

SUTTONTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL
CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: 2014

School number: 0422

School name: SUTTONTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Suttontown Primary School is characterised by

Teamwork and shared leadership

Positive attitude to change

Success orientated learning environment

Inclusive non-violent community

Positive public profile

Suttontown PS values Respect, Resilience and Doing your Best

Suttontown Primary School, located on the northern boundary of Mount Gambier, is a small school that is distinctly advantaged by its proximity to the state's biggest regional city and its infrastructure which includes such educational pluses in the library, theatres and extensive sporting facilities.

The present site was opened in 1917, but narrowly avoided closure in the 1980's when enrolments dropped as Mulga Street Primary School was built nearby.

Once the decision was made to keep the school open, improvement of the facilities has enabled the enrolment to pass 100 and this has .

Unlike most similar sized schools, Suttontown is not the centre of a rural community, but caters for a majority of city dwellers and a lower number of bus travellers from the north-west fringe of the city.

With the closure of the Tarpeena Primary School, we now have 16 students from that area travelling by bus to Suttontown.

Boys outnumber girls at present by a ratio of 3;2.

1. General information

Part A

School Name : SUTTONTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No. : 0422 Courier : Limestone Coast District
Principal : Mr Colin Beaton
Postal Address : PO Box 9110, Mount Gambier West 5291
Location Address : Pinehall Avenue Mount Gambier
District : Limestone Coast
Distance from GPO : 450 kms Phone No. : 08 87254047
CPC attached : NO
Fax No. : 08 87250081

August FTE Enrolment 2014

Reception - 14

Year 1 - 12

Year 2 - 13

Year 3 - 12

Year 4 - 14

Year 5 - 13

Year 6 - 9

Year 7 - 9

TOTAL 97

NOTE: (58 boys, 39 girls)

School Card Approvals (Persons) 17

NESB Total (Persons) 0

Aboriginal FTE Enrolment 1

SWD:5

Part B

- School e-mail address

0422_admin@schools.sa.edu.au

Web site: www.suttownps.sa.edu.au

- Staffing numbers

:4.5 FTE teachers, 4 SSO's, 0.5 Christian Pastoral Support Worker

- No OSHC

- Enrolment trends

Stable – the school is operating at capacity

- Special arrangements

:4 classes in 2013; REC/Yr 1, Yr1/2, Yr 3 / 4, Yr 5-7

- Year of opening

:1917

- Public transport access

:No public transport. Two school buses service Wandilo and Tarpeena areas

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

: Family type atmosphere of small school setting. Warm welcoming environment

- Support offered

: Consistent approach in caring community.

- Student management

: Clearly expressed expectations set up by whole school community. 2014 introduction of Restorative Practice processes.

- Student government

: Student Representative School Council

- Special programmes

Active After School Communities Program

3. Key School Policies

- :School Improvement Plan

Priorities include Numeracy and Wellbeing

- Recent key outcomes

Development of Whole-school Literacy Plan

Whole staff training and development in numeracy

Understanding by Design

Component 2 Kids Matter initiative

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

Australian Curriculum is being phased in we have but no LOTE program at present.

Choir and instrumental music lessons are offered to senior students.

- Special needs

A number of children on support programs designed by classroom teachers and carried out with SSO support.

- Special curriculum features

27 computers in computer room available for daily class access, in addition to classroom computers (ratio of computers :students is 1:2) 10 laptop computers available for student use.

- Teaching methodology

Composite Year levels for all classes Focus on TfEL and Learning Design using Understanding by Design.

- Assessment procedures and reporting

Assessment tasks planned using the backwards planning process

Parent/teacher/student interviews held in term 2, mid year reports and end of year reports. On going informal communication between home and school

5. Sporting Activities

- • Full range of community based junior sports programs in Mt Gambier.
- Suttontown Sports day in term 1
- • Mt Gambier District School Sports Day winner in 2013 (7 small schools share a common sports day).
- • Convener of Years 3-5 school sport programs for Mt Gambier.
- • Active After School Communities Project
- • Auskick
- • Involvement in Year 6/7 sports carnival days.
- Swimming lessons at Mt Gambier Aquatic Centre

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- • - Whole school picnic
- • - Bike Ed program
- • Whole school camp
- Participation in community Eistedfodd
- • Participation in the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade periodically
- • Whole school musical production periodically

7. Staff (and their welfare)

• Staff profile
:Teachers and SSOs live in Mount Gambier, Millicent, Penola

• Leadership structure
:Principal
Three Step 9 teachers

- Staff support systems
:Work as a close team, involved in decision making and planning

SSOs join teachers to access training and development

- Performance Management
:Teachers and SSOs meet “officially” once a term for pro chats

- Staff utilisation policies
Specific skills amongst staff utilised to best advantage

- Access to special staff
:Support services from Limestone Coast Regional Office

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8. Incentives, support and award conditions for staff

- Complexity placement points -:none
- Isolation placement points :none
- Shorter terms: none
- Travelling time: none
- Housing assistance available
- Reverse cycle air conditioning in all learning areas
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
- Additional increment allowance: no
- Designated schools benefits: none
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools: no
- Medical :flu vaccination available
- Locality allowances
- Relocation assistance
- Principal’s telephone costs :

9. School Operations

- Decision making structures
:Whole staff, students and parent involvement through democratic decision making process including Governing Council, Staff PLC meetings and Student SRC.
- Regular publications
Fortnightly newsletters,
- Other communication as required
- School financial position is extremely sound
- No special funding

10. Local Community

With so many other schools in close proximity, many families have made a personal decision for their children to attend the school, which is often their second choice after previous educational experience.

As we have no on-site preschool facilities, our Reception students come from a variety of facilities in the city.

Through Program Achieve we promote Resilience, Confidence, Teamwork, Organisation and Persistence, which are acknowledged at each assembly.

We value Restorative Justice practices and these underpin our behaviour management strategies and processes..

We were re-categorised at Level 5 Index of Disadvantage in 2012 (previously Level 6), and rated by ACARA with an ICSEA value of 970, with 84% of students rated in the bottom half of the scale.

11. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Original, stone building houses admin areas, library, computer room and staff room. Majority of classrooms are portables.

Large play ground area and irrigated oval

- All learning areas air conditioned
- Specialist facilities

Resource Centre, computer room, art room, gym, plus Covered Outdoor Learning Area over the netball court.

- Student facilities
Playground equipment constructed with student input to plans
Current project to develop Natural Play Spaces in consultative design process is ongoing and currently at concept stage..

- Staff facilities
New staff room to be constructed this year.
- Access to bus transport: Limited access if living in Mount Gambier