



# Owen Primary School

Fourth Street, Owen, S.A. 5460  
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## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: February 2021

**School number:** 0325

**School name:** Owen Primary School

### School Profile:

Owen Primary School was established in 1883. The school provides education for students 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. Most 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.



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. There is a focus on STEM, with the integrated approach to learning being taught across all classes. Students participate in community groups, working with key members and organisations in the community to develop life skills.

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: Ashley Gardner
- 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](http://www.owenps.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [dl.0325.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0325.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Play centre attached yes
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE student enrolment: 54

Year Level	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reception	4	7	4	6
Year 1	6	4	7	5
Year 2	4	6	5	8
Year 3	8	5	7	6
Year 4	9	7	6	6
Year 5	7	8	8	8
Year 6	7	7	9	7
Year 7	7	7	7	8
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>



### Staffing numbers (as at February census)

Principal	Band A-2	1.0 FTE
Teachers		3.2 FTE
SSO 1	7 Positions	
SSO 2	2 Positions	(18 Hours Finance)
Grounds person (GSE)		4.5 hours
PCW		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)

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.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

### General characteristics

The student population at Owen hovers at between 50 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 (e.g. '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 Department for Education 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 targeted 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, Alpha check, SA Spelling Test, PAT maths and reading comprehension.

### **Student Management**

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 respond well to strategies to improve their ownership of their behaviour and 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 2021 a focus on STEM learning as an integrated curriculum approach was adopted. All classes participate in 2 hours of STEM learning each week.



### 3. Key School Policies

Please see our website at [www.owenps.sa.edu.au](http://www.owenps.sa.edu.au) for key policies and documents. Alternatively, see office staff for a hard copy of any policies.

#### 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.

### 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:
  - Embedded ICT across all curriculum areas
  - Integrated, cross-curricular approach to teaching.
- 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.
  - 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.

### **Additional Needs**

Students with specific needs have relevant Negotiated Education Plans which underline content and pedagogic practices focusing 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 programs 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.

The UP students take part in choir and regularly attend the festival of music.

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

The school has a strong environmental education program with activities such as planting trees with help from the community, assisting with a recycling program, raising chickens and working in the school vegetable garden. In 2017 students are working with adults to extend the vegetable garden.

The school has a functional Nature Play space, designed and installed by the governing council.



## 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.

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 many SSO's working in classroom support, admin and finance and the Christian Pastoral Support Worker, 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 the Principal and peers, reflections on observations and professional development in line with Lower Mid North Partnerships, site priorities, staff needs and Departmental policies.

### Access to Specialist Staff

A range of Support Services are accessed via the Gawler education offices as required.

### 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. The front office and UP class in one transportable, a double transportable building houses the JP class and PCW and a single transportable is the NIT classroom. The historic school building houses the MP class and a new library and multi-purpose building is located near the school oval. 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 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary Outdoor Learning Area was established in 2013 with financial support from the local community and Owen Community Centre Committee. The large oval area opens onto the town tennis/basketball courts that school students access both for PE lessons and playtime.

### Cooling / Heating

The School is fully air-conditioned and heated.

### Student Facilities

All classrooms feature new state of the art interactive TVs. Students have access to laptops, iPads and other technologies to support learning. Virtual Reality headsets were recently purchased and the school has regular access to a partnership purchased 3D printer. The school recently underwent significant infrastructure upgrades, including connection to SWiFT, to provide the best possible access to the internet and digital services.

### School Lunches

The Owen Arms Hotel provides lunches each Friday. 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.

## **9. School Operations**

### **Decision Making Structures**

All staff attend school staff meetings, which are 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 policy review Committee and grounds committee.

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 digital newsletter is published at least 3 times per term. A link is also sent through digital communication tools and linked to on the school website.

An 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 at [www.owenps.sa.edu.au](http://www.owenps.sa.edu.au) provides up to date information and links to documents and policies.

The school utilises a number of digital technology tools to communicate with families, including Facebook and class dojo.

### **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





# 10. 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 Tuesday 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.

## Feeder Schools

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

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 Hamley Bridge 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.

