



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated:

School number: 0422

School name: Suttontown Primary School

School Profile:

Our Vision:

We inspire students to be life long learners in a caring community environment.

Our Purpose:

We aim to provide students with the opportunities to achieve personal excellence with the support of competent and accountable staff who use technology and pedagogy effectively. At the very core of this is a safe environment that builds strong connections with family, other schools and the wider community.

Our Values:

Respect, Resilience, Doing Your Best

Our Beliefs about Learning

- Parents, Students and Teachers are partners in learning
- Learning that is linked to the real world ensures understanding is more transferrable because it is purposeful and meaningful
- Quality planning and programming results in improved learning outcomes
- Intervention targets specific learning needs, enabling students to progress
- Learning opportunities are maximised when students are accurately informed of their progress and achievements
- Exposure to a range of text and number through writing, oral language and multimedia develops lifelong learning skills
- Educators make a positive contribution to learner wellbeing that is built on the strengths of individuals, groups and communities working together
- To develop expert learners high expectations should be clearly communicated to challenge and extend students
- That educators participate in regular professional development that challenges teacher thinking and supports best practice

At Suttontown Primary, we

- Review and refine our practice and performance as part of our professional responsibility to improve outcomes for students
- Work collaboratively, focusing on continuous improvement, supporting and challenging each other through professional dialogue.

- Use the online Eduplanet Unit Planner, based upon the Understanding by Design principles, to design and deliver, coherent, sequenced learning programs, plans and assessments tailored to learning needs.
- Align our work with the Australian Curriculum(AC), Numeracy and Literacy Strategy, Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL), the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers Framework.

Suttontown School was initially opened at the Methodist Church site on Suttontown Road in 1869. The school moved to it's current site in 1918 after outgrowing it's previous site. In 2019 Suttontown Primary School celebrates 150 years of education.

Located right on the northern boundary of Mount Gambier, Suttontown Primary school is now within the re-aligned city limits and is no longer the isolated rural district facility that was built in 1917. As the school of right for the former Tarpeena Primary School catchment area, we currently have 18 enrolments from this district, in addition to the growth in the north-west area of Mount Gambier.

The classroom learning spaces at Suttontown Primary School have been recently updated with new storage systems, active-panels and furnishings and furniture. Our classrooms are now modern, bright and welcoming spaces for students to work and learn. Banks of Ipads and Laptop computers are available to assist all students with their learning. A large screen and projector was installed in our gymnasium. This has meant that we are now able to show videos and photos during school assemblies and presentations.

Suttontown offers Japanese lessons through the Open Access Language Partnerships Program. Our Japanese teachers visit our students and teachers several times throughout the year. The final visit usually entails a very successful Japanese Cultural Day where students have the opportunity to experience Japanese food, craft and cultural activities.

Suttontown teachers have been trialling the Brightpath Assessment Tool for Writing since 2017. All teachers have received professional development in the Seven Steps Writing program. All teachers appreciate the opportunity to moderate our student writing samples against an external continuum and to use the feedback and teaching points available in the tool. We were especially proud to have 6 of our students selected to have their writing displayed at the Persuasive Writing Exhibition held at the Department for Education Gallery in Adelaide.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Josie McBain
- Year of opening: 1869. Moved to current site in 1918
- Postal Address: PO Box 9110, Mt Gambier West, SA, 5291
- Location Address: 127A Pinehall Ave, Suttontown, SA, 5291
- DECD Region: Mount Gambier 1 Portfolio - Blue Lake Partnership

- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 450km
- Telephone number: 08 87254047
- Fax Number: 08 87250081
- School website address: www.suttonps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.044.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: no
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: There is no OSHC on site. Students are able to access OSHC at the Reidy Park School and are transported to/from OSHC by taxi.
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Reception	11	16	7	13	15
Year 1	14	10	15	8	15
Year 2	11	13	11	15	8
Year 3	12	11	12	10	14
Year 4	14	12	10	13	10
Year 5	13	11	11	10	11
Year 6	9	11	11	13	8
Year 7	7	9	11	10	12
TOTAL	91	93	88	92	93
School Card	16%	16%	17%	31%	Not Yet Available
NESB Total	0	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	1	1	0	2	4
SWD	6	6	9	7	4

- Student enrolment trends: Stable
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):
 - Principal: 1
 - Teaching FTE: 5
 - Ancillary Staff: 4
 - SSO2: 54.75 hours/week
 - SSO1: 40.75 hours/week
 - Pastoral Support Worker: 8 hours/week
- Public transport access: No public transport. A school bus services Primary School students living in the Tarpeena area.

Suttontown Primary School is the interchange site for Secondary students from the Glencoe and Tarpeena areas transferring between the Mount Gambier High School and Grant High School buses.
- Special site arrangements: nil

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
 - : Family type atmosphere of small school setting. Warm welcoming environment.
- Student well-being programs
 - : Pastoral Support Worker – 8 hours per week
 - : Play is the Way & What's the Buzz
- Student support offered
 - : Consistent approach in caring community
- Student management
 - : Consistent, clearly expressed expectations set up by whole school community. Based upon our school values of Respect, Resilience and Doing Your Best
- Student government
 - : Student Representative Council – 6 student leaders from Years 6/7 and 1 SRC member from each year level.
- Special programmes
 - : Choir is offered to all year 5/6/7 students with sessions undertaken at Mulga Street Primary School.
 - : The whole school takes part in the 'Move It' dance performance every 2 years.

:The Reception/Year 1 students take part in the Mount Gambier Speech and Drama Eisteddfod each year.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan Priorities:

:Improve student results in Mathematics

Challenge of Practice: If we are collaboratively planning mathematical investigations with a focus on real life transfer, we will extend students' knowledge and application of number sense and mathematical thinking.

:Improve student results in Writing

Challenge of Practice: If we are using a common approach to teaching writing, we will develop students' construction of complex sentences, use of rich vocabulary and the ability to develop cohesive texts.

- Recent key outcomes:

Development of Whole-school Literacy Plan

Whole staff training and development in Learning Targets, Success Criteria and Formative Feedback

Understanding by Design used as the agreed staff planning tool

Words Their Way implemented in all classrooms

Jolly Phonics implemented in Reception class

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings:

Suttontown Primary School offers all areas of the Australian Curriculum.

We offer Japanese through the Language Partnerships Program with Open Access College. Our students look forward to the termly visits from our Japanese teachers.

Choir is offered to senior students with sessions undertaken at Mulga Street Primary School

- Special needs:

The school has staff trained in InitialLit, MiniLit, Multilit, MacqLit, Too Smart and Quicksmart Numeracy.

Students experiencing difficulty in Literacy or Numeracy may be placed on a support program after consultation with their family.

Suttontown Primary School plans individual student programs for identified students with disabilities, complex learning needs, Aboriginal students and Students who are under the Guardianship of the Minister.

- Teaching methodology:
Composite year levels for most/all classes. Focus on TfEL and Learning Design using Understanding by Design.
Giving students ownership over their own learning through the use of learning targets, success criteria and examples of quality work has been an ongoing focus of our school.
- Student assessment procedures and reporting
Assessment tasks are planned using the UbD process.
Teachers moderate student writing samples using the Brighpath Writing Assessment Tool at least once per term.
Parent/teacher/student interviews are held each year.
Mid Year and End of Year written reports.

5. Sporting Activities

- Suttontown Sports Day in Term 1 – focus on collaborative games
- Mt Gambier District School Sports Day (Small Schools) held in Term 1
- Auskick for Junior Primary students
- Year 3-5 school sport programs offered with parents responsible for coaching and managing teams.
- Swimming lessons at Mt Gambier Aquatic Centre
- Students are offered the opportunity to try out for SAPSASA sports

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- *Bike Ed program (bi-annual)*
- *Move It Dance Program (bi-annual)*
- *Camps may be offered to Primary students every 2 years.*
- *Participation in the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade periodically*
- *Allan Scott Daycare Centre partnership with Middle Primary class*

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
:Teachers and SSOs live in Mount Gambier, Millicent and Penola
Suttontown has a stable staff with many long term staff members.
- Leadership structure
:Principal
:Three Step 9 teachers

- Staff support systems
 - : *Work as a close staff team, involved in decision making and planning.*
 - : *Teachers work collaboratively to plan units of work linked to our school improvement priorities.*
 - : *All teaching and ancillary staff are offered Professional Development opportunities relevant to their role and our site priorities.*
- Performance Management
 - : *All staff have performance development meetings twice per year.*
 - : *Teachers provide peer observation and feedback to each other once per term.*
- Staff utilisation policies
 - : *Specific skills amongst staff are used to best advantage*
- Access to special staff
 - : *Support Services accessed through the Mount Gambier Education Office.*
- Other
 - :

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
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
- Additional increment allowance
 - :no
- Designated schools benefits
 - :none
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
 - :no

- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:flu vaccination available
- Locality allowances
- Relocation assistance
- Principal's telephone costs

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
All classroom spaces have been recently renovated.
All learning areas are airconditioned
Original stone building houses admin areas, library and learning support room, staff preparation areas and staff room.
Majority of classrooms are refurbished portables.
Spacious and well maintained grounds
- Heating and cooling
:All areas
- Specialist facilities and equipment
Library, Ipads, Laptop computers, Art Room, Gym plus Covered Outdoor Learning Area over the Netball Court.
- Staff facilities
Staff preparation areas, staff room. Ipads for teacher use
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
:All classrooms are accessible.
- Access to bus transport
School bus for students living in the Tarpeena area
- Other
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10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
Whole staff, students and parent involvement through democratic decision making process including Governing Council, Staff Professional Development Meetings and Student SRC.
- Regular publications
Fortnightly newsletter published via School Stream
- Other communication
:as required

- School financial position
: *Very sound*
- Special funding
N/A

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
With so many schools in close proximity, many families have made a personal decision for their children to attend the school. The school has a diverse and welcoming community.
- Parent and community involvement
We welcome parent involvement and support parents to complete volunteer inductions and criminal history clearances.
- Feeder or destination schools
Our students come from many different pre-schools
Our students generally attend either Mount Gambier High School or Grant High School
- Other local care and educational facilities
There are many Government and Private Schools, preschools and child care centres within the Mount Gambier region.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
:Mount Gambier has medical, sporting and recreational facilities. There is a hospital, TAFE and University in Mount Gambier.
- Availability of staff housing
Government Employee Housing is available in Mount Gambier
- Accessibility
Air or bus travel is available between Mount Gambier and Adelaide or Melbourne. Most people choose to drive to either Adelaide or Melbourne (approximately 5 hour drive).
- Local Government body
Mount Gambier City Council