SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School Number:  0658

School name:  Forbes Primary School

1. General information

SchoolName  :  FORBES PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No.  :  0658  Courier:  Southern Adelaide
Principal  :  Ms Carol Allen
Postal Address :  80 Thomas Street, South Plympton 5038
Location Address :  80 Thomas Street, South Plympton 5038
District  :  Inner South
Distance from GPO:  7 kms  Phone No. :  08 82934343

There is a Children’s Centre providing preschool and childcare services on site.

February FTE Enrolment

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<th>2007</th>
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<td>270</td>
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July total FTE Enrolment

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<td>Female FTE</td>
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<td>School Card Approvals (Persons)</td>
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<td>NESB Total (Persons)</td>
<td>92</td>
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<td>Aboriginal FTE Enrolment</td>
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Part B

- Deputy Principal’s name:
  : Miss Julie McGrane

- School e-mail address
  : info@forbesps.sa.edu.au

- Staffing numbers (February 2011)
  20.2 FTE teachers including 1 Principal, 1 deputy principal
  SSOs 115 hours per week (7 SSOs plus groundsman)
  Classes 1 Special Class, 11 mainstream classes

Support personnel include
  Counsellor (0.43)
  Aboriginal Education teacher (0.46)
  ESL teacher (0.57)
  Special Education teacher (0.45)
  Aboriginal Community Education Officer (19.6 hours)

There is also a 0.8 Family Services Coordinator (Social Worker) and a full-time Community Development Coordinator attached to the site.

Forbes is a Category 5 school in 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 declining but now appear relatively stable or increasing slightly with the location of the Children’s Centre on site.

- Year of opening
  : Forbes JPS and Forbes PS opened in 1952 and in the early 1960’s had a combined enrolment of 1800+. Forbes JPS and Forbes PS (3-7) then operated as Forbes Schools from 1990-1994. 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 Alliance Cluster of the Southern Metro District. The school has a web site which provides additional information.

- Public transport access
  : Public Transport – close proximity to bus routes; train and tram within walking distance.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
  : 267 mainstream students (February 2010) are placed in 11 classes - all but one are composite. Another 12 students are placed in our Year 3-7
Region Special Class. All Special Class students have individual mainstream inclusion programs. The school has 4 Reception intakes a year.

A comprehensive Parent Information booklet is available to the families of new enrolments.

Nearly 40% of students qualify for the School Card Scheme.

- **Pastoral care programs**
  The school works closely with a range of social welfare and community service providers. Regular review meetings and case meetings are held. A Christian Pastoral Support Worker spends 2 days each week at Forbes.

- **Support offered**
  There are 24 students in the school verified under the Students with Disabilities Policy. A significant number of additional students also receive support through our Early Assistance Program.

- **Student management**
  The Student Behaviour Management Policy aims to provide a safe, caring and supportive enrolment. The Policy helps students demonstrate responsible behaviour and includes an anti-bullying policy.

- **Student government**
  A Student Representative Council meets fortnightly with executive meetings in addition. Class meetings are held at least fortnightly.

- **Special programs**
  Approximately 20% of students have a non-English speaking background. The school's ESL General Support Program is based on ESL in the Mainstream practices.

  Many special times such as Harmony Day and Reconciliation Week are celebrated along with special activities such as Speakers in Schools, Global Awareness and attendance at Young Leaders Day. Students take part in debating, Festival Schools Choir, Tournament of the Minds and many other sporting, cultural and educational offerings.

3. **Key School Policies**

- **Site Improvement Plan**
  Forbes PS is a Locally Managed school (commenced 2001).

  A School Improvement Committee consisting of representatives from each team meet with the leadership team twice each term to plan professional learning in addition to developing, facilitating and monitoring aspects of the Site Improvement Plan.

  Site Priority Groups (Literacy, maths and science, learner wellbeing, pedagogy) meet monthly.

  Refer to the school's vision for A Forbes Student and to the 2011 Site Improvement Plan for Forbes PS for more information at [www.forbesps.sa.edu.au](http://www.forbesps.sa.edu.au)
4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
  The SACSA framework is used as a framework for teaching and learning.
  Early assistance and early intervention is a junior primary team priority and middle schooling is an upper primary team priority.
  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
  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. In 2008 a federal grant of over $100000 was received to develop our Hopperoos (Human Movement) program for our Junior Primary students. Renovated facilities and staffing provision has resulted from this grant.
  Learning Technologies (Computing) is a priority in the school. There are 30 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 learning technologies across the curriculum.
  The library uses the Metamarc system, with three pods of computers to support learning.
  LOTE (Spanish) was introduced for Yr R-2/3 students in 1995, and is currently taught R-7.
  Student run assemblies are held fortnightly.
  The school's finances are well and carefully managed. 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 an acquaintance night in term 1, written reports in terms 2 and 4 and interviews in term 1 and on request.

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 School Council regularly reviews the Sports Policy and investigates ways of increasing student participation.

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- **General**
  
  The Forbes Forest 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 very high priority.
  
  The SSO team meets monthly.
  
  The PAC meet as required and has input through staff meetings.

- **Leadership structure**

  The principal position is a seven-year appointment which expires at the end of 2018. The deputy position is a 5 year tenure that concludes at the end of 2014.

- **Staff support systems**

  Support for training and development is given a very high priority with a substantial budget allocation.

- **Performance Management**

  The principal and the deputy principal 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 3 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. The school has a heated swimming pool.

  All classrooms, in addition to the resource centre and ESL room, 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 preschool, child care and family health services was opened in 2010.

- **Cooling**
  
  : All classrooms are self-contained, carpeted and air-conditioned.

- **Specialist facilities**
  
  : Currently NIT is provided in PE, Spanish and music/ drama.

- **Staff facilities**

  : The staffroom is large, comfortable and very 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).

- **Other**

  : Forbes is in partnership with Flinders University where students from Flinders volunteered one half of a day per week over a semester (or longer in many cases) to mentor students at Forbes. This has developed to the extent that upwards of 25 mentors have worked in projects as diverse as: debating, redevelopment of the Forbes Forest, development of a Healthy Eating policy, supporting Students at Risk and Bounce Back. Further expansion is planned.

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 emailed staff bulletins, weekly newsletters, class newsletters.
- 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 steady 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.
• 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 2011 are Education, Finance, Out of School Hours Care, Learning Environment, Promotions and Communications 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

Diversity, tolerance, fairness, pride and competence are recognised features of the school ethos.

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

Forbes Primary School celebrated its 50th birthday in 2002.