

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

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

School Name: St Agnes School P-6

School Profile

St Agnes School is a category 6 Preschool to Year 6 school, located in St Agnes in the North Eastern suburbs of Adelaide. Currently there are 246 students R-6 and 40 students in our Preschool. The Preschool is located under the main roof of the school, in the Junior Primary building. There are 10 classes (5 junior primary, 5 primary) and the Preschool.

General Information

Part A

School name St Agnes School
School No 1091 (Primary) & 1620 (Preschool)
Principal Sandee Ising
Postal Address 250 Smart Road, St Agnes 5097
Location Address 250 Smart Road, St Agnes 5097
Partnership Tea Tree Gully
Distance from GPO 17 Km
Site based preschool Yes
School website address <https://stagnesc7.sa.edu.au>
Email address dl.1091.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Phone Number (08) 8263 3541

August FTE enrolment history	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reception	33	35	36	37	38
Year 1	26	31	34	37	38
Year 2	35	28	27	36	39
Year 3	31	38	27	28	35
Year 4	25	35	34	27	28
Year 5	23	29	38	37	27
Year 6	7	38	28	37	35
Year 7	7	20	32	29	31
Total	219	254	256	268	272

School Card Holders 16%
EALD 10%
Aboriginal Enrolment 7%
Students with a disability 4%

Part B

Deputy Principal Catherine Franks

Preschool

The school has a vibrant Preschool under the main roof, in the junior primary area of the school. The Preschool staff currently consists of one full time teacher, one part time teacher and one Early Childhood Worker to support students. Under the universal access funding agreements, the Preschool runs a 15 hour per week programme. Full day sessions are run on Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday is a half-day session available for all pre-schoolers.

Staffing

Total teachers	School 15	Preschool 2
Teacher librarian/IT pedagogy	1	
Pastoral Care Worker (PCW)	1 (8 hours per week)	
Admin/finance SSO's	2	
Grounds person	1 (15 hours per week)	
Support staff (curriculum SSO's)	5 across school and preschool	

Enrolment trends

Over recent years enrolments have been steadily climbing, with a resurgence particularly at the Preschool and Reception levels. The Preschool has a capacity of 44 students and enrolments have been close to, if not at capacity for the past few years. There is also an onsite Playgroup which provides the local community a preliminary Preschool experience and is an opportunity for families to establish connections with our school and community.

OSHC

The OSHC program operates in a separate building adjacent to the Preschool. The OSHC program offers high quality care and support before and after school, on pupil free days and during school breaks with a vacation care program.

Year of school opening

1975

Public transport access

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

Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

Interactions are positive among students, staff and parents in a friendly atmosphere with regular communication between school and home. Preschoolers are part of our whole school community. There is availability of spacious facilities and outdoor areas, with ease of access to all areas

Student Management

The school has established a clear behaviour management policy with a strong focus on promoting positive behaviours. Classes have negotiated rules, along with rewards and consequences for appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. Classes use time out and buddy class structures to support each other and the leadership team provide 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 phone call.

Student Voice

Authentic student voice happens through our everyday learning programs at St Agnes School. Students have the opportunity to negotiate aspects of their learning with teachers.

Students nominate to be sports house captains and school ambassadors. Students write an application and if successful, receive an embroidered 'Captain' t-shirt to wear in their team colour.

Additional Programmes

The school offers specialist performing arts and private instrumental programs. The Music program also includes Festival Choir. Students can learn string instruments, keyboard and guitar.

The Kitchen/garden program offers twice termly kitchen and garden lessons for students to take part in with their class teacher and to extend learning in the classroom from the program.

Students are encouraged to nominate for S.A.P.S.A.S.A. (Primary School Sport) events and teams compete against local schools. Our specialist sports teacher provides skill based learning for our students in a range of sports.

Students learn German from Reception to Year 7 through music, dance, movement and creativity as well as the oral and written language. Students celebrate and showcase their learning at assemblies and other school events.

Key School Priorities/Policies

Core Business

The core business at St Agnes School is 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 optimise student learning and achievement. Teaching staff work in PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) to ensure they continually share, learn with, reflect with and challenge each other.

We use the Building Learning Power framework (BLP) to support our students to develop their dispositions towards learning, through the development of learning muscles. Our assembly awards focus on student achievement in the 'muscles' and our mid and end of year reports include student achievement of them.

Site Improvement Plan (SIP)

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

- To increase student achievement in reading
- To increase student achievement in numeracy

Our aim is to increase student achievement through explicit teaching of vocabulary, decoding skills and number sense. Staff explicitly plan, teach and assess skills to stretch all learners.

School Vision: Our students will be powerful, actively engaged learners who demonstrate achievement in all subject areas through high level numeracy and literacy skills.

School motto: 'Learning today, leading tomorrow'

School values:

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

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

Curriculum

Subjects

Subjects offered are consistent with the Australian Curriculum subject learning areas, Cross Curricular Priorities and the General Capabilities. Specialist program for R-6 students weekly in the areas of Physical Education, German and Performing Arts: Music, Dance, Drama.

Students with additional needs

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 One Plans, requests and coordination of the Student Review Team and interagency support

The MiniLit and MacqLit intervention programs are facilitated by SSOs for students who require support with reading.

Teaching Pedagogy

Staff work in junior, middle and upper primary PLC teams with colleagues and our Specialist providers work collaboratively within these groups. Staff plan high quality teaching and learning experiences and assess and moderate student learning. Through the analysis of student data, staff provide differentiated teaching and learning programs. We have excellent ICT (information and Communication Technologies) that teachers incorporate into learning experiences. Interactive whiteboards, Chromebooks, desktop computers and iPads provide students with the opportunity to access technologies as needed throughout their day and provides a varied access to a range of technologies throughout their schooling.

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 for key stakeholders. The staff have whole school teaching agreements across all year levels for data collection points throughout 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 range of different forms:

- 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

Sporting Activities

Students participate in fitness with their classroom teacher, specialist PE lessons and SAPSASA sporting events. SAPSASA sports include athletics, soccer, netball, football and Fun Day. Our annual Sports Day is a highlight on the sporting calendar. A sporting schools program offers access to a range of PE activities funded through a Commonwealth Sporting Schools Grant.

Other Extra Curricular Activities

Lunchtime activities are co-ordinated by our Pastoral Care Worker (PCW).

Each term, staff and students are involved in whole school events such as Book Week, Harmony Day, and Reconciliation week. Our school is a proud participant in the Premier's Reading Challenge.

Our garden and kitchen program involves all students R-6 with their teachers, a specialist SSO and a variety of volunteers, who together learn about the elements of a successful garden. Fresh produce from the garden is brought into the kitchen to be tested in healthy recipes and our alfresco eating area and herb garden are an extra addition.

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 some contract positions and the majority of our SSOs are also permanent. This brings stability for our students and school community. The leadership structure consists of a Principal and Deputy Principal.

Staff Support Systems

School priorities are the main driver for professional learning, with weekly staff meetings held each Wednesday after school. 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. Our Finance Officer/Business Manager supports all financial matters within the school and is located in the front office. Our Front Office Manager provides administration support and our early childhood worker supports on the floor in the Preschool. SSOs support in the junior primary, intervention programs and in the library. Our teacher librarian/IT pedagogy teacher supports staff to skill students to be producers of technology.

Performance Development

Staff use the Department Performance Development Policy. This involves performance development meetings, observations, discussions regarding planning, teaching and assessment and feedback. Performance development is shared by the Principal and Deputy Principal. All teaching and ancillary staff have a Performance Development Plan (PDP) which is updated with 6 month and 12 month reviews annually. PDP's are in line with the current Site Improvement Plan goals and targets.

Staff Utilisation Policies

The theme of 'we all have a collective responsibility' is strong at St Agnes and there is a culture of team work and mutual support. All staff receive their full allocation of non-instruction 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. The Student Review Team (SRT) meets once a term to review student progress and plan strategies to support students with needs.

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, 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 senior primary. The facilities are spacious with 2 of our teaching units being semi-open spaced units.

All classes have access to great facilities such as the gym, resource centre (library) and small hall/kitchen. The resource centre has an interactive screen, student discussion areas and flexible furniture, with inviting spaces for reading and learning. The school has high speed internet. All rooms in the school are carpeted, have reverse cycle air-conditioning and heating and many classrooms also have wet areas.

The Preschool is housed within our junior primary building, which provides our Preschool children with an opportunity to get to know school routines before they begin in Reception. The children then transition into Reception smoothly. The Preschool has kitchen facilities, an interactive screen, an outside designated play area with nature play, mud kitchen, sand pit, loose parts play area and veggie gardens.

The administration area houses our front office, leadership and finance officer's offices, along with our staff lounge. OSHC is located in a stand-alone building on the school grounds with direct access from the OSHC carpark.

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

The large kitchen houses ovens, cooktops, sink, dishwashers and a washing machine, along with 5 self-contained kitchen units and dining tables and chairs. All students visit the kitchen for their cooking lessons twice a term and at other times for specific learning activities.

The garden area has 12 raised garden beds, outdoor classroom space, shed and greenhouse.

The grounds have a coloured synthetic turf covered netball court, asphalt basketball courts, 2 playgrounds, large oval with football and soccer goals, sandpit and cricket nets. Our amphitheatre has large murals painted on it of a koala and echidna to reflect our native wildlife and an outdoor seating area. A reality landscape mural adorns the shed and wall facing the East playground. The gym is available for hire to local sporting and other clubs.

Access for Students with Disabilities

Ramps provide access points to 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 a shower facility.

School Operations

Decision Making Structures

Staff meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon and SSO meetings occur twice termly, where staff are consulted for feedback, input and decision making. PAC are involved in decisions made regarding staffing and workload. 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 uniform, fundraising and school facility upgrades. We have an active Governing Council who are consulted regarding decisions, engaged in giving feedback and ratifying school policies and budget. The Governing Council has sub-committees for Finance, OSHC and Fundraising. There are many parents and community members who volunteer at St Agnes.

Regular Publications

Newsletters are published twice termly and are uploaded to our school website and Seesaw 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. All classes communicate electronically with families via the Seesaw platform.

Other Communication

Staff use Teams 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 information and diary dates are posted as notifications on Seesaw.

School Finance

Finances are managed using the EDSAS Finance module. The management of school finances and budget is managed annually by the Finance Committee and overseen by Governing Council.

Local Community

Parent and Community Involvement

Parents are actively involved in their children's learning. Playgroup 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 manage our tuck shop. Parental support and involvement in the school is positive and significant to the delivery of programs, hosting of school community events and involvement in camps, excursions and SAPSASA.

Feeder Schools

Many 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 other local public or 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. The school oval is leased through the Tea Tree Gully council. There is a council walking trail and reserve adjacent to the school for local walks.