

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

updated February 2023

School number: 1399

School name: Port Augusta Special School

1. General information

Part A

Courier: Port Augusta/Quorn

School Name: Port Augusta Special School

Principal: Mr Tony Holden

Postal Address: PO Box 392, Pt Augusta SA 5700

Location Address: McSporran Crescent, Pt Augusta SA 5700

Distance from Adelaide GPO: 300kms

Phone No: 08 86410882

Fax No: 08 8642 5209

- **Enrollment Trends:**

- Expect enrollment to remain steady.
- Transition planning to special school, at times, sees students transfer from mainstream classes and special classes to the special school.
- Enrollments also occur directly from early childhood settings.
- Students can transfer to, and come from, other special schools

	2021	2022	2023
Reception - Year 6	22	22	23
Year 7 – Year 12	18	20	13.4
TOTAL	40	42	40

Part B

Deputy Principal's Name: Florence Galarita

School Email Address: dl.1399.info@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Staffing Numbers:**

- Principal 1.0 FTE
- Deputy 0.7; 0.3 teaching:
- AET 0.2 FTE;
- PRT 1.0 FTE
- 6.4 teacher positions comprising of:
 - 1.0 x 5 classroom teachers,
 - 1 x 0.8 x NIT teacher,
 - 1 x 0.4 x NIT teacher
 - 1 x 0.2 Autism Inclusion Teacher
- SSO's (School Support Officers)
 - 5 x SSO1 for classroom support
 - 2 x SSO2's for classroom support and special programmes:
 - 1 x 1.0 FTE SSO2 Finance; additional 1 x 1.0 FTE SSO1 Administration
 - 1 x Technical support x 10.5 hours per week
 - 1 x GSE1 Groundsperson X 5 hours per week

- **Special Arrangements:**

- The school runs its own special bus service to help alleviate chronic non-attendance
- Transport to and from school for students is provided by Department for Education (DfE) via the local taxi company.

- **Year of Opening:**

An Annexe of the Whyalla Special School commenced operating in Port Augusta in 1982. The facility became autonomous in January 1989 and was known as the Port Augusta Special Learning Centre. The Minister of Education granted school status in April 1990 and the first School Support Grant was received. A Principal was appointed in 1991. The school moved to its current site in November 2015.

- **Public Transport Access:**

Local public transport has a stop 25 metres from school administration building

- **Students (and their welfare)**

- ^ **General Characteristics:**

- All students enrolled at the school have an intellectual disability and meet the DfE Students with Disabilities policy.
- In addition, some students have physical and sensory impairments.
- The school offers Reception to Year 12 curriculum.
- The school is fully fenced to provide a safe and secure environment.
- The Governing Council owns one bus (Toyota 18 seater), which is available to provide access to community based curriculum activities.

- ^ **Support Offered:**

- Agencies (Novita, AutismSA and local allied health services) provide a consultative service to staff and families.
- DforE services, (Kilparrin, SERU and services through the Regional Office – speech pathology, disability coordinator, hearing impairment services, behaviour management) are also utilised.

- ^ **Student Management:**
 - All students have a One-Plan, (formerly Negotiated Education Plan - NEP), which is created in Term 1 of each year, or as required.
 - Student issues and concerns are managed through this process in consultation with students, parents & carers. They are reviewed in Term 3, each year.
 - The school strives to provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff.
 - Behaviour management guidelines have been reviewed to support this objective.

- ^ **Student Government:**
 - Through class based meetings, students are encouraged to discuss, participate in and contribute to decision making for the benefit of all.
 - Each year, students elect 2 members from each class as members on the Student Representative Council (SRC), or Student Voice.
 - The SRC meets regularly and works on a variety of student directed projects.
 - Student Voice is a critical component of our school culture.

- ^ **Special Programmes:**
 - All students are able to participate in an extended swimming programme. In Terms 1 & 4, students swim at the Pt Augusta Swim Centre.
 - Students participate in an aquatics programme in Term 1
 - PODD - Pragmatic Dynamic Display is used throughout the school to enhance communication for non verbal students and to provide a common platform for visual schedules for all students. PAspS has a resident focus person for PODD - Billy.
 - An active learning room has been established to support students with high sensory needs.
 - A music teacher (from DfE Instrumental Music Service) provides music lessons each week, and we now have a resident music teacher who is qualified and keen to see a music program established across the school.
 - A sport programme is accessed by all students and delivered on a weekly basis.
 - Each year the Senior students participate in an inter school basketball carnival.

3 Key School Policies

- ^ **School Improvement Plan (SIP) (2021-2023)**
 - Priority Areas from School Improvement Plan are
 - 1. Literacy - based on the Jane Farrell 'Balanced Literacy Program'
 - 2. Numeracy - Big Ideas in Numbers (BliN)
 - 3. Transition - Pathways through school into earning or learning for all.

- ^ **Student Behaviour Management (SBM):**
 - based on Positive Behaviour Model - strategies and practices.
 - Supported by teachers and Deputy
 - Copy of the policy on the school website.

- ^ **Students and ICT:**
 - New policy being developed for mobile phones - banned from late Term 2, 2023
 - ICT Guideline Form sent home for signing, agreeing student fair use.
 - Ongoing review of school policies: Sun Smart policy, Bullying & Harassment, Grievance Procedure for Staff, and Grievance Procedure for Parents.

^ **Facilities:**

- The new site for the Pt Augusta Special School was opened in 2015. The state of the art facility was purpose built for students and their specific requirements. High quality, assistive technology, is a feature in the learning areas.

^ **Recent Key Outcomes:**

1. Music -The school has access to a music teacher for NIT each week
 - Classroom staff support the music teacher to deliver the programme
 - Provide a range of resources to support programme.
 - Offer the opportunity for public performance at school assemblies and an annual school concert.
2. Health & Physical Activity:
 - To promote increased physical activity all students are encouraged to participate in the Premiers BE ACTIVE Challenge
 - Each student keeps an activity log for 1 month
 - each student is presented with a medal (for completing the challenge) at the end of year school assembly.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

- Australian Curriculum (R-10), with emphasis on 'Capabilities' is the focus on teaching and learning at PASpS.
- All AC subjects are delivered with modifications and adaptations as reflected in individual student NEP's
- The SACE, (South Australian Certificate of Education) is offered for the post compulsory students at PASpS. It is heavily modified, to enable our students to participate successfully.

^ **Open Access:** N/A

^ **Special Needs:**

- All students are identified as having special needs.

^ **Special Curriculum Features:**

- School focus is on functional literacy and numeracy, communication, social skills and work skills that link to independence for life beyond school.

^ **Teaching Methodology:**

- Is adjusted to meet the learning needs of individual students.
- A strong emphasis on visual strategies and charts.
- Learning is contextualized, relevant and meaningful.

- Assessment procedures and reporting

- Student learning is assessed against goals set in individual One-Plans.
- The One-Plan Review is in Term 3, but goals are updated as achieved

- The site uses ABLES - an assessment, planning and reporting program that assesses student progress in the areas of Personal and Social Development, (introduced 2017), Literacy and Numeracy.
- The program enables teachers to assess students using four levels that sit underneath 'Foundation Level' of the Australian Curriculum.
- Written reports are provided for parents twice a year, in Terms 2 & 4, using a common reporting format. Reports include photos of students at work.

5. Sporting Activities

- The school participates in the Premiers BE Active Challenge.
- Students attend the local gym and have access to extended swimming programme.
- The school has a site Sport's Day in Term 3 each year.
- The Senior Students participate in an inter-school basketball carnival each year.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
 - School camps / sleep-overs are organised by classroom teachers, when needed - Sport days may be combined with other special schools - may also be stand-alone. (Inter-school basketball is an event for combining schools)
 - Whole of school activities are organised by their 'Student Voice' or individual classes.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

^ Staff Profile:

2 male teachers, 2 female teachers, each 1.0 FTE.
 1 female NIT teacher at .8
 1 female NIT teacher at .4
 1 female autism inclusion teacher at .2
 1 x 1.0 teacher still to be appointed.
 7 female SSO's for classroom support. 1 x female SSO for Admin/Reception.
 2 male SSO's for classroom support.
 1 x male SSO2 for Finance Officer
 1 male Groundsman

^ Leadership Structure:

Principal
 Deputy Principal
 Personnel Advisory Committee
 Professional Learning Communities

^ **Performance Management:**

- Meet with line manager each term
- Staff cohorts meet to discuss & review issues, concerns & to share successes

^ **Staff utilisation policies:**

Cooperative classroom work-groups and teamwork across the school is an expectation of all staff

^ **Access to Special Staff:**

- The school is visited by Kilparrin Teaching and Assessment Unit staff and staff from Novita on a regular basis.
- The school has access to DECD Speech Pathologists, Guidance Officer and Behaviour Management Support personnel.
- They visit the school on a regular basis and have direct input to student programming. Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists from Flinders Terrace Health Centre regularly visit the school.
- Pika Wiya Aboriginal Health Centre can be contacted at any time.
- The school can also call directly on the services of the Port Augusta Hospital's paediatrician.
- Support services are also available from the Regional Office
- The school has a working relationship with Disability SA in planning transition from school.
- Wellbeing, Social Skills and Behaviour Support, Community Connections, Life Skills Staff support systems.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff:

Full details of incentives can be found on the DfE website.

9. School Facilities

^ **Buildings and Grounds:**

10. There are 4 key buildings, connected by an enclosed and covered walkway.

11. Three buildings comprise of teaching blocks and the other is the administration office, staffroom and offices

• **Cooling:**

- The school is fully airconditioned

^ **Specialist Facilities:**

- School is able to negotiate the provision of additional support from DfE and Non-DfE agencies

^ **Student Facilities:**

Students have full access to a redeveloped play ground area, sporting equipment, resource centre and computers. Two buses (owned by the Governing Council) are available to provide transport for community based learning .

Students also utilise the Flinders View Primary School Gym and activity room, on occasion

^ **Staff Facilities:**

The staff have regular amenities in the staff room. Each teacher is provided with a laptop with wireless internet access for professional use. School mobile phones are provided for staff to use when on curriculum excursions with students.

^ **Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities:**

The site is fully accessible for students and staff with disabilities

^ **Access to Bus Transport:**

The site is accessible by public transport.

10. School Operations

^ **Decision-Making Structures:**

Decisions are made through collaborative process at PAC / staff / teacher meetings and minuted accordingly. All meeting agenda & minute books are available in the staff room

A school newsletter is published every three weeks.

A day book is updated each day that chronicles all site events / meetings / visitors. Information in relation to Professional Development and DfE information.

^ **Other Communication:**

- Each student has a diary that is used to communicate between school and home. Staff phone parents/carers to discuss issues, concerns as necessary

- School financial position

The school financial position is sound.

- Special funding

The school receives funds & targeted grants from DfE as well as federal funding for specific projects.

11. Local Community

^ **General Characteristics:**

The City of Port Augusta, 300kms north of Adelaide, is situated at the head of Spencer Gulf and at the foothills of the Flinders Ranges, and is a city with a long and proud history.

The city, which is built on both sides of Spencer Gulf, has a population of more than 15000 people and caters to the needs of families living on sheep and cattle stations in the far north and smaller surrounding towns.

The Open Access College, School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor Service are based at Port Augusta.

- There are:
- Six primary schools.
- Secondary school.
- Pre-school, kindergarten and day care facilities.
- Special school.
- Caritas College – R-12 college, MacKillop House – Hostel for Rural Students.
- Spencer Institute TAFE.

For further community information refer to Pt Augusta City Council website

- Parent and community involvement

The school has an active and supportive Governing Council.

Governing Council meets twice each term, in weeks 4 & 8.

Families are always welcome at the school and are encouraged to be activity involved in our school community.

- Feeder schools

Pt Augusta Special School provides a learning environment for eligible students from Pt Augusta, Stirling North, Quorn and Wilmington.

- Other local care and educational facilities

Pt Augusta has a number of primary schools, one secondary school, child care and early childhood centres and a private school

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Pt Augusta has a central shopping hub (Commercial Road) plus smaller shopping centres at Loudon Road (on the Westside) and Carlton Parade

- Other local facilities

Pt Augusta has a full range of sporting and recreational facilities

- Availability of staff housing

Adequate, via private rental or Government Housing

- Accessibility

Pt Augusta can be accessed by road, air and bus.

- Local Government body

Pt Augusta City Council

12. Further Comments

I certify this to be a true and accurate statement.

Antony J Holden

Principal

February, 2023