

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: February 2012

School number: 0774

School name: GAWLER HIGH SCHOOL

## 1. General information

### Part A

School name : GAWLER HIGH SCHOOL  
School No. : 0774  
Principal : Greg Harvey  
Postal Address : Barnet Road, Evanston SA 5116  
Location Address : Barnet Road, Evanston SA 5116  
District : Barossa  
Distance from GPO : 42Km  
CPC attached : No

Courier : Barossa  
Phone No. : 85212400  
Fax No. : 85230439

February FTE Enrolment		2007	2008	2009	2010
Secondary	Special Class etc.	0.0	9	12	22
	Year 8	187	194	176	175
	Year 9	192	186	191	193
	Year 10	192	176	179	192
	Year 11	149	134	156	147
	Year 12	101.1	96	97	115
	Year 12 plus	9	8	4	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>830.1</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>844</b>
School Card percentage		35%	35%	35%	35%
NESB Enrolment		00	2	3	10
Aboriginal Enrolment		24	34	50	49

### Part B

- Deputy Principal's name  
Jeff Forrester
- School website address  
[www.gawlerhs.sa.edu.au](http://www.gawlerhs.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address  
[info@gawlerhs.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@gawlerhs.sa.edu.au)

- Staffing numbers

Student Counsellor	2	(1 male, 1 female)
Teacher Librarian	2	(2 females)
Principal	1	(male)
Deputy Principal	1	(male)
Assistant Principals	2	(1 female, 1 male)
Coordinators	13	(4 male, 9 female)
Special Class	2.4	
Tier 2	3.15	Special Needs
AET	0.49	
AEW	22 hrs / wk	
ESL	0.16	
SSO hours (perm.)	391.5	(including 5 hours Agriculture)

- OSHC

No

- Enrolment trends

It is projected that enrolments will see an increase over the next five years, due to new housing estates in Two Wells, Angle Vale and Evanston Gardens. The current enrolment is around 800 despite the continued expansion of nearby independent and Catholic Colleges.

- Year of opening

1907 – moved to present site 1964.

Celebrated 100 years of education in 2007.

- Public transport access

The school is 42 Kms from Adelaide.

Train – Evanston Railway Station is opposite the rear gate of the school on Para Road, Evanston. A comprehensive system of school buses, both departmental and private contract, brings more than half the students to Gawler High School from outlying areas such as Buckland Park, Virginia, Angle Vale and Two Wells. The local bus lines provide transport for students in local areas.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

The student profile reflects the diversity of the huge zone of enrolment right. There is a small core of Anglo-European background students with rural interest and a larger urban-based growth of increasing size.

The school also provides many Alternative Learning Programs for both male and female students that include students in the Middle Years of schooling as well as those in their Senior School years.

The Student Forum plays an active role in organising and running student activities and providing avenues for active student participation in decision-making. A mentor/advocacy program supports senior students, replacing traditional Home Care system.

- (Pastoral) care programs

Pastoral Care programs occur weekly in each Year Level and allow students to focus on career planning and resiliency building.

- Support offered

The school has an excellent Student Services Centre. The Student Services Team comprise Assistant Principal, two student counsellors, Learning Support Co-ordinator, Mentor Teachers and School Support Officers, a 0.4 Aboriginal Education teacher, Aboriginal Education Worker and a Christian Pastoral Support Worker.

The support offered is:

- Personal Counselling
- Course & Vocational Counselling
- Chaplaincy Service & Counselling

The Student Services Centre provides:

- Access to job and career program and information
- Partnerships with school and local community
- Promotion of positive opportunities for students by structured work placement, training programs & overseas exchange programs
- Behaviour support workshops and referrals to Beafield Education Centre
- Enrolment referral to Flexible Learning Options (FLO) programs
- Referral to other school services e.g. Learning Support, Accelerated Learning opportunities
- Peer support programs
- A partnership with allied services e.g. Gawler Health Centre, SHINE, Gawler Police, Zonta, Youth Workers, Employment Agencies, TAFE, Second Story
- Advocacy for the implementation of social justice strategies

- Student management

This is closely linked with the aims and expectations of the school. We believe that each child has the right to learn and each teacher has the right to teach in a safe, caring, orderly and supportive learning environment, where success is celebrated. We believe that this climate will enable students to reach their full potential. We also believe that with this right comes the responsibility to allow others to learn. Discipline is based on positive reinforcement and the encouragement of acceptable behaviour, adequate counselling and clear consequences for inappropriate behaviour. We recognise personal success; celebrate individual triumphs, graduations and cultural celebrations.

- Student government

The Student Forum is made up of representatives from each year level. They provide leadership, express the needs and opinions of the student body through consultation and set up structures to implement those needs. The Student Forum structure has shifted its focus from larger community meetings to smaller student action groups. They work in partnership with representatives of the local community as well as our cluster school. The Student Forum is involved in the organisation and celebration of student success. Student Forum members help plan and conduct our many Celebrating Success Assemblies as well as our yearly Awards Presentation Ceremony.

- Special programmes

- Hosting international students
- Japanese Exchange programs
- Enterprise Teams
- VET structured workplace learning
- Special Learning programs working with Negotiated Education Plans for students
- Case management of individual students
- Self defence, self-esteem & resiliency courses
- Year 7/8 Transition program
- P.S.P.I (formerly known as ASSPA) Committee that has been very active in supporting Aboriginal students in their education & sharing their culture with the rest of the school
- Alternative Learning Options Program – in liaison with TAFE for boys at risk

### **3. Key School Policies**

- Site Learning Priorities and other key statements or policies

Our School Learning Plan Priorities 2008 are:

1. Learner Wellbeing & Health
2. Building a sustainable school

- Recent key outcomes

(See Middle and Senior School Action Plans)

### **4. Curriculum**

- Subject offerings

Gawler High School operates on a 7-line structure, which allows us to offer a wide range of subjects across all year levels.

- Middle Years
- Year 8 students have access to all learning areas, completing compulsory units from each area of study. Our Language Other Than English (LOTE) subjects are Japanese and Indonesian. Students may

choose to study a language at year 8. Gawler High offers Agricultural Studies at Year 8; students will complete a semester of Science and Agriculture.

- Year 9 students have access to all learning areas completing compulsory full year units from English, Science, Mathematics, Society & Environment (SOSE).. Students can choose to study semester units in Agriculture, Technology, Health & PE. In the Arts students can choose either semester units in Visual and Performing Arts or specialise in a full year Music program. Students may also elect to continue with Japanese or Indonesian.
- Year 10 students are provided with an increased range of subject choices and the opportunity to select subjects that meet their needs and interests while still working a broad, general curriculum as the basis for further studies in SACE.
- Students in their Senior Years are offered a wide range of Group 1 & 2 subjects at both Stage 1 and 2. At Stage 2 we have ample offerings of General and Restricted subjects to provide students with an appropriate pathway to training and life beyond school. In the past three years we have introduced both Philosophy (G) and Psychology (G) to our list of subject offerings in the Senior School.

- Open Access

Open Access is available where students have a medical exemption from school attendance and where a subject is required and not offered face to face within our curriculum offerings.

- Special needs

The Learning Support Team at Gawler High School includes the Coordinator for Learning Support, two Special Classes teachers and a number of trained School Support Officers. They are responsible for providing assistance to students who have been placed in a special class, identified as a Student with a Disability or a Student with a Specific Learning Difficulty.

There are two Special Classes, each with 12 students. The junior class caters for Year 8 and 9 students and the senior class for Year 10, 11 & 12.

At Gawler High School, mainstream Students with Disabilities receive assistance to allow them to participate within the usual school curriculum structure. The focus is on students remaining in subject classes, with their subject teachers responsible for their programming as with the rest of the class. Students have access to a well-resourced Learning Support Room where they can negotiate support as a 'one-off' lesson, on a regular basis each week or as a block of time during the term for a particular topic. This is a flexible arrangement and relies on students identifying a time when they need more assistance than currently available to complete a task.

- Special curriculum features

The Gawler House Enterprise Centre was established in 1999, and officially opened in 2001. The Centre includes facilities, which simulate workplaces associated with the Tourism, Hospitality, Horticulture and

Building Construction industries. It has a small, state of the art stainless steel Hospitality Kitchen.

Gawler Enterprise centre offers courses in Certificate 1 Hospitality (Operations) and (Kitchen Operations). These are offered to students from the NASSSA alliance, FLO and GHS hospitality courses

The centre is also a place where young people can find assistance to develop their own enterprise initiatives linked to business planning and community service.

Gawler House Enterprise Centre is developing a community profile, as a facility that helps shape the potential of young people through work related experiences and enterprise.

The school also operates a Careers Centre where students and parents can make appointments with professional employment consultants such as Anglicare who provide up to date employment and training information.

- Assessment procedures and reporting

Students' work is regularly assessed using a wide variety of assessment methods in line with the subject assessment plan. Reports are prepared and issued each term. Terms 1 and 3 students receive a full descriptive report and at the completion of Semester 1 and 2 a summary report is prepared. Computer generated reports using the Markbook program, are used. As a result of using this program student achievement data is readily obtained and analysed.

- Regional VET Courses

11 public secondary schools in Northern Adelaide, TAFE and other Registered Training Organisations have formed a partnership (NASSSA) to promote and support Vocational Education for students in secondary schools by linking the schools with businesses, community groups, industry associations and government agencies. Gawler High School is one of these 11 schools. This project targets the industries that are anticipated to grow significantly, particularly advanced manufacturing (automotive, defence and information technology), community services (aged care, child care, disability services and nursing), retail and sales, construction, transport and logistics, horticulture and food processing.

Regional Courses include:

- Automotive
- Computer-Aided Design (CAD)
- Community Services Work
- Doorways 2 Construction or General Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Engineering
- Financial Services
- Horticulture
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Multimedia

- Printing and Graphics
- Retail Operations
- Transport/Warehousing

## **5. Sporting Activities**

Throughout the year students are encouraged to take part in a variety of sporting activities both at school and intra-school level. These sports include track and field, swimming, tennis, cricket, netball, rock climbing, hockey, rugby, soccer, and football.

The school participates in the Knock –Out Sport Competition in the Barossa and Country Districts with both government and non-government schools and in a Zone Sports Competition with Adelaide North Schools

Students participate in SASSSA events, especially the Track and Field Carnival at Santos Stadium.

Gawler High School has held the Open School Boys State Rugby League Titles and won Regional Championships for 13 a side rugby since 2000. This includes being the Rugby School of the Year, across all education sectors, in South Australia. In 2008, Rugby League was offered as a subject to year 9 & 10 students.

## **6. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- General

Many social and educational activities are organised throughout the year by staff, students and the school community. Parents are encouraged to support and contribute to these events, which include:

- Celebrating Success Assemblies
- Police Driver Education Programs
- Drama and Musical Productions
- Participation in the Adelaide and Gawler Shows
- School Concert Band and Rock Bands
- Year 10 Careers Day
- Workshops for Student Community Forum
- Year 12/13 Orientation & Career Conference
- Farm Visits by preschoolers to our Agriculture Area
- Arts performances in the Community

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

There is a negligible staff turnover, mainly through retirement or promotion. A number of staff who have worked in the school for a long time return by choice for a second 10-year tenure. The staff has a balance of male and female, including those in Leadership positions.

- Staff support systems

Social functions organised by Social Committee e.g. Celebration morning teas, dinners.

On-going Induction Program.

Staff Handbook and Information packages for new staff.

- Performance Management

This is focussed on personal performance, support and development through individual goal setting and professional development through release time being provided for professional learning opportunities, in and out of the school. The Professional Development Committee oversees targeted professional learning workshops, staff conference days and after school workshops.

The school supports interested teachers to undertake post-graduate Certificate and Master's courses e.g. Middle Years School based action research. Learning area managers meet with both individuals and teams to support personal professional performance.

## 8. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

All rooms are air-conditioned. There are 6 computing rooms with further plans for increasing access for all students across the learning areas.

There is complete access for students with disabilities, including a lift.

There is a modern Drama complex and a Student Services Centre.

The grounds cover 42 acres and are being improved through the planning and effort of the Grounds Working Party and in working bees, which take place each term.

The Science laboratories underwent a total upgrade and an integrated Technology Education Centre was opened in April 2000.

The Gawler House Enterprise Centre is the stone house adjacent to the school.

The State Government announced the \$3.8 million redevelopment of the Arts and Home Economics in 2007. The final planning is near completion and it is expected that the project will start in 2008 and be completed during 2009.



The School was also successful in gaining a Federal Grant for the development of a Ephemeral Wet lands at Gawler High. This project will be completed in 2008.

- Specialist facilities

Home Economics, Technology Studies, Information and Communication Technology, Art, Agriculture and Music.

- Access to bus transport

A student who lives more than 5 kilometres from the nearest Government Secondary school or bus route is entitled to travel on a government school bus. Application to travel on a bus should be completed when enrolling at Gawler High School. Bus routes are also provided at the time of enrolment. There is a bus officer at the school who manages the buses and will answer any queries.

When travelling on a school bus, students must:

- Travel only on the bus to which they are entitled
- Use courtesy and respect for the bus driver and other passengers
- Wait until the bus is stationary before getting on or off
- Never walk in front of or behind the bus until the bus has moved off from the stop, and then with a clear view in both directions, cross the road.

Any inappropriate behaviour on a school bus may lead to a student being barred from using a school bus.

Any alteration to travel arrangements must be made through the Bus Officer with a note or a telephone call from a parent or caregiver.

## **9. School Operations**

- Decision making structures

The school runs weekly staff meetings and Learning Area meetings on Mondays. Regular year level community meetings are held (2 to 3 times per Term) on Tuesdays. Coordinators and the Leadership Team attend Curriculum and Management Team Meetings two weeks out of three on Wednesdays. There are three Year Level Manager Meetings per Term on Wednesdays. Support Staff Meetings are held two or three times per term on Wednesday mornings. Staff participate in decision making at Staff Meetings where matters are raised and information is shared. The structure is documented and is available on request.

- Regular publications
  - Monthly comprehensive INSIGHT School Newsletter
  - Annual Curriculum Handbook
  - Information Handbook for new students/families
  - Year Book professionally produced annually
  - Gawler High School Information Brochure
  - Annual Report
  
- Governance
 

The Governing Council is the peak decision making body of the school with responsibility for oversight of planning, policy, school budget, monitoring review and evaluation, review and community accountability.
- School financial position
 

The School fees are \$305 (all year levels)  
The school operates with a school budget of \$6,000,000
- Special funding
 

Negotiated Education Plan students  
Numerous grants e.g. Community Solar School Program, P.S.P.I. (formerly known as ASSPA) as well as grants for a range of health projects, literacy and arts initiatives.

## 10. Local Community

- General characteristics
 

Situated in the Northern Adelaide region between the urban areas of Elizabeth and Munno Para and the rural areas of the Barossa Valley. The enrolment reflects the variety of our large multicultural enrolment zone with a mix of town and country students. This area combines privately owned homes as well as Housing Trust homes in Gawler West. The school's district comprises Evanston, Evanston Park, Evanston Gardens, Gawler, Gawler East, Gawler West, Hewett, Angle Vale, Lewiston, Redbanks, Cockatoo Valley, Sandy Creek, Rosedale, Two Wells, Buckland Park.

Some of the buildings are used by a small number of sporting/dance groups after hours.

The school has an Enterprise Centre located in a renovated stone house, adjacent to the Agriculture area.

The school has a privatised canteen operated very successfully by the Eurest Group.

Gawler High School was established in 1907 and is the only public secondary school in the area. The school celebrates its Centenary Year in 2007 with a Ministerial launch, Reunion Dinner Dance, Back to School Day and specially commissioned sculptures.

- Parent and community involvement

The Governing Council has an active group of parents who support the school by sitting on various committees involved in governance (e.g. Finance, Uniform, Canteen, Grounds). Some volunteers work in the Resource Centre and Administration and there are weekend Grounds Working Bees each Term.

- Gawler High School Foundation

This was established in 2006 and raises money for a Building Fund, Library Fund, Sporting facilities and Student Scholarships.

- Feeder schools

Students come from more than 28 primary schools in the area with a range of numbers from each. The main feeder schools are Evanston, Gawler, Evanston Gardens, Gawler East, Angle Vale, Hewett, Two Wells.

Staff members visit each of the main schools as part of the 7/8 Transition. The program involves sharing information between schools through the Gawler Barossa Middle School Network and year 6/7 visits to the school during the year.

An Open Night is held in May. This is a major event and is attended by several hundred families.

Year 7 students who have enrolled spend a day(s) at the school in Term 4 and participate in visits during the year.

- Other local care and educational facilities

Gawler High School is the only state high school in the Town of Gawler. There are a number of state and private primary schools, pre-schools and local support agencies.

Trinity College and Xavier College are nearby as is The Gawler Campus of the Murray Institute of TAFE.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Within only a few kilometres of the school there is a large swimming centre, the Trevor Bellchambers Swimming Centre.

Gawler was the first country town established in South Australia in 1837. Today it is a large retail centre with a few small industries in the area.

- Other local facilities

In addition to the above other services include the Gawler Sport and Recreation Centre, the Starplex, Gawler Par 3 Golf Course, Gawler Health Service (Public Hospital), a wide range of parks, gardens and nature reserves, numerous mid 19<sup>th</sup> historic and National Trust Heritage buildings.

- Accessibility

The school is serviced by 5 yellow government buses as well as privately contracted runs to Angle Vale, Virginia, Lewiston, Two Wells, Buckland Park and Roseworthy.

Some students and teachers travel to school on the train. The Evanston Train Station is situated across the road from the back gate of the school on Para Road

- Local Government body

The Corporation of the Town of Gawler is the local Council body. It provides a range of community support services. These include the Gawler Youth Workers Network, which coordinates the annual Gawler Young Achievers Awards and Youth Week.