

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 05/07

School number: 1481

School name: Stirling North Primary

1. General information

Part A

Schoolname : STIRLING NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No. : 1481 Courier : Northern Country
Principal : Mr Grant Ind
Postal Address : PO Box 1711, Port Augusta 5700
Location Address : Beckman Street, Stirling North 5710
District : Northern Country
Distance from GPO : 298 kms Phone No. : 08 86436020
CPC attached : NO Fax No. : 08 86436277

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| February FTE Enrolment | | | | |
| Primary | | | | |
| Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc. | | | | |
| Reception | 28 | 24 | 23 | 21 |
| Year 1 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| Year 2 | 36 | 25 | 34 | 28 |
| Year 3 | 31 | 36 | 26 | 34 |
| Year 4 | 32 | 31 | 38 | 26 |
| Year 5 | 26 | 32 | 30 | 38 |
| Year 6 | 27 | 26 | 29 | 30 |
| Year 7 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| TOTAL | 234 | 229 | 236 | 234 |
| July total FTE Enrolment | | | | |
| Male FTE | 131 | 128 | 136 | 130 |
| Female FTE | 103 | 101 | 103 | 104 |
| School Card Approvals (Persons) | 93 | 78 | 58 | 56 |
| NESB Total (Persons) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Aboriginal FTE Enrolment | 28 | 35 | 38 | 37 |

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.

Part B

- Deputy Principal's name, if applicable
:Katie Nicholls (relieving 2007)
- School e-mail address
:info@stirlingnorth.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers
:Total Staffing: 16.08, includes 0.8 Well Being Coordinator, 0.6 Librarian, 0.5 AET, 0.2 Special Education. SSO time = 97 hours. AEW = 24 hours. Leadership positions-principal, deputy principal, wellbeing coordinator, coordinator in curriculum development. There are 3 male teachers and 15 female teachers.
- OSHC
:N/A
- Enrolment trends
:A slow steady increase is predicted.
- Special arrangements
:N/A
- Year of opening
:1981.
- Public transport access
:There is a public bus service to Stirling North, daily.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
:R-7 school comprising of 10 classes – 4 Junior Primary and 6 Primary. Class organisation changes yearly depending on numbers in the various year levels.
- (Pastoral) care programs
:N/A
- Support offered
:Social Skills programme operates R-7. Harassment and grievance procedures in place.
- Student management
Current policy has information booklets available to parents and staff members with specific procedures. Each class establishes its own rules and behaviour management strategies in keeping with the whole school

student behaviour management policy. Positive behaviours are recognised through the Values Program, Kangaroo Cup and the Success Room.

- Student Voice
: Students from years 5-7 are elected by their peers to represent them on Student Voice. Term of office is for 1 year.
- Special programmes
: Parents occasionally come in and work with individual students as part of a non-formalised LAP. The Success Room is run by volunteer parents. It provides an opportunity for the students to experience a range of elective-type activities. Students are selected for the success room for positive behaviours and efforts with their school work. Students are also supported via their negotiated education plans. Student with High Intellectual Potential are catered for via the Student Learning Assistance Program. Peer support is provided by the Upper Primary classes to the Junior Primary students in computing.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Learning Plan
: The focus for the 2007 - 2009 Site Learning Plan.
ICT
Well being – staff and students
Literacy
Numeracy.
- Recent key outcomes
: Air conditioners upgraded
Wet areas upgraded
New computers purchased for school network.
New playground
Stage area is in final stages of being upgraded.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
: All areas of study except LOTE. Adnyamathana being offered in JP & MP classes during 2007.
- Open Access
: N/A
- Special needs
: Negotiated Education Plans. Support is given for students identified through the Basic Skills Tests and Early Years Intervention Programme for R-3.

Student Learning Assistance Program: All students are tested and students that are identified are supported via this program. Students are withdrawn in small groups to develop areas of concern. 62.5 hours of SSO time put into this program.

- **Special curriculum features**
:A literacy block programme, called Fruit Salad, operates between 9.30 and 10.50am four mornings per week. After extensive testing, junior primary students have been placed in skills appropriate groups for intensive teaching and learning in literacy. Magic 100 Words and Jolly Phonics is followed during this time. Guided Reading is used across the school R-7.
- **Teaching methodology**
: Teachers are incorporating SACSA in their programme. Teachers are investigating, Thinking Styles and Learning Styles to incorporate into their teaching.
- **Assessment procedures and reporting**
:A range of assessment strategies is used R-7. Reporting occurs each term through parent/teacher/student interviews or written summaries. Interviews are held in Term 1, written summaries and feedback to parents/caregivers at the end of terms 2 & 4 and individually as required.
- **Joint programmes**
:The school is part of the Learning to Learn Program.

5. Sporting Activities

:Very strong commitment and success in a number of SAPSASA sports – cricket, softball, tennis, football, netball, athletics, hockey and handball. Annual sports Day – based on tabloid events. Aquatics programme for Years 6-7 in term 1, swimming for R-5 in term 4. Many students participate in local community sporting activities.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- **General**
:Instrumental music is offered to students. The school celebrates NAIDOC, Cultural and Reconciliation weeks each year. The school is involved with the Croc Festival.
- **Special**
:Yura Yakarti Program. A program designed for and by the Aboriginal students to improve their literacy and numeracy. It is also aimed at assisting students develop ideas for their future careers.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
:There are a number of part-time people working at the school.
- Leadership structure
:Principal, Deputy Principal, Well Being Coordinator & Curriculum Coordinator.
- Staff support systems
:Weekly staff meetings for Administration and T & D (these are non compulsory). Sub-schools-junior primary, middle and upper primary, Aboriginal Education, Leadership and SSO's meet weekly to plan, share information. Grievance procedures are in place for conflict resolution. PAC meets fortnightly. Learning Circles occur on a needs basis.
- Performance Management
:A performance management process is in place to monitor staff performance in line with the school's Site Learning Plan and to help support and develop staff skills.
- Staff utilisation policies
:The 0.5 AET works with Aboriginal students in literacy and numeracy via the Yura Yakarti Program, as well as being part of the Aboriginal Education Team with the AEW. They provide resources and support for the teaching of Aboriginal Studies and Aboriginal Perspectives across the Curriculum and support the Family Voice Group. A major focus with ancillary deployment is to support students with their learning in class situations. Some FIR time was converted to support the physical management of computers and for office tasks.
- Access to special staff
:Instrumental Music Teachers, Special Education support staff, and the student behaviour management team are available from the Whyalla/Pt Augusta District Office.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Shorter terms
:No.
- Travelling time
:No.
- Housing assistance
:Yes.
- Cooling for school buildings
:Yes.

- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
:Yes.
- Additional increment allowance
:No.
- Designated schools benefits
:No.
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:No.
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:Yes.
- Locality allowances
:Yes
- Relocation assistance
:Yes.
- Principal's telephone costs
:Yes.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
:Original buildings are Demac-these house the Administration Area, Junior Primary Unit, Resource Unit and Computer Room. Transportable buildings house single classrooms, NIT teaching and the Learning Assistance Program Room. A Quad building provides class space for 4 classes.
Grounds are vast and well established. Large grassed areas – with a full sized Australian Rules Football/Cricket oval and a soccer field. Community sporting organisations access the oval area at weekends.
A canteen operates four times a week with voluntary parent help. This is a major fundraising mechanism. There are 3 pergola areas, which are paved, have seating and are shaded. There are many shady trees, an extensive adventure playground and a BMX track.
- Cooling
:All buildings are heated and airconditioned.
- Specialist facilities
:Aboriginal Education Team, Computing room, wet areas – junior and primary for art, science and technology activities. Sports storage room with extensive sporting equipment available, Activity Room, NIT teaching area, maths equipment room, science storage area, Library, Success Room.
- Student facilities
:Sporting equipment for use, canteen.

- Staff facilities
 - :Comprehensive collection of teacher resource material in the teacher resource area, computer, teacher prep areas, access to EDSAS, Internet access for general staff usage, staff email, phone access in all buildings.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
 - :Not that well designed but access to parts of the school.
- Access to bus transport
 - :No DECS school bus, but a town bus service from Pt Augusta runs throughout the day.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
 - :Clearly detailed decision making based on consultative and participative processes. PAC meets regularly to discuss deployment of staff and other issues. The Governing Council has staff and parent representation on the following sub-committees – Finance, Fundraising, Canteen, Education, Grounds.
- Regular publications
 - :A newsletter is distributed to the school community every Tuesday. There are written reports to Governing Council from the various committees each month.
- Other communication
 - :Parent Information packs are available to new families on enrolment. Daily class diaries/communication books are also used. Comprehensive transition programmes for kindergarten to school and primary to secondary schooling. Class and yard behaviour booklets for parents, students and staff.
 - Day book for staff each morning, with weekly notes on Mondays.
 - Administrative Policies and Guidelines for staff and members of Governing School Council on CD-ROM.
 - Annual General Meeting for Governing Council, Annual report, parent group meetings.
- School financial position
 - :Satisfactory. The school has to work hard to fundraise. The school currently receives Commonwealth Literacy Programme grant money and is a Category Level 3 disadvantaged.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
 - :Stirling North is situated 10 kms south of Pt Augusta on the road to Quorn.

Most families are employed, with major employers being NRG, National Rail, Hospital, Gaol, Coles and Woolworths.

- Parent and community involvement
:A section of the parent community is extremely supportive of the school – this is evident in the volunteer work in the canteen, grounds, success room, transport and fundraising.
- Feeder schools
:N/A
- Other local care and educational facilities
:The Stirling North Kindergarten is located nearby and feeds into the school population. There are 5 other primary schools, a dual campus Secondary school (middle school and senior school on separate sites) various childcare and preschool facilities, an R-12 Catholic school and Special School. The Spencer Institute of TAFE has a campus in Pt Augusta.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
:Most types of retail stores are available in Pt Augusta as with a reasonably large town/city, with a Target Country, Big W, Home Hardware and Mitre 10.
- Other local facilities
:There are medical facilities including a recently built hospital, numerous sporting and recreational facilities available, motels, restaurants, take-away food outlets and a public library. There are a range of tourist attractions including Wadlata and the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens.
- Availability of staff housing
:Government housing (OGEH) is available in Pt Augusta. There is very limited housing to rent in Stirling North itself.
- Accessibility
:Stirling North can be accessed by private car or the Pt Augusta town bus service.
- Local Government body
:The Corporation of Pt Augusta (Tel: 8641 9100). A range of publications describing the local area are available from the public library. The corporation has limited involvement with the Stirling North Primary School.

12. Further Comments

:Stirling North Primary School is a member of the Northern Country District of schools, incorporating Pt Augusta, Whyalla and as far north as Coober Pedy and Mintibe. The District office is located in Pt Augusta and Whyalla. The District Director is David Craig.