### SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

**School number:** 0147  
**School name:** Gladstone Primary School

#### 1. General information

**Part A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schoolname</th>
<th>GLADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School No.</td>
<td>0147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courier</td>
<td>Port Pirie onforwarding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Mr Brenton Willson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal Address</td>
<td>2 West Terrace, Gladstone 5473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location Address</td>
<td>2 West Terrace, Gladstone 5473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>York and Mid North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance from GPO</td>
<td>203 kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPC attached</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone No.</td>
<td>08 86622235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax No.</td>
<td>08 86622360</td>
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**February FTE Enrolment**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception(by end 2010)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
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**Secondary Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12 plus</td>
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**TOTAL**

| 46.0 |

**July total FTE Enrolment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>46.0</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male FTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female FTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Card Approvals (Persons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NESB Total (Persons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal FTE Enrolment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Part B

- **Staffing numbers**
  The school currently has 3 classes, with R/1, Year 2/3/4/, and 5/6/7. In 2010 the school has also committed SSO time to run intervention programs with targeted students from each class.
  Governing Council is committed to generous staff:student ratios and currently no class has more than 20 students.
  Teaching staff include a Principal and 4 teachers (1 fulltime, 1 working .8 and 2 working .6).
  The school has an allocation of 63 SSO hours and a contracted groundsman who works 10 hours per week.
  2 CPSWs work on site for 16 hours per week.

- **Enrolment trends**
  :Stable
- **Special arrangements**
  :Nil
- **Year of opening**
  :1876
- **Public transport access**
  :Premier Stateliner bus services Gladstone. Another Premier Stateliner service passes through Crystal Brook daily, 20km west of Gladstone.

### 2. **Students (and their welfare)**

- **General characteristics**
  :The student body is diverse with students from farming as well as town based families. A significant number of students come from extended or single parent families and over 50% of students receive school card.
- **Support offered**
  : Living in a country town means that staff members often mix with school community members for sporting and social activities. Gladstone Primary School has a ‘family atmosphere’ with staff having a good understanding of the learning and social needs of each child and the values they bring to school.
- **Student management**
  :The school promotes a safe and orderly environment for students, staff and visitors. In 2005 the school community identified ‘Values’ which all
people are expected to use in their personal interactions whilst on school premises. Values are Honesty, Respect, Caring, Following Rules and Forgiveness.

Restorative Justice processes for both yard and classroom behaviour issues are used. Incidents are viewed as social learning opportunities, where students calmly reflect upon their behaviour in terms of the ‘Values’ and the effect their behaviour has had on others. Students are actively involved throughout the process with a view to them accepting responsibility for their own behaviour and then working through processes to restore relationships that may have been effected by this behaviour.

- Student government
  
  :The Students are represented by student leaders in designated areas such as Curriculum, Sports, Community, Technology and School Activities, class meetings are run on a need to basis and are chaired by the leaders.

- Special programmes
  
  :Governing Council provides students with a water bottle and a wide brimmed bucket hat, which is worn whenever students are outside.
  
  :Healthy eating is promoted and healthy snacks and water are allowed in class.
  
  The CPSWs provide a pastoral, referral and resource role for children and their families. Each has a specific program they have developed to promote the learning of life skills such as cooking, sewing, gardening and woodworking. Informal contact provides opportunity for children to share their learning and social concerns with an independent, trusted adult. This service is well accepted and valued by all members of the school community.

3. Key School Policies

- Mission Statement
  
  :At Gladstone Primary School we work together to develop happy, confident, motivated and independent learners in a supportive environment.
  
  The school community promotes active, responsible participation, enabling all to reach their personal best.

- Recent key outcomes
  
  All classrooms are equipped with SMARTboards (Interactive White Boards) and hardware to support the operation of this equipment.
  
  :Sound Literacy and Numeracy outcomes in L&N tests.
  
  :Upgraded attractive, functional grounds, facilities and buildings.

4. Curriculum

- The school teaches all Areas of Study except LOTE. Staff use up to date and effective child centred methodologies, which focus on the academic, social
and physical development of each child. Development of Literacy and Numeracy is central to the curriculum, with programmed lessons every day. Most students participate in the Accelerated Reader program. They read daily, choosing from a range of ‘levelled’ books and comprehension activities. All students have Individual Learning Plans that have been developed by Staff, Students and Parents. These plans become the tool to monitor and discuss student learning, and set student learning goals through discussion with all key stakeholders. These plans are updated and reviewed throughout the year and discussed at Parent / Teacher meetings, and reviewed twice a year in formal interviews with the Principal.

- **Special needs**
  - All identified students have Negotiated Education Plans, which provide strategic focus for their learning programs. SSOs are employed to assist students with their learning programs.
  - York and Mid North District Student Support and Disability Team is based at District Office in Port Pirie. Services provided by this team includes Guidance Assessment, Speech Pathology, Disability and Hearing support.

- **Special curriculum features**
  - Piano, and Instrumental music are offered on a voluntary and individual basis.

- **Teaching methodology**
  - Classes are structured depending on student numbers, and each class has an allocation of SSO hours. Ancillary staff support class programs at the discretion of teaching staff.
  - Gladstone Primary School has a Learning to Learn focus. The Year 4-7 students select from a range of literacy and numeracy activities with a particular learning focus and self manage their learning, with teachers always available to provide support. Students also participate in ‘Personal Learning’ where they negotiate the topic, learning activities and presentation process.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**
  - Student Learning Portfolios are sent home at the end of Terms 1 and 3, with examples of Literacy and Numeracy learning and other selected areas of study. Written reports are sent home at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Parent teacher interviews are held once per year, with the opportunity for parents to individually request an interview at any other time.

- **Joint programmes**
  - Gladstone Primary School works collaboratively with 3 Primary Schools in the Rocky River Cluster of schools (Georgetown, Wirrabara and Laura) This includes sharing professional development opportunities and curriculum
events eg. performances, sports day, orientation camps. Some resources are shared between the schools.

5. **Sporting Activities**

- Students participate in SAPSASA events that are available in the North Eastern Region.
- We organise and conduct the Rocky River Combined Schools Sports Day every 4 years and participate every year.
- Swimming instruction is provided at the Gladstone Swimming Pool during Term 4.

Gladstone has a number of sporting clubs, including football, netball, cricket, soccer, table tennis and darts clubs.

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- **General**
  - The staff organise activities such as Jump Rope for Heart, Bookweek, PE Week and other significant events as they arise.
  - Assemblies are held fortnightly for students to showcase work they have completed. Classes lead the assemblies on a roster basis.
  - School camps and excursions are run in accordance with our Camp Policy. The school hold one whole school sleepover per year, a year 3-7 two day camp, and a minimum of one excursion per class per year.

- **Special**
  - Gladstone Primary School encourages the wearing of uniform. Students wear a royal blue top, usually a polo shirt with the school logo imprinted on it. In winter students wear a similar long sleeved fleece lined jumper or zipped jacket.

7. **Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile**
  - Staffing is stable with most staff having links to surrounding local communities. The staff is highly committed to providing quality learning and positive outcomes for students.

- **Leadership structure**
  - Leadership responsibility in the Principal's absence is shared between teachers. The school has a Key teacher allocation, but current staff has chosen to forgo this in exchange for extra teacher time. Staff members have particular areas of responsibility within the budget and curriculum.

- **Staff support systems**
  - Staff are flexible and work within a supportive and collegiate culture. Most teachers have experience working across a range of age levels and in a
variety of situations, and are able to provide strategic practical support for inexperienced staff.

Rocky River Hub groups have been established and maintained to enable contact with others doing similar work and to provide support to all staff members. Groups meet once a term.

Support staff are available from the Flinders District Education Office.

- **Performance Management**
  Staff members meet individually with the Principal informally on a need to basis to plan and monitor professional learning goals and to negotiate how aspects of the Site Learning Plan will be supported in class by the individual. The small number of staff means that informal meetings can occur as often as required.

- **Staff utilisation policies**
  : N/A

- **Access to special staff**
  Instrumental music is taught to individual students once a week. Students travel to the high school for these lessons.

  All specialist departmental personnel are accessible through the Flinders District Office in Port Pirie.

- **Other**
  Higher transfer points than metropolitan schools.

8. **Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

- **Complexity placement points**
  : 0

- **Isolation placement points**
  : 3.5

- **Shorter terms**
  : no

- **Housing assistance**
  : Subsidised Government housing is available in Gladstone or surrounding towns through application with DAIS (Department for Administrative and Information Services).

- **Relocation assistance**
  : DECS will pay for the removal costs of teachers. An application must be lodged prior to removal for this to occur. Contact the Removals Unit in Flinders Street.

  Incentive conditions can be found on the DECS web site. A copy of the award can be downloaded from [www.decs.sa.gov.au/schlstaff](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/schlstaff)
Teacher are eligible for Country Incentives Award and The Non-Metropolitan Award (for travel to approved city medical appointments)

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  - Governing Council is committed to providing students and staff with an attractive and comfortable environment in which to work. In line with this there have been many recent internal and external upgrades and additions.
  - The school comprises:
    1. A main stone building that incorporates a recently refurbished administration area and staffroom. The reference library, computer suite, and a freshly painted double classroom which presently houses the Year 2-7 classes.
    2. A well equipped double transportable room is a reading room, CPSW’s office, activity room, and cooking area. This area is used for fiction reading, art, drama, assemblies, SRC and parent meetings.
    3. A unique feature is a sheltered outdoor classroom, complete with a blackboard and permanent tables and seating.
    4. The courtyard is completely shaded with high iron roofing. This means that sporting and other active lessons can be held outdoors under shelter. Children can go outside during all break periods, even during extreme weather, as there is plenty of room under the shelter for all children.
    5. The 5 hectares of land boasts an oval, orchard, paddocks, three playgrounds, newly resurfaced tennis/basketball court, hard play area and garden areas. Features include an Indigenous Bush Tucker Trail and a vegetable garden, Butterfly garden and a walking trail.
    6. Quality student toilets are close to the main building along with a large storage shed, sport shed and a smaller store shed. An easy access toilet provides showering facilities.
    7. In 2010 a new resource centre will be built as part of the BER federal funding.

- Cooling
  - All buildings are airconditioned and are comfortable throughout summer and winter.

- Student facilities
  - An updated computer suite provides network and Internet access for all students.
  - Students and staff are able to order lunch from the Gladstone High school canteen on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Orders are picked up by canteen volunteers and lunches are returned in insulated carry bags.
• Staff facilities
  Staff facilities are located in and around the administration area. There is a teacher preparation area, internet access, a refurbished kitchenette and comfortable staff relaxation area. This area will be renovated in October 2008 to cater for SSO and teaching staff preparation requirements. Carparking is provided in a shaded parking area.

• Access for students and staff with disabilities
  There is wheelchair access to the main building and toilet block. Other buildings have steps to the door, but can readily be modified if need arises.

• Access to bus transport
  School buses are managed by Gladstone High School and shared by a number of schools in the immediate district. Services run from Yacka (through Georgetown and Gulnare), Appila (through Laura) and from Crystal Brook.

10. School Operations

• Decision making structures
  • Governing Council meets twice per term.
  • PAC issues are discussed by the whole staff.
  • Staff meetings, SRC and class meetings are held regularly.

• Regular publications
  • The school has a weekly newsletter that is sent to families and is available from the Post Office. Student work is featured.

• Other communication
  • The school promotes or advertises successes in local newspapers.
  • Assemblies are held every second Friday and are open to all members of the school community.
  • The Rocky River schools exchange newsletters and create a Rocky River calendar each term.

• School financial position
  • Fundraising is organised through the Governing Council Fundraising Committee. The school uses fundraising to sponsor a child in Ethiopia through World Vision.
  • Over 50% of the school is on School Card. School fees are $195.00 with most fee-paying families paying through instalments.
  • The school’s financial position is good.

• Special funding
  • The school receives funds through the Global Budget, receiving support for disadvantaged students and rural index funding, as well as the general student grants for Aboriginal students, students with disabilities, Early Years and Literacy support grants.
Grants also support curriculum development particularly in regards to the Learning to Learn project.

11. **Local Community**

- **General characteristics**
  - Gladstone is in the heart of the southern Flinders Ranges. It is on the scenic route from Adelaide to the Flinders Ranges and Far North. For many years Gladstone was a busy rail centre, but the rail service has been scaled down with about 6 trains (including the Indian Pacific) passing through the town each day.
  - The old Gladstone Gaol is a tourist attraction in the town. Built in 1880 it was closed in 1975 and can be hired as a camping site with cells as sleeping accommodation.
  - The present population is approximately 700 people. Gladstone’s has the largest inland grain storage capacity in South Australia. Employment increases during harvest time.
  - The town is well planned, comprising an attractive main street, old stone houses, a recreation park with swimming pool and various sporting clubs.

- **Parent and community involvement**
  - The school is supported by an enthusiastic and well focussed Governing Council. Assemblies are regularly attended by parents and community members.
  - Parents are keen to help with class and sporting activities, particularly sports days and concerts. The school community is continually working on improving the atmosphere of the school for all, and promoting it as a place where parental input is welcomed and valued.

- **Feeder schools**
  - Most children transition from Gladstone Kindergarten which is located on the other side of town from the school. A clearly stated transition program allows students to become familiar with the school environment, staff and routines before they begin formal attendance. Gladstone Primary School manages financial processes for Gladstone Kindergarten.
  - Most students transition from Gladstone Primary School to Gladstone High School, which has an enrolment of over 200 students and provides a secondary educational service for Gladstone and surrounding towns. Feeder Schools include Gladstone, Crystal Brook, Laura, Georgetown, Yacka and St Joseph’s Primary School.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**
  - There is a Catholic Parish Primary School in Gladstone.
  - Child-care is available privately.
  - A district Mobile Library based in Gladstone visits the school each fortnight.
• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  : All basic services can be accessed in Gladstone. Gladstone has two
  service garages and three petrol outlets. Northern Areas Council operates
  a service depot. Ausbulk depot is the major employer in town.
  There is an IGA supermarket, one delicatessen/café, a chemist and a
  newsagent. A branch of BankSA operates in the town. The local roadhouse
  offers petrol, food and videos. There are two hotels.
  The nearest major regional service and shopping centre is Port Pirie, which
  is 40 km away and is easily accessible by road. Shopping is extensive and
  recreational and service facilities are excellent. Coles and Woolworths stay
  open late each night and all weekend. Clare is 70kms to the south.

• Other local facilities
  :Traditional sporting activities are available in Gladstone: netball, football,
  lawn bowls, tennis, cricket, golf and darts. People also travel to Port Pirie to
  play sport including hockey, softball and dirt circuit racing.
  :Two doctors operate in Gladstone, working at a health centre. The Rocky
  River Health Service based 10km away at the Laura and Districts Hospital,
  operates this service. Port Pirie has extensive health facilities, with Port
  Pirie Hospital providing most specialist, diagnostic and surgical services.
  :Catholic, Uniting and Anglican churches are located in Gladstone. Facilities
  for other denominations or religions can generally be accessed in Port Pirie
  or nearby towns.

• Availability of staff housing
  : Government housing and private rental is available. Gladstone is within
  easy commuting distance of a number of other towns in the surrounding
  area. Government and private housing is also available in most of these
  locations for staff not wishing to live in Gladstone.
  Staff wishing to purchase housing will be pleasantly surprised at the cost of
  housing, compared to city prices.

• Accessibility
  : Gladstone is very accessible to Adelaide, being only a 2 hour drive through
  Blyth, Balaklava and Mallala. Alternative routes include via Pt. Wakefield
  Road or through Clare. The quality of roads on all three routes is good.

• Local Government body
  : The Northern Areas Council is based in Jamestown, but operates an office
  in Gladstone. Rubbish collection occurs on Tuesday.

12. Further Comments
  : Gladstone Primary School is part of the York and Mid North District and
  enjoys close ties with the District Office and other District schools.
  Access to Training and Development is excellent, with many opportunities
  provided locally and those in the city being just two hours away.