

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

**School number: 1056**

**School name: Woodend Primary School**

## General information Part A

School name: Woodend Primary school  
School No: 1056  
Principal: Steve Freeman  
Postal Address: Edward Beck Drive, Sheidow Park, 5158  
Location Address: Edward Beck Drive, Sheidow Park, 5158  
Region: Southern Adelaide: Marion Coast  
Road distance from GPO: 22 km  
CPC attached: No  
Courier: Adelaide South

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|         |           | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| Primary | Reception | 93   | 96   | 87   | 92   |
|         | Year 1    | 93   | 82   | 94   | 83   |
|         | Year 2    | 83   | 98   | 84   | 80   |
|         | Year 3    | 99   | 82   | 81   | 95   |
|         | Year 4    | 82   | 79   | 93   | 62   |
|         | Year 5    | 78   | 90   | 59   | 85   |
|         | Year 6    | 86   | 57   | 84   | 88   |
|         | Year 7    |      |      | 73   | 79   |

### TOTAL

February total (2021) FTE Enrolment: 614  
Male FTE 321  
Female FTE 293

July School Card (2022) 95  
NESB Total (Persons) 23  
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment 11

## Part B

- Deputy Principal: Jane-Ann Natar
- School e-mail address: [dl.1056.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.1056.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- School website address: [www.woodendps.sa.edu.au](http://www.woodendps.sa.edu.au)

- Staffing numbers

February 2023: 59 full and part time staff. Of these, 51 are female and 9 are male. Leadership: Principal, Deputy Principal and 2 Senior Leaders GSE: 38 hours per week; SSOs 362.25 hours per week.

There are 23 classes from R-6.

Specialist teachers: Japanese 1.9, Performing Arts 0.8, PE 1.0, Design Technology 0.8, Special Ed 0.8, Library: 1.0(FTE) & library SSO (30hrs)

Kitchen and Garden specialists (2 at 0.4 FTE each)

ACEO: 0.4

- OSHC:

An OSHC service (105 places) operates at Woodend Primary before school and after school. Vacation Care is available every holiday.

- Enrolment trends:

The school has grown from 57 in 1995 to 655 students in March 2021 and with year 7 leaving we dropped to 584. This has increased in 2023 to the low 614. We expect to regain peak enrolments and that will remain for some years to come. There is a zone in effect to manage this.

- Special arrangements:

Woodend Primary is part of the Marion Coast Partnership.

Woodend PS opened in January 1995 at a “holding site” at Sheidow Park PS and moved to the newly completed buildings to begin Term 2, 1995. In 1995 the school had students in the R-3 levels of schooling only. This was extended to R-7 in 1996. In 2022 we became a Year R-6 school in line with all South Australian Public Schools.

To restrict enrolment numbers from rising too high, Woodend implemented a zone of right in 2012. This continues to be implemented and preference is given to families living within the zone. Families have to provide evidence of residence within the zone.

There continues to be restrictions due to availability of space and at times families within the zone have to go on to a waiting list until a space becomes available.

- Public transport access:

Access by Southlink bus numbers 680 or 682. These services link to the Hallett Cove and Brighton Railway Stations.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics:

We expect 16% on School Card and 3% as EALD.  
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment = 1.8% students.

(Pastoral) Care programs:

'Play is the Way' is used across the school to develop personal and social capabilities in students through guided play, reflection, empowering language and classroom activities. Through the program, students develop skills to self-regulate, to cooperate and work effectively with others.

Restorative practices are used for resolution of conflicts and behaviour management. These practices build community and enable students to repair harm and restore relationships damaged by their behaviour and decisions.

Zones of Regulation has been introduced in 2023 to complement our other programs. The simple, common language and visual structure of the Zones of Regulation helps to make the complex skill of self-regulation more concrete for learners and those who support them.

A Pastoral Care Worker is employed at the school one day a week. The objectives of the Pastoral Care Worker program are to assist school communities to provide general social and emotional comfort and support to all students irrespective of their faith or beliefs.

Currently, our PCW has qualifications in Counselling and Group work, Art Therapy and training in Assessment and Education.

At Woodend Primary School the PCW role includes:

Building relationships with students, families, staff and school community

- Supporting students to develop resilience and a positive wellbeing
- Providing students, their families and staff with support and /or appropriate referrals to internal/external services as needed.
- Organising one on one or group sessions with students, parents, staff and other members of the school community or appropriate services as requested.
- Facilitating community partnership programs between the school and the wider community.

Support offered:

The Student Support Team (Deputy Principal, Senior Leaders and Special Education Teacher) manages support for students with learning difficulties. This staff team analyses and monitors student progress as gathered from student achievement data provided by class teachers, school literacy testing, NAPLAN test results, Speech Pathologists and Education Psychologists. The approach is very much a "Team Around The Child".

Support is provided through allocating SSO hours directly to students (rather than to teachers) and through the purchase of additional teacher and SSO time.

The Student Support Team has a leadership role in providing PD and influencing good practice for SSO's and teachers. Significant and regular joint planning time is provided for SSOs and teachers to ensure that support is well coordinated and targeted.

#### Student Management:

The Behaviour Education Policy and procedures are reviewed every 3 years and are underpinned by the philosophy of the Play is the Way program. Bullying and grievance procedures are in place.

A bullying audit is conducted twice a year and data collected is acted upon. The data collected from this audit enables the school to target groups of students who are identified at risk with the school's social skills intervention programs.

Data collected from the Time Out information, Anti-bullying Survey and teacher survey indicates that the social skills program is making a difference for these students.

The anti- bullying/friendship survey and the comparative data provide us with the information about the level of success of the social skills program and the modifications required for continued success. This is reported twice yearly to Governing Council.

#### Student Representative Council

2 reps from each class plus a 7 member Executive Leadership Team form the year 3-6 SRC. This is a group of about 50 students. A designated Senior Leader is the current SRC mentor. This mentor responsibility is shared by other leadership staff on occasions.

The SRC is invited to attend Governing Council and committee meetings to address issues as they see fit. They are also connected with the Student Voice in Learning program being led by the Deputy Principal.

The main role of SRC is to focus on improvements in learning. Time is spent on the personal development of all SRC members. We work with all SRC reps to better understand democratic decision making and communication processes.

#### Specific goals for SRC include:

- SRC reps being able to strongly model, in their classrooms, good listening for understanding, stretch thinking, and questioning.
- SRC to be about helping students have more influence on how their peers think about learning.
- SRC members to be taught about how to ask questions about their learning and give feedback to teachers about their learning.
- SRC blog to be an interactive and engaging space to grow ideas and interests and express their views.

## Special programs

**Music:** around 110 students attend instrumental music lessons each week. All students also participate in the Specialist Performing Arts program. Nearly 100 students participate in two choirs: Year 3/4 and Years 5/6 (Primary Schools Festival of Music).

A dedicated music teacher has been employed for 2022 and 2023, to provide an intensive experience in composition, voice, performance and a variety of musical instruments including ukulele.

Instrumental students practice weekly as a band. An annual music night gives them the opportunity to perform to an audience of parents and caregivers. In 2022 this was an online experience due to Covid, but in 2023 we aim to return to a public performance.

**Japanese:** Our Japanese program is an integral and valued part of our learning program and is also supported with an Engaging with Asia focus in all classrooms. We have a Bi-annual whole school Asia focus. Students take part in several Hiragana challenges during the year, competing against public and private schools. They also engage in a Bento Box competition where they create Japanese foods and are judged on their skills and creativity.

**International Students:** Since 2016 the school has engaged in the Department for Education International Education Program, hosting annual study tours by Japanese students from Myojo Gakuen in Tokyo (year 4-6).

Since 2012 Woodend has engaged in a biennial study tour to Myojo, Tokyo. In 2018 there were 16 students and three teachers engaged in the school's fourth visit. In 2020 we had 32 students keen participate in the visit to Myojo Gakuen Elementary School in Tokyo from years 5-7. Unfortunately due to COVID-19, this was placed on hold temporarily and will resume in 2024. 2023 will see 23 Japanese students visit as a part of our International Homestay Program.

**Student Leadership program:** many specific leadership opportunities are provided for senior students. These include roles of: canteen assistant, front office assistant, traffic monitor, library support team, SRC leadership team, Digital Leaders team, Memento project and Valedictory speaker roles.

In addition, senior students are expected to make an intellectual and practical contribution to the school community through class generated special projects.

**Buddy classes:** All classes are buddied up to allow for cross age tutoring and more supportive relationships between older and younger students.

**Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program:** The school was one of the first schools in South Australia to be accepted into the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden National Program in 2009. Students from year 3- 5 participate in this program where the focus is on students growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing their produce.

The program is supported with a Kitchen Specialist and a Garden Specialist and many adult volunteers. The program commenced in Term 4, 2009. We have an

extensive vegetable garden and a kitchen with facilities for 30 students to have hands on gardening, cooking and food sharing experiences each week.

Due to our building program, the Kitchen Program 0pohas been paused and will resume in 2024.

### 3. Key School Policies

#### School Values

Together, we nurture and grow the capabilities and dispositions of one another. Striving for our personal best, we celebrate success and learn from setbacks. We act in line with our values, respecting and caring for ourselves, each other, and our community.

**Respect:** acting with integrity and holding one another in high regard.  
Respecting the environment in which we live, learn and play.

**Community:** working together to learn and grow as a diverse community.  
Building positive relationships and working towards common goals.

**Care:** looking after ourselves, each other and our environment.  
Caring about our learning and working hard to achieve our personal best.

#### Vision

Through powerful partnerships we will nurture and grow capabilities and dispositions in each student which empower them to:

- Learn with passion and curiosity; anytime, anywhere
- Think and reason effectively and creatively
- Create, innovate and add value
- Understand that effort matters
- Demonstrate team working proficiency
- Know how to learn and improve
- Demonstrate strength of character
- Be good citizens
- Interpret and communicate effectively in any media
- We will work together as a community to develop the collective strategies and mindsets to achieve this vision for every student.

## Contextual Influences

Woodend Primary School is characterised by:

- *A strong sense of community.* Parents have played an active role in setting up the school from its inception and have a high level of ownership. Productive partnerships between parents and staff are valued. We are all very proud of our school.
- *A skilled and committed staff.* Staff are committed to providing energetic and diverse learning experiences and support a high level of parent involvement. There is strong staff morale and a team approach that takes account of individual teaching skills and styles.
- *Growth.* New housing developments in the immediate area has resulted in rapid growth in the number of students attending Woodend. To restrict enrolment growth the school has now a zone in place.
- *Being Active:* Ample large spaces allow for greater opportunity for students to develop performance skills. Our staff and community expertise enable performance to be a strong part of our culture. Sport and Physical activity are highly valued and are supported through a specialist PE program.
- *Digital Technologies:* We are seeking to have students be greater creators and collaborators. We want students to be using technology to improve their effort and products.

## Core Business

Our purpose as a school is to provide learning that offers enjoyment, opportunities, success, challenge and support. Woodend Primary School provides an education that caters for a wide range of student abilities.

We are committed to organising a broad and rich curriculum for all students across the 8 areas of study that caters for a wide range of student abilities, interests and learning styles.

This is supported through the general classroom curriculum as well as a range of programs for students with high intellectual potential, special interests and/or special needs.

Through an integrated, learner-centred curriculum, Woodend Primary provides for:

- The attainment of literacy and numeracy skills as central to its education program. This includes the attainment of basic skills as well as the development of higher order thinking skills and learning strategies.
- A safe, caring and challenging learning environment. By learning skills in communication and social interaction students develop a sense of personal identity and build and sustain positive relationships with a range of adults and peers. This is supported by the school's policies of behaviour management, anti-bullying and student participation.

## **Subject offerings**

A general curriculum is offered in 8 areas of study according to DfE guidelines and as described in the Australian Curriculum. Specialist subject areas are Japanese, Physical Education, Performing Arts and Design and Technology and Music.

The library staff plan and work cooperatively with classroom teachers to support inquiry based learning and literature studies.

There is a strong focus on the effective use of digital technologies for learning. Our recently upgraded network supports a range of technologies including desktop computers and a significant wireless network to allow for a large number of mobile devices as a part of our BYOD program.

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards or large screen TVs. Our work in this area is supported by a Senior Leader role.

## **Special curriculum features**

Classes are a mixture of straight and composite year levels. The construction of class groupings depend on enrolments at each year level and so may change from year to year.

## **Teaching pedagogy**

Teachers use student-centred, integrated pedagogies that encompass a range of teaching strategies. Teachers are encouraged to plan using Learning Design and TfEL, continuing to develop teaching/learning programs, which encourage student initiated learning. Greater focus is placed on inquiry, student voice and students being actively involved in the learning process.

Thinking skills have a high priority. Slowing down thinking and explaining thinking are a priority. Teachers are helping students to develop their strategies for successfully working through challenging tasks. The use of digital technologies in the classroom supports this learning and encourages students to continue their learning beyond the classroom.

## **Reporting:**

The school has a firm commitment to maintaining the strong home-school partnership. Reporting includes early Term 1 acquaintance meetings and parent/student/teacher learning conversations at the end of Term 1. Written student reports, which indicate achievement and effort, aligned with the Australian Curriculum, are sent to parents at the end of Terms 2 and 4.

Parents are encouraged to find out about their child's learning by keeping in contact with teachers, and by using their child's learning experiences (including bookwork and other products) as a basis for discussion and sharing. All classrooms use 'Seesaw' to enable sharing of students work and progress.



## 5. Sporting Activities

- Participation in sport is highly valued by our school community. Students compete in school teams in basketball, football, cricket, soccer and netball. These teams are managed and coached by parents. Governing Council's Sports Committee has representatives from each team.
- R-2 students are able to access Aus Kick, Kanga Cricket etc
- The school participates in SAPSASA district meetings and events, including Cross Country and Athletics. All classes participate in Physical Education lessons run by a specialist teacher and a wide range of sport coaching clinics is held within school hours.
- Annual Swimming R-4 and aquatics (Years 5-6).
- A Pedal Prix team represents the school, coordinated and run by parents, with support from staff.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

### General

Woodend Primary offers a range of extra-curricula activities as lunchtime options. These include: beginners and performance skipping and Healthy Lifestyles initiatives. Senior students participate in Pedal Prix and Year 6 students represent the school in Hiragana Challenge, a Japanese language challenge across local schools.

### Special Activities

Woodend Primary has an annual calendar of special events, which includes: a Music Night; a Book Week celebration; Sports Day and SAPSASA District Day; sports presentation evenings, Healthy Lifestyle activities, Remembrance Day Ceremony, Harmony Day and a School Community Christmas Event.

Each year a class is responsible for organising the major fundraiser for the year. This is usually an "athon" though in 2018, 2019 and 2022 it was a Colour Fun Run event.

Each year staff decides on particular emphases for special activities, which are always promoted in the community. Fundraising was paused for 2020-2021 during the Pandemic.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

Many staff can teach across the R-6 levels of schooling. Ancillary staff members are deployed as 94 hours administrative support, 38 hours grounds, 43 hours Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, 30 hours library and around 186 hours in direct student support. A computer technician is employed to allow support and network management across the week for 37.5 hours per week.

### **Leadership structure**

The current leadership structure is Principal, Deputy Principal and 2 Senior Leaders.

- **Staff support systems**

Support for staff currently in place includes WHS procedures and harassment grievance procedures and contact persons. Collaboration and collegiate support is enhanced by the physical layout: classes are located in six two- teacher units in one part of the school, ten classrooms located in the Administration building will surround two STEAM classrooms by the end of 2023.

Regular levels of schooling meetings and learning teams support collegiate sharing. A clear induction procedure is in place, including electronic and hard copy induction information, a series of information & training meetings and a buddy system.

Staff structures that facilitate participatory decision-making include a Curriculum Team, Professional Learning Teams, Year Level Teams and PAC. Collaboration and teamwork are emphasised and highly valued.

The school provides training in school priorities through: joint planning and professional development opportunities with the Leadership Team and other staff members, regular after school site based workshops, staff meetings and training days. Many collaborative planning opportunities for staff exist.

Each staff member (FTE) receives their full entitlement of 250 minutes NIT each week respective of the fraction of time worked.

### **Performance Development**

Performance Development processes involve staff in setting goals related to the Site Improvement Plan, collecting information, and acknowledging achievements. The process involves regular consultation between staff and the Principal, Deputy Principal, Senior Leaders or Level 3 SSO, and is about providing collaborative support for continuous improvement in each person's work practices and personal development.

All staff members participate in the performance development process. There are a range of Learning Conversations, which vary throughout the year; some individual, some with teaching buddies and some with learning teams.

### **Staff utilisation policies**

Staff members, through PAC, are consulted in the allocation of teaching duties and areas, and the formation of classes. A student support team allocates student support. The leadership team manages training and development opportunities and setting the whole school T&D program in consultation with staff.

### **Access to special staff**

The school has regular visits from DfE speech pathology and guidance services and also accesses Interagency Support. The instrumental music instructors are a mix of DfE and private providers. School policy ensures that they will support class and school events as required.

## **Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

There are no special incentives or awards applying to this school, apart from high levels of enjoyment, collaboration and job satisfaction!

## **School Facilities Buildings and grounds**

A major building redevelopment was completed in early 2003, which converted a disused 'shopping centre' into an additional wing of the school. In 2011 a new building was completed adding five additional learning spaces. The school is unique, in that part of the original land and buildings are privately owned and leased by DfE.

The 'shopping centre' redevelopment and the new building (BER) are owned by DfE.

There are four styles of classrooms provided: 5 double classroom blocks which are actually houses; a triple DEMAC transportable comprising 3 classrooms and attached undercover wet areas; 10 classrooms are located around a central Atrium area in the "shopping centre", now being converted to STEAM Learning Spaces, and four classrooms that have access to a large common space. All classrooms have a wet area.

Shared areas include an Activity Hall and a Gym. There are currently 2 classrooms provided for the Japanese program and a large room for Performing Arts classes. Our computer room has been decommissioned and a new 'studio' space has been developed to better meet the needs of learners in the new Digital Technologies curriculum and STEAM areas. Special Education areas, library and teacher resource areas are centrally located.

The grounds are spread into 5 distinct sections, four of which form the yard duty areas. On the eastern boundary is a Japanese garden, staff courtyard and large under cover space. "The Terrace" comprises a plaza, netball court, under cover areas, hard play and lawn. "The Yard" has playground equipment, the canteen, hall access and hard play area. "The Street" is a large hard play area between the 10 classrooms in houses. This area also has decking and themed gardens, a large kitchen garden and basketball court. The oval has a "wetlands" on its eastern boundary, a large creative sand play area, shade structures and playground equipment. There is also a water based nature play area for younger students.

In 2017 the school received a \$5,000,000 grant to build a multi faceted classroom designed to facilitate the teaching of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). The netball court will become a covered outdoor learning area which will be joined to the existing gymnasium.

In 2022 this project will began and building commenced early in term three. The project will also see the refurbishment of the school library, and provide additional classroom space.

Play spaces have been improved over the previous 24 months, and the Student Representative Council has been instrumental in designing a middle playground which was completed by the end of 2022. Improvements have been made to the access from Franklin Court with bituminising of a path to enable all weather access. A play area has been added alongside the Oval, to enable community use after school and on weekends.

The school is adjacent to the Woodend Children's Centre, the local preschool from which most enrolments are drawn.

- **Heating and Cooling**  
All areas are air-conditioned. The administration and classrooms in the main building have all received new air-conditioning as of May 2018.
- **Student facilities**  
A health promoting school canteen operates daily and has a strong emphasis on supporting our health curriculum and values. A uniform shop, run by parent volunteers, operates from the school three times a week.
- **Staff facilities**  
All areas have access to the school's wireless network. All teachers have Macbooks.  
  
The large staff room has a private staff courtyard. A staff shower is provided.  
  
The Library catalogues non-consumable resources and monitors equity of access to resources.
- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**  
The school has access routes for students and staff with disabilities. There are toilets for students/adults with a disability and shower facilities are available.

## 10. School Operations

### Decision making structures

Governing Council consists of 13 parents, three staff members and the Principal. Governing Council has sub-committees in: Finance, Fundraising (in conjunction with student working parties), Grounds, Sport, OSHC, Healthy Eating, Class Parent Network (includes Parent Education), and when required, specific task force(s).

A staff decision-making policy is in place and is reviewed annually.

- **Regular publications**

Woodend Primary is committed to high levels of home-school communication and staff put great effort into nurturing this aspect of the school. Parent surveys indicate that this is highly valued. Class communications are regular and each class has a digital space via Seesaw.

All classes utilize the Seesaw app. to share student learning with parents. The school news is published on the school's newsblog as it happens. An enrolment package and school information brochure is provided to new parents. The school web address is: [www.woodendps.sa.edu.au](http://www.woodendps.sa.edu.au) .

- **Other communication**

Whole staff and groups meet on a regular basis through weekly whole staff (Tuesday nights) or level of schooling learning team meetings. The staff blog, weekly staff bulletins, electronic daybook and intranet are available for all staff to communicate information.

Each class has one or two class parent reps that provide support for the teacher as a link with other parents. These reps meet as a class parent network twice per term and in this capacity fulfil a role as a sounding board / reference group providing feedback and opinion on school activities, processes, plans.

- **School financial position**

The school is in a sound financial position. It has a clear budget development and monitoring process. Woodend has a Level 3 Administration SSO to further improve financial and resource management, plus additional SSO support in Finance.

There is almost 100% payment of the Materials and Services Charge.

- **Special funding**

The school is currently a category 7 on the Index of Educational Disadvantage and therefore does not attract any special funding.

## **11. Local Community**

### **General characteristics**

The school is located between Main South Road and the Lonsdale Highway. It is a clearly defined local community with a strong Residents Association and well-established local communication links.

There are still many families with their first child at school. The school also now has a significant number of well established families with children at high school and both parents working.

### **Parent and community involvement**

Parent participation is an important focus of the school, with a significant number of parents involved either through classroom programmes, resource centre, sports groups or school committees. The Parent Network works very effectively and has a high profile in creating information sessions and opportunities for families to connect, share and influence each other, while developing their capacity to assist in the learning success of their children. They organise annual Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls.

- **Feeder schools**

The Woodend Children's Centre is the main feeder pre-school. Trott Park Preschool is also a partner. Strong links have been developed with these pre-schools, which include shared training and development, resource sharing and some cross-age buddy activities.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

The Woodend Children's Centre offers occasional care, as well as pre-entry and preschool programs. Private child care is also available locally.

Students in the Woodend/Trott Park areas are able to attend either Seaview or Hallett Cove secondary schools and a transition program is in place with both schools. About 85% of our Year 6 students go to the local high schools and the other's choose from a range of schools with special offerings.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Woodend is close to the Lonsdale industrial area and the Hallett Cove Shopping Centre. A bus service links it to the Marion Shopping Centre.

- **Other local facilities**

Woodend is within walking distance (~3Km) of the Hallett Cove Shopping Centre, which offers library, medical, shopping and banking facilities. A range of sporting facilities is available within driving distance of the school.

- **Local Government body**

Marion City Council, phone 8375 6600. Community Information Service, phone 8375 6695.

*Context Statement Updated February 2023*