

Hewett Primary School



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: April 2021

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 part of a precinct offering comprehensive education and care services. Included in this precinct are Happy Haven Out of School Hours Care, Elsie Ey Children's Centre, Stepping Stones Child Care Centre and the Hewett Community Centre.

The school has a strong focus on literacy and numeracy skill development for all students within a culture focussed on inclusivity and positive education. Students are supported by a comprehensive range of intervention programs and are challenged to meet their potential through specialised programs and differentiated teaching practices.

The school also hosts a Unit for 24 students with intellectual disabilities. This is a valued part of our school with students included in school events and programs.

Our school values Respect, Responsibility and Learning.

Student wellbeing is supported through whole school programs and individual or small group accommodations as necessary. Authentic student voice through SLIC and Action Teams, student and peer feedback further develops student responsibility and respect.

The school has staff, resources and facilities to support high quality teaching and learning.

The school is currently zoned with families living within the area invited to enrol.

There is a high number of students from Defence Families.



1. General information

School Principal:	Mr Matt Saunders
Deputy Principal:	Mr Todd McGuigan
Senior Leader:	Mrs Mel McLean
Student Well-being Leader:	Ms Tracey Shanks
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:

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Disability Unit	24	24	24	22
Reception	74	71	49	54
Year 1	61	75	74	52
Year 2	72	60	74	71
Year 3	88	73	55	70
Year 4	74	90	81	59
Year 5	78	75	91	81
Year 6	83	87	74	91
Year 7	52	44	36	30
Total FTE	606	599	558	508
School Card	130	146	146	130
NESB	3	3	5	1
Aboriginal	23	21	23	21

Student enrolment trends:

Enrolments have slowly declined over the last 3 years with an increasing number of students moving to Year 7 in the Independent system. There are currently 19 mainstream classes as well as 3 classes in the Disability Unit.

Staffing Allocation:

School: Teaching Staff: 27.0 FTE
 Ancillary Staff: 692 hrs/week

Unit: Teaching Staff: 4.3 FTE
 Ancillary Staff: 123.95 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 60 of our students are from Defence Families. We employ a Defence School Transition Aide to support these students.

As well as the 24 students in the Disability Unit there are over 33 Inclusive Education Support Program 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
- Speech and language support programs
- MiniLit, MacqLit, Blin intervention

Transition programs also exist to support Reception students enrolling at a school for the first time as well as the Year 7 students transferring to local High Schools.

With Elsie Ey 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. Class meetings are conducted regularly. 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 Transition Aide

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 Transition Aide (DSTA) Program, in-school Defence Aides support 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 2 days a week to support all ATSI students with their learning.

- **Student management**

The general principles contained in the DECD School Discipline Policy has been adopted. A Behaviour Code has been developed and a Student Behaviour Management Policy implemented. Each class has negotiated classroom rules and consequences and develops that into their class Behaviour Levels. Students, 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 Positive Education is encouraged. Staff work to be proactive in Behaviour Management. Restorative Practices are utilised when dealing with issues between students. A range of strategies are employed to support students in their positive behaviour development. To emphasise positive behaviours a system of Behaviour Levels works in classrooms where students are recognised for their strong behaviour choices.

Staff are trained in Positive Education and many trained in Berry St.

The school is also part of a project implementing “The Friendly Schools Program”



3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement 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 Priorities: *Numeracy, Reading and Writing*
Current Disability Unit Priorities: *PODD and ABLES*
- 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, Science and Performing Arts and Japanese.
- Special needs
Students with a disability or with Learning Difficulties are supported by the classroom teacher, our Special Education/Intervention teacher and/or a School Support Officer.
Strong partnerships are formed with Guidance Officers, Speech Pathologists, Disabilities Services and other service providers.
- Special curriculum features
Two shared ICT areas and three banks of laptops are available for classes, small groups or individuals to use. Classroom computers and Interactive Whiteboards are also provided for student and staff 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 and pods of notebooks for primary 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 activities, as well as a range of sporting clinics throughout the year.

Students access Water Safety activities in Year 6 (Aquatics Day) and Year 7 Aquatics Camp

All students R – 5 access a 'learn to swim' 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, Year 7 Camps, School concert every second year.
- **Choir**
The Choir for students in Years 5,6 & 7 participates in The Festival of Music annually (a school-based music education program) at the Adelaide Festival Theatre in September. Students practise weekly with staff at school and are required to travel to Adelaide for practise in the lead up to the final performance. Our choir also performs at school during assemblies and other various occasions.

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 and Disability Unit Coordinator. There is an emphasis on shared leadership and staff collaboration. A Leadership team meets weekly. Sub Committees are formed on a needs basis to manage short-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 currently has teaching spaces in 4 permanent classroom blocks, the most recent being constructed in 2010. Our two newest constructions include eight new classrooms, a withdrawal space, teacher prep room and a shared IT and wet area.
The permanent buildings also include an administration block, a resource centre, an activity room and an activity hall.
Grounds development includes 2 'general use' adventure playgrounds and a Disability Unit enclosed playground. There are two hard play areas, one of which includes a basketball court. A new large Nature Play area is available for all students. Two tennis courts located adjacent to the Hall are available for student use. 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 with an enclosed playground facility adjacent. This area was redeveloped and expanded in 2012.

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.

The newly established Hewett Centre is a community facility adjacent to the school.

The oval has recently been redeveloped and now provides an expansive grassed play area.



There is no canteen but lunches can be ordered through the local shop 3 days per week.

Some facilities are currently shared with Elsie Ey with the intention this may be increased in the future.

- **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. Photocopiers are available in 3 buildings..

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. Teaching staff also meet each term with the SSO's they work with in their class.

The Leadership Team meets weekly to oversee school development and management.

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 March of each year.

- **Regular publications**

The Newsletter is published fortnightly and is the major source of communication between home and school. The newsletter can be accessed from the school's website: www.hewettps.sa.edu.au.

Facebook

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

Skoolbag App

This app is valuable in ensuring our families are kept up to date with all school information. This simple, user friendly app provides our school with an easy way to tell parents and carers everything they need to know about



school news, newsletters, events, cancellations, notices, information and documents. There is also the facility to complete an 'eform' to let the school know about student absences. The app is a free download from the relevant store on Apple, Android and Windows devices.

Dojo is the platform that most classes use to maintain contact with families.

Regular staff communication occurs through the use of the 'day book', staff notices 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. A Finance Committee meets regularly to oversee the financial position of the school.
The Governing Council is carefully planning to improve our 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 of Hewett is an fundraising and support group.
Classroom volunteers.

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

The Defence Aid runs a Coffee Morning each Tuesday morning for Defence Families.

- 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

