

PORT AUGUSTA SECONDARY SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

School number: 0790

School Profile

At Port Augusta Secondary School, we aim to provide an engaging, safe and secure learning environment for staff and students through the provision of high-quality teaching, learning programs and pathways in a supportive setting. Our school motto, 'Success for All' is reflected in the many opportunities on offer for all students. These opportunities, coupled with supporting programs, include Industry Pathways (IPP), Youth Engagement Strategy (YES), Inclusive Education, South Australian Sports Training Academy (SAASTA), Clontarf Foundation, Polly Farmer Foundation, Workabout and Sports Academy.

The school is a comprehensive, co-educational secondary school divided into year 7-9 middle school and year 10 -12 senior school.

Our school has a history of successful post school options for our students that provide an excellent future for those who choose to take up these opportunities. In 2022, Port Augusta Secondary School won the SA Training Awards 'Innovation in Vocational Education'. This award is testimony and acknowledgement of the hard working staff, in preparing our students for the world of work. The school has since been nominated for the national award in the same category. This embedded culture of striving for excellence runs across all learning areas and programs within the school.

We aim to reinforce on a daily basis, our current school values of:

- Respect
- Care and Compassion
- Do Your Best



1. General information

- School Principal: Simon Owens
- Deputy Principal: Angela Dyer
- Year of opening: 1995
- Postal Address: PO Box 1921, Port Augusta, SA, 5700
- Location Address: 3 Stirling Road, Port Augusta, SA, 5700
- DfE Partnership: Port Augusta/Quorn
- Geographical location: 300km north of GPO Adelaide, 5000
- Telephone number: (08) 8647 3300
- Fax Number: (08) 8647 3388
- School website address: <https://www.pass.sa.edu.au>
- School e-mail address: DL.0790.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- February FTE enrolment

Year Level	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
7	100	135			
8	122	133	160	144	122
9	122	174	144	120	127
10	157	150	122	124	134
11	142	120	126	134	116
12	77	103	105	93	93
12 Plus	4	14	16	22	15
Special	14	15	15	18	20
Total	738	844	688	655	627

% School Card	52.57	51.06	49.12	47.17	47.36
% ATSI	45.01	42.93	42.68	41.00	43.04
% SWD	17.59	17.35	15.56	19.12	17.96
% NESB	1.11	1.41	1.39	0.32	0.16

- Student enrolment trends

Our enrolment significantly increased in 2022 with the inclusion of year 7 students. We experience fluctuating enrolments across year levels, due to the size and nature of student cohorts. For example, in 2023 we saw an increase in year 11 student numbers however a decrease in some other year levels.

- Staffing numbers

Executive Leadership Team

Simon Owens	Principal
Angela Dyer	Deputy Principal
Karen Wallace	Assistant Principal (YES)
Angela Hancock	Assistant Principal (Aboriginal Education/Students with Disabilities)
Lucas Hill	Assistant Principal (Yr 7/8)
Sam Carter	Assistant Principal (Yr 9)
Simon Finch	Assistant Principal (Yr 10)
Sandy Glamuzina	Assistant Principal (Yr 11/12)
Maggie McLean	Assistant Principal (Literacy/Hum)
Shane Loader	Assistant Principal (Numeracy/Ma/Sc/STEM)

Staff Numbers

Principal A8	1
Deputy Principal B5	1
Leader B4	1
Leader B3	7
Leader B1	11
Teachers FTE	41.5
Ancillary staff (hrs)	1,505.5

These figures equate to an approximate on-site work force in excess of 100 staff members.

- Public transport access

The Government provides school bus transport to and from the Davenport Community and Stirling North. Many students walk, or are transported to school by family. Other support for students to get to school is provided through our YES and Clontarf programs. There is also a town City-Link bus service that incorporates Westside, Eastside & Stirling North and the Transcontinental Estate (Tassie Street). A bus service connects daily from Adelaide straight through to Whyalla (Stateliner) and two local taxi services operate 24hrs.

- Special site arrangements

Port Augusta Secondary School has 6 feeder primary schools, including:

Augusta Park Primary School	Port Augusta West Primary School
Carlton R-9 School	Stirling North Primary School
Flinders View Primary School	Willsden Primary School

Port Augusta Secondary and these feeder schools work in collaboration with other learning centres across the Port Augusta/Quorn Partnership, including Quorn Area School and numerous early learning centres. A collaborative 6/7 transition program operates annually to provide supportive induction of year 6 students into the secondary school environment.

Industry links including local/small business:

Oz Minerals/BHP
on country experiences for Aboriginal students
Clontarf Academy (on site)
Polly Farmer (off site program)
management of Port Augusta Aquatic Centre

The school also has long term associations with the Operation Flinders Foundation.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Students enrolled at Port Augusta Secondary engage in a variety of programs designed to support their development enabling them to contribute within the Port Augusta community and beyond.

- Student well-being programs

The school employs two Wellbeing Leaders, one middle school and one for senior school. The school also employs a Youth Support Worker, and numerous support staff with a wellbeing focus within their job role. In addition to this a school chaplain is employed through the school Ministry program.

- Student support offered

Recently, Government funding has been identified to employ a full time Emotional/ Wellbeing Support Officer, to work with a specific case load of students identified as requiring additional support.

In addition to targeted support, all teaching and non-teaching staff, are trained and work actively to enhance student wellbeing across the site.

- Student management

The leadership structure enables a pastoral and supportive culture to support the management of students in classrooms and in the yard. A senior leader is allocated to each year level in order to strengthen relationships with students and their families, responding to any issues that may arise in a school day. Student leadership has negotiated a sense of classroom and yard rules that have been agreed upon to enhance safety, wellbeing and learning for all students. The school has a zero tolerance to violence. All behavioural expectations and responses are in line with the appropriate DfE policies.

- Student government

We have two active student leadership groups, representing middle and senior year levels. These groups are supported by identified teaching staff.

- Special programs

Clontarf
Industry Pathways
Learning Community
Polly Farmer
SAASTA
Sports Academy
Stronger Smarter Homework Centre
Youth Engagement Strategy (YES)
Workabout

3. Key School Policies

- Positive Learning Environment
- Attendance Plan in line with DfE policy
- Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices
- School Dress Code
- Site Improvement Plan

• 2022 - 2024

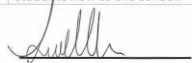
Site Number: 0790

2023 School Improvement Plan Summary

Port Augusta Secondary School

Goals	Targets	Challenge of Practice	Success Criteria
To Increase the number of students achieving SEA in Reading and Writing.	<p>2022: Consolidate and document more accurate targets for 2024 at Student Free Day in Term 4, 2023. This will enable us to use more recent data, in particular students new to the school.</p> <p>2023: 35% of 2023 Year 9 Students will achieve SEA or above in NAPLAN Writing. 55% of 2023 Year 8 Students will achieve SEA or above in PAT Reading. 50% of 2023 Year 9 Students will achieve SEA or above in Pat Reading.</p> <p>2024: These are to be clarified after the 2023 targets are measured</p>	If all teachers and faculty leaders apply and integrate the agreed literacy strategies, using the Teaching and Learning Cycle consistently across all subjects, then it will increase the number of students achieving SEA in Reading and Writing.	<p>An improvement in students' comprehension of a range of texts through the application of teacher led and reinforced strategies.</p> <p>All students can use an increasing range of sentence structures, complex tier two and three vocabulary and complete paragraphs, specific to subject area text types and macro genres, in both writing and comprehension.</p>
To increase the percentage of students reaching SEA in Numeracy.	<p>2022: Year 8 PAT M SEA data was 55/128 43% Year 7 PAT M SEA was 46/122 38%</p> <p>2023: 50% of Year 8 students will achieve SEA on PATM 60% of Year 7 students will achieve SEA on PATM</p> <p>2024: Consolidate and document more accurate targets for 2024 at Student Free Day in Term 4, 2023. This will enable us to use more recent data, in particular students new to the school.</p>	If we implement evidence-informed numeracy strategies in ways which are contextually relevant to each learning area then we will improve achievement of SEA Numeracy.	Students will be able to recognise, use and explain mathematical strategies, including multiplicative thinking and/or proportional reasoning, concrete, representational and abstract mathematical techniques, to solve problems.

8/02/2023


Principal


Education Director


Governing Council Chair Person



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

• Recent key outcomes

In 2022, the school accepted 120 year 7 enrolments, in line with the Department for Education's 7 to Secondary initiative. A new 2-storey building was constructed to accommodate the extra intake of enrolments. This building consists of general learning classrooms, flexible learning areas and staff office space upstairs. Downstairs includes two new Home Economics kitchens, a theory space, and two areas to accommodate our middle school Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) students, and a year 7 learning hub.

A new Technical College will be constructed on our site during 2023/2024, offering spaces to accommodate students from Port Augusta Secondary and outlying regions, with the aim to meet industry needs.

In 2023, our school implemented the state governments 'Students use of mobile phones and personal devices policy'. To date, evidence is apparent, this policy is increasing learning outcomes, safety and general wellbeing of all staff and students.

4. Curriculum

The school currently operates Daymap, an electronic Learning and Student Management System, to deliver enhanced education. One component of this system is a portal for parents and caregivers that allows them to view their child's timetable, lesson attendance, homework, assignments, results and messages from teachers, and access the end of term reports.

Regular updates are communicated to parents/caregivers and the community through newsletters, our school website and Facebook page. As a school, we actively celebrate the achievements of our students and promote the school motto 'Promoting Success for All Students'.

- Subject offerings

Middle School – years 7, 8 & 9

Students experience 4 core subject areas in English, Science, Mathematics, Humanities and Social Science. These are delivered, where possible by a team of teachers allocated to specific home groups, enhancing relationships and the ability to support the pastoral care of students. Most middle school students have a small number of teaching staff which supports the transition from the primary school model. Many opportunities exist in the middle school for students to experience other non-core learning areas, including Health and Physical Education, Visual and Performing Arts, Food Technologies, Digital Technologies, Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics (STEM).

More information can be obtained from the school's website.

Senior School – years 10, 11 & 12

Upon entering year 10, students begin their journey towards achieving their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). They begin with a more comprehensive choice of subjects, gaining an insight into their year 11 and 12 subject choices and career pathways.

More information can be obtained from the school and SACE websites.

- Open Access/Distance Education provision

On occasions, if our school is unable to deliver a particular SACE subject, due to low student uptake for that subject area, students can be enrolled in the Open Access College to continue on their chosen pathway.

- Special needs

Students at Port Augusta Secondary, who require additional help to achieve their learning goals, are surrounded by a dedicated Inclusive Education team across all year levels. We have particular targeted programs enabling one on one support, low class ratios and teaching and non-teaching staff trained in supporting students with disabilities.

We also access modified SACE programs that allow students needing support to successfully complete their learning journey at school.

- Special curriculum features

Every day at Port Augusta Secondary School provides opportunities for students to engage and become successful. Our programs listed above are wide and varied, allowing individual pathways to be negotiated for every student. For example, our Youth Engagement Strategy is a dedicated facility on site, staffed by specialist teaching and non-teaching staff, to offer flexible learning opportunities for students. Many of our students access our Industry Pathways Program, from year 9, enabling a successful transition into the workplace upon completion of their SACE. Outdoor Education and representing the school in sporting events, are also opportunities taken up by many students.

- Teaching methodology

Students in mainstream are allocated to a home class. They experience their core subjects within this cohort of students and have the opportunity to mix with other students in choice or non-core subjects. Teaching and non-teaching staff participate in regular training and development to enhance their skills and abilities, especially in the area of pedagogical practices tailored for the students at our school. Non-teaching staff are used to support individual and small groups of students.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting

Student reports are published 4 times per year at the end of each term. In terms 1 and 3 reports are written in detail describing student achievement and possible areas for improvement. Terms 2 and 4 reports are summary based, detailing achievements across the semester. At least once per year, families are invited to Parent Teacher Conversations, to allow face to face feedback.

- Joint programs

Our Industry Pathways program has strong and ongoing partnerships with Port Augusta TAFE, Career Employment Group (CEG), and many other local small and large industry employers. Our school is well known as a major point of contact when employers are seeking quality apprentices, trainees, and/or employees. Our senior students can also access entry pathways to universities, for example, the Flinders University Assessment Centre Pathway.

5. Sporting Activities

Upon enrolment, students are allocated one of 3 house teams. These are Mambray Mudcrabs (green), Spencer Dolphins (blue), and Wilpena Sharks (red). Our annual athletics carnival revolves around these house competitions. Students have the opportunity to represent the school in various sporting events including the Western Areas Secondary Schools Athletics Carnival (WASSAC), and Secondary School Sport SA (athletics and various knockout sport competitions).

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Whole school assemblies are conducted at least once per term with an emphasis on celebration and recognition of success. These assemblies are organised and hosted by student leadership groups, being one of the highlights on the school calendar.

At the beginning of term 4 each year our school hosts a Year 12 Graduation Ceremony at our local Lea Theatre. We hold this event after hours to accommodate more family participation. This ceremony is highly entertaining and highlights the achievements of our graduating year 12 students, celebrating their achievements throughout their journey at Port Augusta Secondary School. It includes valedictory speeches, an address from the Principal and guest speaker. It is augmented with audio visual presentations and many awards acknowledging academic and extra curricular achievements.

We proudly celebrate other events throughout the year, including NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, Harmony Day, IDAHOBIT Day, RUOK Day.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Most staff at Port Augusta Secondary School live in the local community. A relatively high staff turn over is balanced with a number of long term staff providing good local knowledge and community network links. Approximately 50% of our staff are in their first 5 years of teaching, and approximately 20% have been at the school for 10 years or longer.

- Leadership structure

Our school leadership consists of a Principal, Deputy Principal, 8 Senior Leaders, 11 Curriculum Coordinators, 3 non-teaching leaders.

- Staff support systems

Staff access professional learning to support their work. Opportunities to take on additional roles and plentiful and provide the chance to specialise or grow expertise outside of immediate duties. Port Augusta Secondary School is recognised as a school of career opportunity.

- Performance Management

Each member of staff has a designated Performance Development manager who has responsibility for staff support and supervision. An induction program is in place for each new staff member to the site, in alignment with the Partnership (whole town) induction program. Team work and collegiate support is traditionally an area of strength at Port Augusta Secondary School. Staff are also supported through involvement in faculty meetings and peer observations.

- Access to special staff

The school has access to specialist staff including Social Workers, Special Educators, Guidance Officers, Behaviour Coaches, Speech Pathologists, and Instrumental Music teachers.

8. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Since the co-location of our school to the Stirling Road site, there has been a steady and noticeable improvement agenda around facilities to enhance student learning, engagement and safety. This includes:

- Trade Training Centre and Industry Pathways building
- State of the art STEM and Visual Arts buildings
- Clontarf Academy building
- Two storey building providing purpose built facilities for our year 7 cohort, Food Technology kitchens and theory space, Youth Engagement Strategy middle school annexe, collaborative learning space, and middle school Learning Hub classroom (Inclusive Education).
- Fencing and upgraded watering system for Braddock Oval allowing more safe green space for our students during class and break times.

Work has commenced in 2023 for the construction of one the state's 5 technical colleges to be located on the southern corner of the school grounds. This exciting development,

when completed in 2025, will offer many opportunities around student pathways for students from Port Augusta Secondary School and many other schools within our region.

- Heating and cooling

The site is fully air conditioned.

- Student facilities

Our year 12 students enjoy a designated study/common space located upstairs in our main senior school teaching space. Students who drive to school can park on Stirling Road and Hobby Street, adjacent to the site. Our school is serviced by a canteen in compliance with the DfE Right Bite Food and Drink Standards. All students have access to lockers upon request.

- Staff facilities

Teachers have a designated work/office space as well as access to a staff room. All teaching staff are allocated a staff laptop. A conference room and meeting room provide venues for a range of parent, staff and student meetings.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

Staff and students with disabilities are accommodated on a needs basis, in line with generic infrastructure to support individual differences.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

The Executive Leadership team (Admin) consisting of Principal, Deputy Principal, Senior Leaders and Business Manager, meet fortnightly, and also make daily routine decisions where there is minimal impact on stakeholders, or where an interim decision is urgently required.

The leadership group (Band 1 Coordinators and above), develop processes where wider consultation is seen desirable, in particular in relation to curriculum development, pedagogical practices, and student learning. This group meets every 3 weeks on a Wednesday afternoon, giving direction to the next 2 week cycle of faculty meetings. A focus is on Site Improvement Plan identified actions, and ways staff can be supported to implement these.

Governing Council meet twice per term, more if required. Major decisions around the management of the school are discussed and endorsed by Governing Council. This can include policy development.

Staff also have the opportunity to be involved in a Priority Action Team (PAT). These teams are voluntary and have a specific focus of development, eg Senior School SACE, Data Literacy, Inclusive Education.

- Regular publications

Our Events, Promotions and Community Engagement Officer, together with other key staff, ensure families and community are kept informed of school calendar events and activities within the school. Information is shared via various modes including the school website, Facebook and regular school newsletters. Parents are also provided information via text link and information sent home with their children.

Internal communications include email, and Daymap staff and student bulletins.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

Port Augusta is a regional city of approximately 15,000 people. It is located at the top of Spencer Gulf and in the shadow of the Southern Flinders Ranges. Port Augusta's town slogan is 'Crossroads of Australia' as National Highway One runs directly through the town. Traditional owners consider Port Augusta as a meeting place due to its unique geographical location.

- Parent and community involvement

The school is involved in community events such as:

- Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Lions Club barbeques
- Primary School sports days
- Art exhibitions at the Platform Gallery
- Annual school performance

- Other local care and educational facilities

Port Augusta offers a range of Early Learning childcare and kindergarten options.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Port Augusta offers many facilities available for community use, including:

- Lea Memorial Theatre
- Ryan Mitchell Swimming Centre
- Central Oval Sporting Complex
- City Council Library
- Arid Lands Botanic Gardens
- Wadlata Interpretive Outback Centre
- Port Augusta foreshore and Yacht Club

and a range of shopping and entertaining outlets. Port Augusta is a retail hub for the outlying regions, with our neighbouring cities Port Pirie and Whyalla, sharing a variety of major retail chains.

- Availability of staff housing

Teaching staff appointed to the school can access government employee housing at a subsidised rate. Homes are also available for rent or purchase through local real estate agencies.

- Local Government body

Port Augusta City Council

Address: 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta
Phone: 8641 9100
Email: admin@portaugusta.sa.gov.au
Website: <https://www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au>

12. Further Comments

At Port Augusta Secondary School we traditionally pride ourselves upon welcoming new staff and students to our school and the community. We firmly believe that we promote 'Success for All' hinging on multiple opportunities, diverse activities and experiences, and high quality teaching.