



Owen Primary School

Fourth Street, Owen, S.A. 5460

Principal: Liam Whitwell

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SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: May 2017

School number: 0325

School name: Owen Primary School

School Profile:

Owen Primary School was established in 1883. In 2017, year levels range from R-7. The school is situated in the Owen rural community in the centre of a grain growing area in South Australia's lower mid north. The school is well placed in terms of facilities and resources.

The school population derives from a diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds and influences. Despite being a small rural settlement with silos reinforcing the skyline, the town in recent times has become popular with commuters due to its relaxed and casual rural living, while still being in close proximity to Adelaide. Students live either in Owen or come from outlying rural properties and homes via one school bus service. Students from Owen Primary School go on to attend Balaklava High School

The school and its community are impacted by:

- Local business and farming
- A strong and proud tradition of local identity, allegiance and independence
- Relatively stable enrolment patterns, enhanced by healthy enrolments in the Play centre
- Regional shopping services being provided at Balaklava [20 kms from Owen] and Gawler [48kms from Owen]
- Very strong school and community connections.

The school strives for continuous improvement in service and performance, whilst being accountable, responsive and innovative in order to raise expectations. The school has a strong focus on monitoring student learning outcomes and supporting every individual student's learning growth as evidenced by student learning outcome data. There is strong parent and community interest in, and support of all aspects of school life at Owen Primary School.

Owen Primary School is part of the Lower Mid North Partnership, joining sites in Balaklava, Hamley Bridge, Manoora Port Wakefield, Riverton, Saddleworth and Tarlee. As schools and pre-schools we are working together to improve learning outcomes for all students across the partnership.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

The school curriculum at Owen Primary School covers the 8 learning areas; Mathematics, English, Science, HASS, Health and Physical Education, Language Other Than English (Indonesian), the Arts and Design and Digital Technologies.

Parent support continues to be a strong feature, with most families represented through either Governing Council or Parents and friends with most families providing support to the school, staff and students in some way.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Liam Whitwell
- Year of opening: 1883
- Postal Address: Fourth Street Owen 5460
- Location Address: As above
- DECD Region: Lower Mid North Partnership, Gawler Portfolio
- Geographical location: 92 km from GPO
- Telephone number: (08) 85286116
- Fax Number: (08) 88286004
- School website address: www.owenps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0325.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Play centre attached: yes
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE student enrolment: 56

Year Level	2014	2015	2016	2017
Reception	10	7	7	6
Year 1	5	9	8	6
Year 2	7	5	10	8
Year 3	7	7	7	9
Year 4	5	6	6	7
Year 5	6	7	9	6
Year 6	6	5	6	9
Year 7	9	6	5	5
TOTAL:	55	54	58	56

- Student enrolment trends: Some Transience occurs
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

Principal	Band A-3	1.0 FTE
Teachers		3.2 FTE



SSO 1	6 Positions	28 Hours Admin & Classroom Support 17.5 Hours Classroom Support 16.5 Hours Classroom support and intervention 3 x 4.5 hours – Disability support
SSO 2	2 Positions	16 Hours Finance 4 Hours ICT Support
Grounds person (GSE)		4.5 hours
CPW		11 hours

Public transport access: No

Special site arrangements:

Small Schools Interschool Sports Day and Swimming Carnival

Primary Schools Festival of Music Choir

School Representative Council (SRC)

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

The student population at Owen hovers at between 55 and 60. Approximately 40% are school card recipients. Some families have lived in the district for several generations, others have moved to district for various reasons (eg 'hobby farms', employment in poultry industry) and stayed for a long period.

Pastoral Care

Students are grouped into 3 classes, Junior Primary R/2, Middle Primary 2-4 and Upper Primary 4-7.

Staff know students and their families well, and stay in close contact with families.

Support Offered

At Owen Primary School we are committed to providing quality teaching in all curriculum areas. As a school we provide literacy and numeracy support to all students using the recommended DECD Response to Intervention (RTI) model. We also provide appropriate levels of support to all students with special needs and high intellectual potential (pedagogy).

The Model

Tier or Wave one is for all learners. This is where high quality classroom teaching takes place.

Tier or Wave two students at Owen PS are provided with a minimum of 20 minutes SSO support 4 days a week, in groups of 3 to 5, during literacy and numeracy block.

Tier or Wave three students at Owen PS are provided with a minimum of 20 minutes SSO support 4 days a week, in groups of 1 to 3, during literacy and numeracy block.



The MP and UP class both have an SSO to work with the teacher providing targeted literacy support for 1.5 hours four days a week and targetted numeracy support for 1 hour four days a week. The JP class has this same literacy and numeracy support 5 days a week.

Expectations — Disciplined Dialogue

Each term, teachers and SSO teams review student Literacy and Numeracy Diagnostic Assessment data in an ongoing manner using a Disciplined Dialogue approach to revise tier 2 and 3 student lists and the support provided. The Principal monitors the percentage of students in each tier every term. The data used is triangulated from assessments such as NAPLAN, Running Records, Alphacheck, SA Spelling Test, PAT maths and reading comprehension.

- **Student Management**

Students are generally well behaved. Students care for each other and show pride in their school. New students are generally accepted into their peer group. Over the past three years we have strengthened our school values of Achievement, Caring and Excellence in relationships and learning. Students own the focus on being caring and are responding well to strategies to improve their ownership of their learning outcomes.

An anti-bullying process, including grievance procedure and termly bully audits are active. Bully audits follow up actions include teaching and learning programs, contact with parents and individual counselling for students.

- **Student Voice**

Students are increasingly being consulted about learning programs and classroom pedagogies.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) plays an important role at Owen Primary School. The SRC openly encourage and acknowledge positive behaviour and lead by their actions. SRC students also fundraise and act as leaders in the school.

- **Special Programmes**

At Owen Primary School we believe improving students' Literacy and Numeracy is our core business. Reading and Basic Number Facts are the foundations upon which all other learning is built. Effective Literacy and Numeracy teaching encompasses a balanced approach. Effective literacy and numeracy programs are offered both within literacy and numeracy blocks and across all other learning areas.

In 2014 we made significant progress with our Whole Site Literacy Agreement. Teaching of Literacy and Numeracy is guided by the Whole Site agreement

The school is open from 8:30am – 3:20pm with lessons starting at 9am. Recess is from 11am to 11:20am, lunch eating time is from 1.00 to 1.10 and play time is from 1:10pm to 1:50pm.



3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
: See our Website for these policies and plans

School Vision

To be a caring School Community.

To have created an exemplary environment in which people work independently and interdependently, where students have achieved their personal best as a result of planned interventions based on need. The result identified through improvement in skills, knowledge and understanding across our curriculum.

School Values

Achievement, Caring and Excellence (ACE)

	Achievement	Caring	Excellence
School Work	Always aim for 5 star work.	I care about my education.	Go beyond your goals.
Positive Relationships	Respect for all.	Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Everyone feels safe and knows they belong.

Always aim for 5 star work.

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Positive Relationships

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Treat others as you would like to be treated.

Everyone feels safe and knows they belong.



TARGETS

90% of students achieve

Level 8 after four terms of reception

Level 18 by the end of year 1

Level 28 by the end of year 2

Level 30 with fluency and comprehension by the end of year 3 (source Running Records).

90% of year 5 and 7 students achieve medium to upper level growth in NAPLAN tests in number and reading between two biannual tests.

PAT- 90% of students to achieve stanine level 5 or above in Maths Plus and PAT Reading Comprehension.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings; all 8 areas of the Australian curriculum are offered, including LOTE by open access.
- Open Access/Distance Education provision: LOTE
- Special needs: students with special needs receive targeted support as detailed in their Negotiated Education Plan.
- Special curriculum features:
 - Quicksmart Maths
 - Rainbow Reading
 - Program Achieve
- Guided Reading
- Teaching methodology:
 - Working toward embedding ICT across all curriculum areas



- Specialties - Student assessment procedures and reporting
 - Written reports on students' progress and achievements are provided to parents and caregivers in terms 2 and 4 each year.
 - Formal parent/teacher interviews are scheduled for terms 1 and 3, however parents and/or teachers can request an appointment at any time.
 - An Acquaintance Night is held early in term 1 each year to provide information about the learning program, teaching and learning expectations and classroom organisation and management. A curriculum overview for each class is provided at the start of each term, outlining the teaching and learning program and class commitments.
 - Each class provides a regular update through the school newsletter (every 3 weeks) on an aspect of their learning. Families are also informed through the school stream App.

- **Special Needs**

Students with specific needs have relevant Negotiated Education Plans which underline content and pedagogic practices focussing on high levels of student engagement and ongoing improvement in learning. These are reviewed regularly.

- **Pedagogic Practices**

In 2017 and 2018 we are investigating Visible Learning to improve pedagogy and increase student voice into teaching and learning. In 2017 the focus is on feedback, success criteria and learning intentions as well as inferencing.

The Teaching for Effective Learning framework guides staff pedagogic practices.

5. Sporting Activities

Owen Primary School offers a whole school swimming program in Term 1. The school also participates within sports programmes through the Gilbert Valley Sports Day and Inter-School Swimming Carnivals.

Coaching clinics are an important part of the Health and Physical Activity program.

Students at Owen Primary School are actively involved in local weekend sports.

Basketball and tennis are offered in summer at Owen.

Golf is available at the local Golf Course.

Nearby towns offer Football and Netball during winter, and cricket and tennis during the summer.

Horse riding and carriage events take place all year around.

The School has access to the town tennis/basketball courts, adjacent to the school grounds.

The School has a large variety of sports equipment that is used regularly by students.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Whole school activities with cross age groups occur regularly as part of the normal school program.

All students have the opportunity to attend at least two camps during their years at Owen Primary School.

From 2013, the UP class take part in the Northern Choir Festival.

Students have a variety of games, toys and sports equipment for use at recess and lunch times.



The school has a strong environmental education programme with activities such as planting trees with help from the community, assisting with a recycling programme, raising chickens and working in the school vegetable garden. In 2017 students are working with adults to extend the vegetable garden. In 2014 we began talking about Nature Play spaces. In 2017 a committee of staff, students and community members will extend the work.

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7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff Profile**

Owen Primary School has a balance of well experienced teachers, and new teachers all committed to ensuring the best outcomes for students. In 2017, we have 12 staff, 2 male and 10 females. Currently Owen Primary School has 1 Principal and 3.2 FTE teachers. Shared leadership opportunities exist within the site. The school is well supported by 3 class based SSOs and 1 finance SSO, and 1 Admin SSO plus the Christian Pastoral Support Worker and parents, volunteers and community members. The grounds person maintains the grounds to a high standard.

- **Performance Development**

Staff participate in a positive performance and development program that they help design, which includes observations by Principal and peers, reflections on observations and professional development in line with Lower Mid North Partnerships, site priorities, staff needs and DECD policy. In 2017, we are ready to extend observations and reflections across the LMN Partnership.

- **Access to Specialist Staff**

Staff are supported by Support Services via the Gawler education offices.

- **Housing**

Rental housing is in short supply. The closest Government Housing is in Balaklava and Kapunda. Limited private rental is available in Owen, surrounding rural properties and most close towns.

8. School Facilities

- **Buildings and Grounds**

The school was founded in 1883. The school is now made up of five main buildings: front office and UP class in one transportable, a double transportable building houses the JP class and CPSW, a single transportable is a NIT classroom. The BER building is the library and assembly hall and an historic brick building that is utilised as the MP class area. The grounds are well maintained with grassed areas, bitumen and native garden areas.. An active grounds committee supports the Grounds Person and Principal. The bitumen was replaced in 2013, with State Government funding. A 130th anniversary Outdoor Learning Area was established in 2013 with financial support from the local community and Owen Community Centre Committee.

- **Cooling / Heating**

The School is fully air-conditioned and heated.

- **Student Facilities**

A new curriculum server was installed in early 2013, and an administration server in the middle of the year.



Students have access to a suite of laptops, 6 desk tops as well as multiple tablet and iPad devices. A well-stocked library supports student learning programs. There are five interactive whiteboards in the school. In 2017 10-12 new laptops will be purchased.

The Owen Arms Hotel provides lunches 1 day a week. The Parents and Friends Club offers healthy lunch options for students across the year, which is an ongoing fundraiser.

- **Staff Facilities**

A Staff room and resource area is available for staff. Staff have access to admin computers, and curriculum laptops, which can be taken home to aid planning.

- **Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities**

Ramp access is provided to all rooms; the school has a wheel chair access toilet on site.

- **Access to Bus Transport**

A number of students access a school bus from outlying areas. As this bus is linked to Balaklava High school, these students arrive at Owen Primary School at approximately 8:10 am and do not leave until 3.45 pm. This does extend yard duties for teaching staff.

10. **School Operations**

- **Decision Making Structures**

All staff attend school staff meetings, which are usually held weekly. All staff have input into decisions that are relevant to their work. A teacher representative attends school council meetings; each teacher attends for a term. A formal PAC exists who with access to appropriate documents and financial information make informed recommendations to the Principal.

The Governing Council meets twice per term (usually weeks 3 and 8). Smaller subcommittees include a Finance Advisory Committee, a Self Review Committee, Health and Physical Education committee and adhoc committees as the need arises.

The Parents and Friends committee fundraise very effectively to provide extra school resources, and fund school events and excursions.

The school is represented by the Principal on the Owen Community Centre Committee (progress association).

- **Regular Publications**

A School Newsletter is published three or four times each term and distributed in either hard copy or by email.

Annual Report and Site Improvement Plan are produced every year. This context statement is updated in term 2 each year. Key documents are uploaded onto the school website as produced each year.

- **Other Communication**

The Principal places articles and information in 'Owen Matters' the Owen community newsletter, the 'Plains Producer', The Bunyip and the Flinders News throughout each term.

A school website – www.owenps.sa.edu.au



- **School Financial Position**

The school's finances are in a sound position. Staff spend within budget and follow a process. Significant investment is made towards improving Literacy and Numeracy and ensuring staff training is up to date. The Principal works with the committee of Lower Mid north site leaders to manage the fund for the Lower Mid North partnership which is held at Owen PS.

- **Special Funding 2017**

- Engaging families (Playcentre)

11. **Local Community**

- **General Characteristics**

Owen is a rural community with a local district population of approximately 350 in the town and 500 in the district who call Owen home. A small number are self-employed, including local business and farm owners, some employment exists in and around the town. Ingham's Poultry provide some work for local families. Many people commute out of Owen for employment.

- **Parent and Community Involvement**

Parents and the community are very supportive of the school. Governing Council and Parents and Friends are active and successful groups. The Principal is a member of the Owen Community Centre Committee.

- **Playcentre**

The Owen Primary School Playcentre operates from 9:30am to 12.30 each Wednesday from weeks 2 to the end of the term. The Playcentre Leader ensures a quality play based learning program that includes pre-literacy and pre-numeracy activities are offered.

During 2017 the Playcentre Leader and Principal are working with the LMN EY Staff on an 'Engaging Families' project to improve communication with people who do not currently use the service.

- **Feeder Schools**

Owen Primary School is a feeder school to Balaklava High School, with most students travelling on a school bus.

The Horizon Christian School located in Balaklava competes for students of the district.

Owen Primary School hosts a quality and well attended Playcentre on Wednesday mornings. Play centre is considered an important aspect of the school.

- **Other Local Care and Educational Facilities**

Primary School students come to Owen Primary School from BCCC, and HB Kindergarten.

- **Commercial/industrial and Shopping Facilities**

The township consists of a town hall, silos, Men's shed, post office, hotel, sporting facilities and organisations and community second hand shop.

- **Other Local Facilities**

The local Owen Community Church is a community focus and there is a strong Community Centre Committee. There is a swimming pool, oval, bowling green, tennis and basketball courts, a golf course, CFS, playground and wetlands.



- **Accessibility**

Adelaide is 92kms from Owen and many residents regularly travel to Adelaide by car. Major centres close to Owen include Balaklava (19kms), Gawler (approximately 48 kms), Clare (approximately 75 kms) and Kapunda (approximately 56 kms).

- **Local Government Body**

Owen is located in the local government area of Wakefield Regional Council.

