

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 05/2017

School number: 1091 (Primary) 1620 (Pre-school)

School Name: St Agnes School (Preschool to Year 7)

1. General Information

- **School Profile**

St Agnes School is a category 6 Preschool to Year 7 school, located in St Agnes in the North Eastern suburbs. Currently there are 222 students R-7 and 33 students in our Preschool. The Preschool is located under the main roof of the school, in the Junior Primary building. There are currently 9 classes and the Preschool. Our site has approximately 9% school card holders, 3% students with disabilities, 3% Aboriginal students and 10% English as Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) students.

- **Part A**

School name	St Agnes School
School No	1091 (Primary) & 1620 (Preschool)
Principal	Leanne Trewartha
Postal Address	250 Smart Road, St Agnes 5097
Location Address	250 Smart Road, St Agnes 5097
Partnership	Tea Tree Gully
Distance from GPO	16 Km
CPC attached	Yes
Email address	dl.1091.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Phone Number	(08) 8263 3541
Fax Number	(08) 8396 1716

- **July FTE Enrolment**

	2014	2015	2016
Reception	37	34	29
Year 1	24	38	23
Year 2	37	23	27
Year 3	22	35	29
Year 4	26	24	21
Year 5	29	26	35
Year 6	23	25	15
Year 7	24	21	13
TOTAL	222	226	194
Male FTE	116	108	103
Female FTE	106	118	91
School Card Approvals (Persons)	39	29	18
NESB Total (Persons)	10	21	20
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	2	6	6

- **Part B**

Assistant Principal Sandee Ising

- **Preschool**

The school has a vibrant Preschool under the main room in the junior primary area of the school. There is a 0.6 and 0.4 teacher and currently 33 ECW hours with school based temporary hours to support students. Under the universal access funding agreements, the pre-school runs a 15 hour per week programme. Full day sessions are run on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The tier one staffing consists of 9 teaching classrooms, with 3 tandem teaching partnerships. Specialist subjects consist of 0.6 German, 0.6 Music and 0.6 Health/P.E.

The Assistant Principal has been appointed to the Partnership Executive Officer role 0.2 and manages the intervention programs in the school, line manages primary teachers and in the role of Counsellor supports student well-being.

Tier two funding is incorporated the human resources budget and is utilised to provide SSO support for 6 students with learning disabilities. Four students receive a 'D' level of support and two receive a 'A' level.

The teacher librarian time is 0.4 and she works collaboratively with staff to plan, teach and assess units of work.

Flexible initiative staffing is incorporated into the human resources budget and is used to provide release time to provide professional development opportunities for staff, provide SSO hours for the resource centre, additional student support and employment of a computer technician. The PAC support the Principal in the decisions about the human resource budget, after consultation with all staff.

- **Enrolment trends**

Over recent years enrolments have been steadily climbing with resurgence particularly at the Preschool and reception level. The school has commenced the school year with 8 classes in 2013 and 2014 with a ninth class in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Class sizes in reception to year 2 range from 20-24 and in years 3-7 range from 25-30 students. Depending on numbers class configurations have changed over recent years.

In 2017 the school has the following configuration of classes: reception class, reception/year 1, year 1/2, year 2, year 2/3, year 3/4, year 4/5, year 5/6 and year 7.

The Preschool has a capacity of 33 students and enrolments have been close if not at capacity for the past 2 years. There is a Playgroup run by parent volunteers in the Preschool and this program is important as it gives the local community a preliminary look at what Preschool is like.

- **OSHC**

The OSHC program operates in the school in a separate building adjacent to the Preschool. In 2014, St Agnes School began managing the OSHC program and offers high quality school care and support before and after school and on pupil free days and vacation care.

- **Year of school opening**

1975

- **Public transport access**

Public transport is easily accessible on several bus routes interconnected with Modbury Interchange and Adelaide via O’Bahn transport network.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

St Agnes is a Preschool to year 7 metropolitan school established in a natural bush land setting. The local community positively support and enjoy:

- Positive interactions among students, staff and parents in a family-like atmosphere
- Regular communication between school-home-school in person, through notices/newsletters and on Skoolbag App
- An acceptance by younger and older students of each other
- The availability of spacious facilities and outdoor areas and ease of access to areas
- Increased opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular learning experiences

The school has well-maintained grounds with the Tea Tree Gully Council current owning and maintaining the oval. Recent additions include a 2.2 million dollar gym, the redevelopment of the Resource Centre and purpose built Computer Room and upper primary classrooms.

The majority of students are from English speaking backgrounds and those with other cultural backgrounds usually speak English at home. We have 10% of EALD students. There are currently 6 students from Aboriginal or Torres

Strait Islander backgrounds. The ratio of boys to girls is relatively even. Approximately 9% of students are now supported by the School Card Scheme.

- **Student management**

Generally the students at St Agnes School are very well behaved. Classes have negotiated rules and consequences for appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. Classes use time out and buddy class structures to support each other and the leadership team provides support when necessary. For inappropriate yard behaviour, students spend time in the 'Focus Room' for think time and discussion of what happened and their parents are notified by letter. The school recently reviewed and updated its grievance and anti-bullying procedures. The school has recently started the 'What's the Buzz' social skills program.

- **Student voice**

Authentic student voice happens through our everyday learning programs at St Agnes School. Students have opportunity to negotiate aspects of their learning with teachers. In some learning areas, students are able to access technology when they choose to use it and also choose the furniture or learning style that best suits them to work successfully and comfortably. Our new kitchen garden which will be established in 2017, has come about from students speaking with their teachers, researching and writing expositions to the school leadership to describe the exciting learning experiences they will enjoy through such as program. Some school fundraising is driven by student voice eg Biggest Morning Tea to support the Cancer Council, as were our new uniform designs in 2016. Student leaders have the opportunity to nominate to be a sports day house Captain or Vice Captain. Students write an application, speak to their peers and if successful receive an embroidered 'Captain' or 'Vice Captain' t-shirt to wear in their sports day colour.

- **Additional Programmes**

The school offers an extensive NIT music/dance/drama, departmental and private instrumental program. The Music program also includes Festival Choir and Junior Choir. Students can learn string instruments, keyboard, guitar, voice and drums.

Students are encouraged to nominate for S.A.P.S.A.S.A. (Primary School sport) events and when numbers are sufficient, school teams are supported in intra-district competition.

Students learn German from reception to year 7 through music, dance, movement and creativity as well as the written recording of the language. Students also enjoy cooking and eating German food, using digital technologies and our annual German lunch celebration. Students celebrate and showcase their learning at assembly and other school events.

3. Key School Priorities

- **Core Business**

The core business at St Agnes School is the teaching and learning with a strong focus on continual school improvement at the centre of everything we do. Staff work together to come to agreements on how, why and when we do things to optimize student learning and achievement. Teaching staff work in PLCs to ensure they continually share, learn with, reflect with and challenge each other.

In 2016, we introduced a new priority area to our Site Improvement Plan (SIP): Building Learning Power (BLP) to support our students to develop their dispositions towards learning through the development of learning muscles. Our other priorities are Reading Comprehension and Problem Solving.

Staff were introduced to BLP during a pupil free day early in 2016 and have continued to build our understanding with the students in our journey of developing our 'muscles'. Our assembly awards focus on student achievement in the 'muscles' and our mid and end of year reports include student achievement of them. Staff explicitly plan, teach and assess reading skills used in Reading Comprehension. Staff have been exploring the Natural Maths, Big Ideas in Number and Back to front Maths to develop pedagogy to support students understanding and achievement in Numeracy. Staff have the opportunities to attend professional learning in our priority areas or areas of personal learning. Staff attend termly professional learning with our local partnership colleagues.

- **Site Improvement Plan (SIP)**

Our school motto is 'Learning today, leading tomorrow' and our school values are:

- Personal excellence - aiming for your own excellence
- Respect – for yourself and others
- Courage – to take risks and have a go
- Responsibility – for you own learning and behaviour

The Site Improvement Plan emphasises quality teaching and learning in our key priority areas:

- Building Learning Power
- Reading Comprehension
- Problem Solving

As a learning community, we believe:

- Learning is enhanced when teachers have the opportunity to share professional knowledge
- Students are more engaged in their learning when the curriculum is innovative, challenging, rigorous and relevant to their life experiences
- Learning is enhanced when students are provided with a variety of learning processes that actively engage them in deep creative thinking, skills development and problem solving
- Expectations for learning and assessment are explicit with criteria communicated for success
- The learning environment is safe, caring and supportive

4. Curriculum

- **Subjects**

Subjects offered are consistent with the Australian Curriculum:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- HASS (History and Social Sciences)
- Technologies
- The Arts: Media and Visual

Our Specialist subjects are:

- Health and PE
- The Arts: Music, Dance, Drama
- German

Specialist instrumental music lessons include:

- Strings
- Drums
- Guitar
- Keyboard
- Voice

Junior and Senior choir is offered to all students with the opportunity to perform at Adelaide Oval in the Festival Choir.

- **Special Needs and Intervention**

St Agnes School has a comprehensive intervention and support program for students. This includes management of the referral process, coordinating meetings with teachers and families to document and review Negotiated Education Plans (NEPs) and Individual Learning Plans (ILPS), requests and coordination of Student Review Team and interagency support. All of our NEPs, ATSI, EALD students receive dedicated support weekly.

Read Up intervention program is facilitated by our SSOs and supports students who require support with reading. Each Junior Primary class has 2 hours per week of SSO support, while each primary class has 1 hour SSO support, which is directed by the teacher to support or extend students in their learning, usually in the areas of English and Maths.

- **Teaching Pedagogy**

Staff work in junior, middle and upper primary PLC teams with colleagues while our Specialist providers and Teacher Librarian work collaboratively within these groups. Staff plan teaching and learning experiences, assess and moderate student learning. Staff plan differentiated teaching and learning programs through analysis of student data and have opportunities to incorporate their own interest and strengths. We have excellent ICT (information and Communication Technologies) that teachers incorporate in to learning experiences. Interactive whiteboards, Chromebooks, computers and iPads provide students with the ability to use technologies as needed throughout their days.

- **Resource Based Learning**

The Teacher Librarian supports the teaching and learning program in History, Geography and Technologies while working collaboratively with staff.

- **Assessment and Reporting**

Each term, we use a variety of class, group and whole school assessment and reporting methods to collect, analyse and report progress, achievement and next steps to key stakeholders. The staff have whole school agreements across all year levels for data collection points across the year. Data is entered onto our web based online MarkIT system enabling ease of access for staff from any device, any time.

Each term, reporting to our school community takes place in a different form:

- Term 1 – Acquaintance Night and parent teacher interviews
- Term 2 – written mid-year reports
- Term 3 – learning expo
- Term 4 – written end of year reports

5. Sporting Activities

Students participate in fitness with their classroom teacher, specialist PE lessons with the PE teacher and regularly participate in the SAPSASA sporting events competing against our local partnership schools. SAPSASA sports include athletics, soccer, netball, football and year 3/4 Fun Day. Opportunities for involvement in football, cricket and netball are available through local teams and clubs. Sporting clinics are a regular feature throughout the year giving students the opportunity to experience a range of different sports. Our annual Sports Day is a highlight on the sporting calendar.

6. Other Extra Curricular Activities

The students have the opportunity to be involved in our junior and senior choir which are managed by our Performing Arts teacher. We have started our 'What's The Buzz' social skills program with classes and this is followed up with small groups of students by our PCW (Pastoral Care Worker). Each term, staff and students are involved in whole school events such as Book Week. Our school is a proud participant in the Premier's Reading Challenge and also Book Cup for our older students. Students at Book Cup get to compete with other students from local schools in a test of knowledge of a set selection of novels that have been selected for the competition.

7. Staff Profile

The school has a mix of experienced and early career teachers providing a range of expertise and experience in different curriculum areas and pedagogical approaches. The majority of teaching staff are permanent with 4 contract positions, while all of our 5 SSOs also holding permanent positions. This brings stability for our school community.

- **Leadership Structure**

Principal	Leanne Trewartha
Assistant Principal	Sandee Ising

- **Staff Support Systems**

School priorities are the main driver for professional learning with weekly staff meetings held each Wednesday night. Most staff meetings occur on site in our staff room using our interactive whiteboard and on occasion staff attend professional learning at other schools and join them for staff meetings. Teaching staff work in PLC teams in junior, middle and upper to promote sharing of professional learning and dialogue. When staff attend professional learning off site, they share their learning with the rest of the staff at the next staff meeting.

SSOs are encouraged to attend training to further their professional learning. SSOs have recently been involved in working with their partnership colleagues during out pupil free days. Our Finance Officer/Business Manager supports all financial matter within the school and is located in the front office. Two SSOs provide administration support and work with students in the school and Preschool, while our ECW supports also in the Preschool and an SSO supports in the junior primary, intervention programs and in the library.

- **Performance Development**

The staff recently reviewed the Performance Development Policy. This involves termly performance development meetings, observations, discussions regarding planning, teaching and assessment and feedback. Performance development is shared by the Principal, Assistant Principal and Business Manager. All teaching and ancillary staff have a Performance Development Plan (PDP) which is updated yearly and focuses on our SIP priority areas and areas of personal interests for staff. These are reviewed regularly for progress towards achieving the goals.

- **Staff Utilisation Policies**

The theme of 'we all have a collective responsibility' is strong at St Agnes and there is a strong culture of team work and mutual support. All staff receive their full allocation of NIT time each week. PAC provides support and advice to the Principal in matters relating to staff deployment.

- **Access to Support Services**

Para Hills District Office is accessed for regional support services. Our Student Review Team (SRT) meets once a term to review student progress, plan for needs, discuss new students for support etc.

8. School Facilities

- **Buildings and Grounds**

The school is located in a natural bushland setting which attracts an abundance of birdlife and wildlife. The setting promotes an atmosphere of peacefulness and tranquillity and there are many gum trees within and surrounding our school site which are homes to koalas who like to visit us occasionally.

The school consists of 3 main buildings and the admin building. Each main building houses a different level of schooling: West Unit is junior primary, East Unit is junior and middle primary and North Unit is middle and senior primary. The facilities are spacious with 2 of our teaching units being open spaced units with class room dividers which can be used to divide learning areas as needed or folded away to open up the areas.

All areas have access to great facilities such as the new gym, resource centre and small hall. The resource centre has an interactive whiteboard, student discussion tables which have white board tops for students to record their learning on in white board makers and erase at the end of each session, ample floor space and houses our computer room. The school has dual ISP and a fantastic intranet which the Teacher Librarian maintains. All rooms in the school are carpeted, have revers cycle air-conditioning and many have wet areas in their class.

The Preschool is housed within our junior primary building which provides our preschool children with an opportunity to get to know school-life before they begin in reception. The children then transition into reception smoothly. The Preschool has kitchen facilities, interactive whiteboard, computers and an outside designated play area with nature play, sand pit, playground and veggie gardens.

The gym, built in 2010, has a 'gerflor' sports surface, kitchen, storage facilities, toilets and two large sports storage areas. It also has new staging and a wonderful visual and sound system ideal for our fortnightly assemblies, celebrations and performances.

The administration area houses our front office, leadership and finance officer's offices along with our staff room.

- **Heating and Cooling**

All buildings have reverse cycle air-conditioning and heating.

- **Staff Facilities**

The staffroom has kitchen facilities which were renovated in 2013. The gym has a kitchen including an oven and counter server that opens up to the main kitchen area. The Performing Arts/German room also has kitchen facilities.

- **Access for Students with Disabilities**

Ramps provide access points to the school and buildings. Handrails with 2 heights are attached to many stairs and ramps to support students and staff with physical disabilities. Disabled parking is available in the school car park. The gym has a disabled toilet as well as shower facility. There is a sick room in the front office for the management of student issues as well as general illness.

9. School Operations

- **Decision Making Structures**

Staff meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon where staff are consulted for feedback, input and decision making. SSO meetings happen twice termly where ancillary staff are consulted for feedback, input and decision making. PAC are involved in decisions made regarding staffing. Students are involved in decision making processes in their daily learning programs and for whole school events or plans for example the establishment of a veggie garden, the new uniform and fundraising for the Cancer Council. We have an active Governing Council who are consulted regarding decisions, engaged in giving feedback and ratifying school policies and budget. The Governing Council also has sub-committees for Finance, OSHC and Fundraising. There are many parents and community members who volunteer at St Agnes and contribute to some decisions made.

- **Regular Publications**

Newsletters are published every 3 weeks and are sent home along with being uploaded to our school website and our Skoolbag App for families to view. Each class sends home a class newsletter at the beginning of each term which contains information about the learning program for the term along with special dates and relevant information.

- **Other Communication**

Staff use One Note online system to communicate weekly and daily notices. Due to it being online, staff can easily access this from both within and out of the school.

- **School Finance**

Finances are managed using the EDSAS Finance module.

10. Local Community

- **Parent and Community Involvement**

Parents are actively involved in their children's learning. Parent volunteers run a vibrant playgroup on Friday mornings in the Preschool. The group is often the first contact with new families to our school and provides support and information to families about the school and programs that we offer. Parent volunteers also manage our Canteen for students to purchase snacks at lunch times on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and for lunch orders on Fridays.

- **Feeder Schools**

Most students who begin reception at St Agnes School come from our on-site Preschool. Our year 7 students mostly attend Banksia Park International High School or Modbury High School with a few attending private schools.

- **Local Government Bodies**

The City of Tea Tree Gully has a good working relationship with the school and has been supportive of requests from the school for assistance.

- **Commercial, Industrial and Shopping Facilities**

The St Agnes Shopping Centre is located nearby on the corner of Hancock and North East Roads. The school is approximately 3 kms from Tea Tree Plaza, Modbury Hospital and Tea Tree Gully TAFE.

- **Other Local Facilities**

The gym and small hall is available for hire to local sporting and other clubs.