

Hewett Primary School



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: April 2025

School number: 1876

School name: Hewett Primary School

School number: 7876

School name: Hewett Disability Unit

Hewett Primary School is located on the northern edge of Gawler and is co-located with the Wlsie Ey Children’s Centre who share the Hewett Community Centre. Hewett Primary School has a Disability Unit on site for up to 24 students with severe and multiple disabilities. The Disability Unit is a valued part of the school community and participates in whole school events and programs.

Hewett Primary School is zoned and manages enrolments to ensure access for local students. Hewett Primary School has a high number of students from Defence Force families who live in the area with annual movement in and out of the school depending on deployment and new cyclic posting.

Hewett Primary School’s values are *Respect, Responsibility and Learning*. Our vision is to have “*An inclusive inclusive, empowered learning community that values diversity, lifelong learners and the pursuit of personal excellence*”.



1. General information

School Principal:	Mr Matt Saunders
Deputy Principal:	Ms Sharon Foweraker
Senior Leader:	Mrs Mel McLean
Student Well-being Leader:	Mrs Ally Pugliese
Disability Unit Coordinator:	Mrs Tersilia Hansen
Business Manager:	Ms Michelle Hoebergen
Year of opening:	1997
Postal Address:	Kingfisher Drv, Hewett, 5118
Location Address:	Kingfisher Drv, Hewett, 5118
DECD Region:	Greater Gawler
Geographical location:	45km from Adelaide GPO
Telephone number:	08 85 221 486
Fax Number:	08 85 221 837
School website address:	www.hewettps.sa.edu.au
School e-mail address:	dl.1876.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Preschool:	Elsie Ey Children's Centre is co-located.
Out of School Hours Care:	Happy Haven Contact: 0416616408 OSHC is available before and after schools and during the holidays.
Public transport access:	Gawler is serviced by rail from Adelaide. An Adelaide Metro bus stops outside the school.
School Zone:	Hewett Primary is a zoned school. A map of the boundaries can be found on the school's website. Parents who wish to enrol are invited to submit an expression of interest form also available on the school's website.



Feb FTE student enrolment:

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Disability Unit	24	24	24	24
Reception	54	45	42	43
Year 1	46	56	46	45
Year 2	50	51	54	46
Year 3	52	52	52	59
Year 4	71	52	49	52
Year 5	65	77	49	50
Year 6	51	64	77	46
Total FTE	413	421	390	365
School Card	105	95	100	85
NESB	5	4	3	5
Aboriginal	12	13	14	17

Student enrolment trends:

Enrolments have been steady since 2022. There are currently 14 mainstream classes as well as 3 classes in the Disability Unit.

Staffing Allocation:

School: Teaching Staff: 21.2 FTE (including school leaders)
 Ancillary Staff: 518 hrs/week

Unit: Teaching Staff: 5.4 FTE
 Ancillary Staff: 195 hrs/week

The combined number of SSOs working across the 2 sites is 34.



2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Students come mainly from Willaston and Hewett though we have students from all parts of Gawler and from rural communities to the north of Gawler. The main feeder preschool is Elsie Ey Children's Centre.

Hewett is a designated area for Defence Housing and over 50 of our students are from Defence Families. We employ a Defence School Mentor to support these students.

As well as the 24 students in the Disability Unit there are 68 Inclusive Education Support Program Grand of Level funded students identified in mainstream classes.

- Special programs

To support students with specific learning needs, a range of programs have been implemented. Including:-

- Programs and support for students on Negotiated Curriculum Plans
- Early intervention programs
- Coordination programs
- Interoception programs
- Social skills programs – What's the Buzz
- Speech and language support programs
- MiniLit, MacqLit

Transition programs also exist to support Reception students enrolling at a school for the first time as well as the Year 6 students transferring to local High Schools (public and private).

With Elsie Ey Children's Centre on the same grounds we promote a sharing of the facilities and a strong transition program.

- Student voice

Student Voice is promoted through SLIC who meet fortnightly following class meetings. SLIC drives many school programs and special events. Staff also promote student voice through feedback processes both formal and informal.

- Recess and Lunch Activities

Lunchtime Activities
Positive Yard Programs
Library Activities
Sports Equipment in the yard

- Defence School Mentor

To minimise the impact of the mobile lifestyle on children's education, the Defence Community Organisation provides funding for support staff in



schools to support children from military families. Under the Defence School Mentor (DSM) Program, the in-school Defence School Mentor supports defence students when transitioning from school to school and during times of parental absence. The Defence School Transition Aide helps families and children to develop strategies to successfully integrate into the school community.

- **Pastoral Care Worker**
A Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) is a trained, experienced and passionate person who joins a school community on behalf of the local churches to provide extra support to young people. Our PCWs main task is to support the school in its aim to be a safe and supportive learning environment, to support the wellbeing of students, staff and families and to link families to community resources and services.
- **Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO) and AET**
Our Aboriginal Community Education Officer supports individual Aboriginal students and their families within the school community. Some of their duties include working with teachers in the implementation of Aboriginal Cultural Studies and Aboriginal perspectives in curriculum design and delivery, helping teaching staff develop and maintain relationships with Aboriginal students, parents and families and promoting an Aboriginal community voice in decision-making.

An AET Aboriginal Education Teacher works 1 days a week to support all ATSI students with their learning.
- **Student management**
The general principles contained in the DfE Behaviour Support Policy has been adopted. Each class has negotiated classroom expectations and develops these into their uses Zones of Regulation. Parents/caregivers and staff are supportive and committed to our key principle of 'providing a safe and secure teaching, learning and recreational environment'.

Students are encouraged to discuss, practise and use grievance procedures. Encouraging and acknowledging the positive behaviour choices and achievements of our students is a whole school priority.

The language of Zones of Regulation is explicitly taught and implemented across the school. Staff work to be proactive in Behaviour Management. Restorative Practices are utilised when dealing with issues between students.

3. Key School Policies

- **Site Learning Plan and other key statements or policies:**
Vision: Hewett Primary School will be an inclusive, empowered learning community that values diversity, lifelong learning and the pursuit of personal excellence.

Values: At Hewett Primary School we value *Respect, Responsibility and Learning*.



Current School and Disability Unit Priorities: Zones of Regulation, SA Curriculum and Writing

- Recent key outcomes:
Achievements are detailed in our Annual Report which is available on the school's website.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
All eight areas of study are offered at Hewett in line with The Australian Curriculum.
Specialist instruction is offered as Non Instruction Time for teachers in Health and Physical Education, HASS and Japanese.
- Special needs
Students with a disability are supported by the classroom teacher, our Special Education/Autism Inclusion Teacher and/or a School Support Officers.
Strong partnerships are formed with the local DfE Support Services Team including: Speech Pathologists, Senior Educators and Behaviour Coach.
- Special curriculum features
Five banks of laptops are available for classes, small groups or individuals to use. ICT is a focus area with the emphasis placed on using the resource as an integral part of the classroom curriculum. In addition, there are ipads for JP classes.
- Student assessment procedures and reporting
The school has developed an Assessment and Reporting Schedule that meets DfE reporting requirements. They include parent/teacher interviews and two summative reports. Teachers and families work in partnership to support student learning. Early communication around any concerns is expected. Families are involved in developing One Plans. Staff are proactive in the use of goal setting and self assessment.

5. Sporting Activities

A whole school Sports Day is programmed each year. Students are regularly involved in SAPSASA local sport activities, as well as a range of sporting clinics throughout the year. Students access Water Safety activities in Year 6 (Aquatics Day). All students R – 5 access a 'Water Safety' program in Term 4.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
A number of functions occur throughout the year to promote a sense of community within the school. These include fundraising opportunities, acquaintance night, transition meetings, performances etc.

- **Special**
Special events that occur regularly include Book Week, Enterprise/Charity Day, Year 7 Graduation Ceremony, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day events, Farewell Assemblies, School Camps, Annual School Concert.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**
Hewett is accessible to staff who live in Gawler, The Barossa and the Northern Suburbs of Adelaide.
- **Leadership structure**
The school currently has a Principal, Deputy Principal, Senior Leader – Teaching and Learning, Student Well-being Leader and Disability Unit Coordinator.

There is an emphasis on shared leadership and staff collaboration. The Leadership team meets regularly to monitor school operations and learning priorities. Staff committees are formed on a needs basis to manage short-term and medium-term school needs. Collaborative teaching and learning teams are formed to support one another on a range of curriculum issues.
- **Performance Development**
Members of the Leadership Team share line management responsibility and meet with staff regularly to discuss learning programs and staff performance development opportunities. All staff are supported through their Performance Development Plan in line with DfE Policy.
- **Staff utilisation policies**
Due to the large numbers of students with Special Needs many highly skilled and dedicated staff are employed in both mainstream and the Disability Unit.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Housing**
No government housing is provided for staff.
- **Locality allowances**
Teachers working in the Disability Unit can access the Special Class Allowance.

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**
The school has a new Administration Centre that is being completed in Term 1 or 2026 and currently has teaching spaces in 4 permanent classroom blocks, the most recent being constructed in 2010. The two newest constructions include eight new classrooms with a teacher preparation room and wet area.



The permanent buildings also include an administration block, a resource centre, an activity room and an activity hall.

Currently the administration area is under construction as part of the Elsie Ey Children's Centre redevelopment.

Grounds development includes 2 'general use' adventure playgrounds. There are two hard play areas, one of which includes a basketball court. A new large Nature Play area is available for all students.

There is a grassed play area and an oval adjacent to the school. With the river running next to the school there is a range of bird life and excellent walking tracks. The school is fenced to restrict access.

- Heating and cooling
All work areas are air-conditioned.
- Specialist facilities and equipment
Within the permanent buildings is a 3 class Disability Unit. This area has scheduled capital works in 2026 to increase the Disability Unit to 4 classes by 2027.
An activity hall was completed in 2001, containing facilities for a range of sports.
The Performing Arts Centre was added to the school facilities in 2011.

There is no canteen but lunches can be ordered through Subway on Friday's week.
- Staff facilities
Staff have access to a number of work spaces throughout the school. There is also access to administration network computers and curriculum network computers throughout the school.
Each work area is connected to the school internal phone system. The staffroom is well appointed and includes an IWB for use during presentations and training and development.
All teaching staff have a laptop.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
There is very good access for both students and staff with disabilities. A great deal of support is available and programs are individualised.
Classes and supports consider the needs of students with extra consideration provided to who works effectively with which students.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
Staff decision making occurs mainly at staff meetings, where all teaching staff attend. SSO's are provided with meeting notes.
SSO meetings are held 2 times a term.
Whole school committees have responsibility for implementing and managing school priorities.
Student Decision Making occurs through class meetings and SLIC.



Governing Council meet twice a term. The AGM is held in Term 1 of each year.

- Regular publications

The Newsletter is published three times a term and is the major source of communication between home and school. The newsletter can be accessed from the school's website: www.hewetts.sa.edu.au.

Facebook

The School has a Facebook page which is overseen by staff and highlights news, learning and general information.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is the platform that classes use to maintain contact with family in line with the Digital Communication Policy.

Regular staff communication occurs through the use of the electronic 'day book', staff and email.

The Annual Report is documented at the end of each year and presented at the Governing Council AGM in March. It is also available via the school's website.

- School financial position

The school has a permanent Business Manager. The school is in a stable Financial position.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

The school is located in a housing development on the northern outskirts of Gawler. Most students are from this newer estate or from the older Gawler suburb of Willaston.

The work available in the Gawler area is diverse. Parents and Caregivers either work within Gawler, commute to the Adelaide metropolitan areas or to other rural areas such as the Barossa.

- Parent and community involvement

Parents are invited to be involved in the school in a variety of ways. Some of the more formal structures include:

- Governing Council and associated committees
- Fundraising Committee
- Classroom volunteers

A 'Volunteers Policy' exists, providing guidelines for our volunteers.

The Defence Support Mentor runs a Coffee Morning three times a term, with the PCW and AECO called 'Cuppa Time'

- Feeder or destination schools

Our students come from numerous pre-schools and kindergartens within the district. A transition program exists to support these students and their families at Hewett Primary School



- Other local care and educational facilities
There are many childcare, pre-school, primary and secondary school facilities within the Gawler area. These facilities are both public and private
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Gawler has extensive local services, shopping and medical facilities
- Availability of staff housing
Government housing is not available. There is a wide range of short and long term rental as well as housing available for purchase.
- Accessibility
Hewett is situated approximately 45 kms from Adelaide. It can be accessed by car, bus and trains depart at regular intervals. The Northern Expressway and the upgrade of the Sturt Highway have dramatically improved the accessibility to Hewett as we are located at the junction of these 2 major roadways
- Local Government body
Hewett Primary School is located in the Light Regional Council
Main Office 93 Main Street, Kapunda 08 85 662101
Branch Office 12 Hanson Street, Freeling 08 85 252028

The closest District Council Office is The Corporation of the Town of Gawler
Main Office 89 Murray Street, Gawler 08 85 211211

