	97
2016	288	35	45	72	4	95
2017	287	37	46	146	4	76

2017 figures based on February data

Part B

- Deputy Principal's name: Ms Julie Bain-Cross
- School e-mail address: dl.0658.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Staffing numbers (February 2014)

25 teachers including 1 Principal, 1 Deputy Principal, 1 Curriculum Coordinator (pedagogy)
SSOs 115 hours per week (7 SSOs including grounds person and IT technician)
Classes 2 Special Class, 12 mainstream classes
Counsellor (0.6)
Aboriginal Education Teacher (0.4)
ESL Teacher (0.6)
Special Education Teachers (2.7)
Aboriginal Community Education Officer (0.6)
There is also a Family Services Coordinator (Social Worker) and a Community Development Coordinator attached to the site through the Children's Centre.

Forbes is a Category 4 school on the Index of Disadvantage.

- OSHC
Forbes Primary School provides Out of Hours School Care (Before and After) and Vacation Care.
- Enrolment trends
Enrolments have been stable over the past few years, however, student numbers tend to fluctuate due to the high number of new enrolments and school leavers throughout the year.
- Year of opening
Forbes Primary School opened in 1952 and in the late 50s had a combined enrolment of 1800 students – the largest primary school ever in the state. Two schools were established in 1953- Forbes JPS and Forbes PS (3-7). The two co-operating schools amalgamated to form Forbes Primary School from the beginning of 1995.

The school is an active member of the Marion Inland Partnership of schools, with our Principal performing the role of Partnership Convenor.

- Public transport access
Close proximity to bus, train and tram routes.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
We have 265 mainstream students (February 2017) placed in 12 classes - Another 19 students are currently placed in our Regional Special Small Classes.

A comprehensive Parent Information booklet is available to new families.

The national Kids Matter Framework defines our work on mental health and student wellbeing. The school works closely with a range of social welfare and community service providers. Regular review meetings and case meetings are held. A Pastoral Support Worker is employed at Forbes.

- **Support offered**
There are 46 students in the school verified under the Students with Disabilities Policy. A significant number of intervention programs are offered to support all student with learning difficulties.
- **Student management**
The Student Behaviour Management Policy aims to provide a safe, caring and supportive environment. The Policy helps students demonstrate responsible behaviour and includes an anti-bullying policy. *Our school motto of "Never Less Than Your Best"* applies to our behaviours and the way we treat other people, as well as to our learning.
- **Student government**
A Student Representative Council meets regularly and the senior executive is very active in the school. Our senior students take on numerous leadership roles including road crossing and bike shed duty, school ambassadors, Better Buddies, Breakfast Club and running whole school assemblies each fortnight. Class meetings are held at least fortnightly.
- **Special programs**
Approximately 42% of students have a non-English speaking background. Two special class, one special education and one EALD teacher, along with numerous SSO's, provide support for students with disabilities and learning difficulties.
Many special times such as Harmony Day and Reconciliation Week are celebrated along with special activities. A growing number of students are involved in school (SAPSASA) and out of school hours sports teams. An Active after school program offers a different sporting activity for lower and upper primary students each term. We are involved in the Festival Schools Choir each year.

3. Key School Directions

- **Site Improvement Plan**
Site Improvement Plan (SIP) teams consisting of representatives from each Year Level team are responsible for facilitating and monitoring aspects of the Site Improvement Plan.

SIP teams are organised around our three key strategic directions of Literacy and Numeracy, Wellbeing, and Pedagogy.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
We have implemented the national Australian Curriculum (AC) and deliver the curriculum based on the eight learning areas of the AC.
The provision of adapted curriculum programs is a feature of the school's approach to teaching and learning. Special Education is given a high priority.

- Special curriculum features

- NIT Programs

Physical Education is a priority amongst the students with the current allocation of 0.8 teacher time for a specialist (NIT) program. The school community values the links that result from PE and increased participation in sport. A coordination program run by Physiology students from Flinders University operates for identified junior primary students.

Learning Technologies (Computing) is a priority in the school. There are 60 laptop computers and a main Computing Suite with 30 stand-alone Windows compatible computers. All classrooms also have an interactive whiteboard. All teachers are expected to keep their skills up-dated and are encouraged and supported in the use of new learning technologies across the curriculum. In 2014 iPads are being introduced in all classes.

LOTE (Indonesian) was introduced in 2014 and is taught R-7.

The Arts is a NIT area for all classes and is taught by two teachers, covering three of the five subjects in the learning area (Dance, Drama, Music). Visual Arts and Media Arts is taught by classroom teachers.

Student run assemblies are held fortnightly on Fridays of our even weeks.

The school's finances are well and carefully managed by our Business Manager. Staff fulfil responsibilities as budget line managers and class budgets are managed by class teachers. Monthly reports of all budget line expenditures are given to teachers and Governing Council.

Choir is available for upper primary students.

Assessment procedures and reporting include Acquaintance Night in Term 1, written reports in Terms 2 and 4 and Parent Teacher Interviews in Term 1 (and on request).

Joint programmes

The school is a member of the Marion Inland Partnership and works cooperatively with local preschools, primary schools and secondary schools.

5. Sporting Activities

Opportunities for students to access and participate in school sporting competitions are actively promoted and provided at Forbes Primary School.

Various schools, groups and community clubs are associated with the provision of sporting opportunities for students. The school participates in SAPSASA activities. The Governing Council regularly reviews the Sports Policy and investigates ways of increasing student participation.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
The *Forbes Forest* (native vegetation) was established in 1994 and in 1995 a vegetable garden was established. These are supported as part of our commitment to environmental education. This Forest was rejuvenated during 2006 with the help of some environmental students from Flinders University and again in 2009 following a successful submission to the Conservation Volunteers.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
Staff are professionally committed, work very well together and high expectations are shared.
Team work and distributed leadership is encouraged, supported and prevalent.
Staff are expected to co-operate with each other and to manage their workloads with consideration for the workload of others.
Efficient school administration procedures have been developed to assist in this.
Effective communication and decision-making are given a high priority.
The SSO team meets regularly.
The PAC meets as required and has input through staff meetings.
- Leadership structure
The Principal position is a five and a half year appointment, which expires at the end of 2019. The Deputy Principal position is a one year tenure that concludes at the end of 2017. A Curriculum Coordinator (Pedagogy) was appointed in 2013 for five years. .
- Staff support systems
Support for training and development is given a very high priority with a substantial budget allocation.
- Performance Management
The Principal, the Deputy Principal and the Business Manager divide responsibility for the staff performance management program. The program is designed to enable individuals to identify their achievements and to access support towards enhancing their skills and abilities within the context of the school's priorities.

8. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
The school's grounds are large and spacious. (4.28 hectares).
All classrooms are self-contained, carpeted and air-conditioned (with split system units). The upgraded classrooms, library / resource centre and upgraded administration area are located in three main buildings of solid construction. . Wet Areas are located adjacent to corridors in all three buildings. A school hall (gymnasium) was built in 1992. The playing areas are comprised of a basketball and netball courts; three ovals; adventure playgrounds; large grassed areas and large hard play areas.

All classrooms and the resource centre have interactive electronic whiteboards.
During 2009 and 2010, projects valued at more than \$7 million provided major upgrades to the Forbes site. Most classrooms were upgraded in moves focussed around the provision of new Junior Primary and Upper Primary facilities. In addition a large Children's Centre encompassing pre-school, child care and family health services was opened in 2010.

In 2016 the school announced it was one of 77 primary schools across the state to receive \$1 million in State Government funding to develop a teaching space for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Work will get underway in 2017.

- Cooling
All classrooms are self-contained, carpeted and air-conditioned.
- Specialist facilities
Currently NIT is provided in PE, Indonesian and The Arts.
- Staff facilities
The staffroom is large, comfortable and well-equipped.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
Ramps are provided for all classroom blocks.
- Access to bus transport
Close access to bus routes (Marion Road).

9. School Operations

- Decision making structures
The school's management policies are designed to support the core business of the school. Effective communication, participative decision making, delegated responsibility and shared leadership are features of the school's organisational structures.
- Regular publications
Fortnightly newsletters are sent home to families electronically and hard copies are available on request. Staff communication is electronic with daily announcements, a calendar of events, discussion groups and shared documents.
- Other communication
E-mail is used for communication between staff.
A general information pack is available to parents.

10. Local Community

- General characteristics
Forbes Primary is a neighbourhood school with increasing enrolments.
Historically, most of the students who enrol at Forbes come from families who are residents of the local area. Currently, many of these families have had a long association with the school – their older children attended Forbes and now their younger children attend the school.
One or more parents from many families either attended Forbes in the 1960's or 1970's or know someone who did. These parents in particular are proud of the school's history (eg the biggest school in the state), its good reputation in the local community and the valued traditions of the school.
New families are now moving into the neighbourhood to take advantage of affordable real estate offerings.
There are also a significant number of low-income families living in housing trust and other rental accommodation in the local area. Some of these families gain additional support for their children by accessing a range of community welfare services. These agencies work closely with the school.
The level of transient enrolments is increasing (approximately 15% per annum, eg 4-5 students per class per annum). A small number of students enrol for short-term periods of time while in emergency accommodation at the local women's and children's shelter.
Some students attend Forbes because they have gained eligibility for placement in the regional primary special class.
A noticeable number of parents selectively choose Forbes as their preferred school to provide their children's education.
This mixed school profile provides each year level cohort with its own demanding breadth of social and academic diversity. Careful class placements are made and resources are allocated on a needs basis.
Parents value the school newsletter and periodic class newsletters.

OSHC – Before School Care 7.30am-8.30am; After School Care 3.00pm-6.00pm; Vacation Care is available during all holiday periods.

- Parent and community involvement

Parents at Forbes are able to express their aspirations for their children and expect their children to learn. They are generally supportive and appreciative of the work done by teachers and by the school as a whole.

Governing Council is active and supportive. Committees are convened by school councillors and have staff representation. These committees in 2014 are *Education & Communication, Finance, Out of School Hours Care, Grounds & Facilities, and Uniform*. The council also supports an active Parent Network program. A large number of parents are involved as volunteers in the school, including the L.A.P. program.

The community is very supportive of the staff and the school and of a range of social and fundraising events.

- Local Government body

Marion City Council (with the current Mayor, Ms Felicity-Ann Lewis, an ex-student of Forbes).

11. Further Comments

Our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Optimism and Understanding were reviewed in 2016. The SRC were very strong about the need for these values to remain.

The school is well organised with a defined focus, and with supportive policies and guidelines in place.

Forbes Primary School celebrates its 65th birthday in 2017.