SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0346
School name: Plympton Primary School

School Profile:

Our Vision

Building better futures for our school community

Our Purpose

To work collaboratively with the Plympton Primary School Community to provide a quality teaching and learning environment for all students.

Our Values

We value behaviours that reflect:

- Care
- Honesty
- Effort
- Respect
- Resilience

1. General information

- School Principal Name: Tom O’Callaghan
- Senior Leader: Karly Hefferan
- Year of Opening: 1861
- Postal Address: 19 Owen Street PLYMPTON SA 5038
- Location Address: 19 Owen Street PLYMPTON SA 5038
- DECD Partnership: West Torrens
- Distance from GPO (km): 6km
• Telephone Number: 8293 1227
• School Website Address: www.plymptonps.sa.edu.au
• School E-Mail Address: dl:0346_info@schools.sa.edu.au
• Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes
• February FTE Student Enrolment: 335
• Student Enrolment Trends: Steadily increasing

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### Staffing Numbers (as at February Census):

- **Admin**: 2
- **Student Counsellor**: 0.2
- **Special Ed**: 0.4
- **Teaching**: 13
- **Specialist**: 2.3
- **EALD**: 0.6
- **Library**: 0.2
- **SSO**: 134 hrs/week (6 positions)
- **GSE**: 30 hrs / week

### Public Transport Access:

Bus services on Marion Road and Anzac Highway and nearby tram service
2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General Characteristics:**
  The school population reflects the multicultural nature of the local community with children, parents and teachers from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. There are over 25 cultures represented at our school. The nature of our multicultural community is highly valued and celebrated regularly.

  About 20% of the student population are schoolcard holders.

  About 10% of our students live outside the local community and by-pass their local school to attend here.

  Our current enrolment is 335.

- **Student Well-Being Programs:**
  A Student Counsellor supports the wellbeing of students by:
  - Leading the development, implementation and review of child protection curriculum and the National Safe Schools framework
  - Supporting staff to create safe, supportive and respectful teaching and learning environments
  - Working in partnerships with the school community, support services and other agencies to support inclusion and wellbeing.
  - Providing a Preventative and Developmental School based Counselling Service for the whole school community.
  - Coordinating intervention and case management processes.

- **Student Support Offered:**
  Support to individual students is given by our Special Education Teacher (0.2) and School Service Officers in areas of Special Education, Literacy & Numeracy for students identified from NAPLAN test results and from in-school screening as well as those Students with Disabilities.

  The EALD program also helps to support the English language education for about 1/3 of our students.

  A Hindi First Language Maintenance and Development programme for 50 students is in place.

  Common behaviour expectations exist across the school and playtime and class time behaviour management programs are in place. An anti-bullying policy is in place.
The school collaborates with our corporate partners, OPTUS, in the SPARK programme through the Australian Business Council Network (ABCN) This annual 8 week reading support programme pairs beginning readers with adult mentors who support them in weekly, 1:1 reading sessions.

- **Student Government:**
  The school has a focus on student leadership which is driven by an active Student Representative Council. Elected classroom representatives attend SRC Meetings and are involved in discussion and action for a wide range of issues.

### 3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan and other Key Statements or Policies:**
  Our Site learning plan has three areas of focus:
  
  1. Improve the literacy standards of all students, particularly in the areas of reading comprehension (listening, reading and viewing), and word and grammar knowledge (in reading, writing and oral modes).
  2. For all students to receive high quality explicit teaching in Mathematics to support the development of rich mathematical knowledge and understanding.
  3. All students are actively engaged in their learning and feel a strong sense of connection to the PPS community.

### 4. Curriculum

- **Subject Offerings:**
  The Australian Curriculum is taught, and specialist teachers provide programmes in Physical Education, Japanese and Music

- **Special Needs:**
  There are 9 students who qualify as Students with Disabilities and they are accommodated in mainstream classes across the R-7 range

- **Teaching Methodology:**
  A synthetic and systematic phonics programme is taught across the R-2 range (Jolly Phonics)
  Words their Way is used in Years 3-7 to teach spelling
  Ann Baker Natural Maths methodology and lesson structure is used across the school
• **Student Assessment Procedures and Reporting:**
  Acquaintance meetings are held early in term 1
  Parent and Teacher interviews in late term 1
  Written mid-year and end-of-year reports
  Parent and teacher interviews upon request

5. **Sporting Activities**
Plympton Primary School actively participates in the following sporting activities:
• Daily fitness program
• Out of school hours sport includes football, cricket, netball and basketball
• Various District and State SAPSASA sports
• Swimming – our R-2 students have specific swimming lessons in Term 1/4 each year at our own swimming pool, Year 3,4&5 students participate in a Swimming Program at Marion Pool and our Year 6&7 students participate in an Aquatics Camp at Murray Bridge every second year. Students also participate in recreational swimming activities at our school pool.

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**
Plympton Primary School actively encourages community participation in a variety of activities including:
- Instrumental lessons in piano and guitar are provided by independent music tutors
- Our senior students participate in the school choir which performs at the annual Festival Centre Concert in August/September
- An End of the Year/Christmas event is held at the end of the year for the whole school community to celebrate annual achievements
- Parents/caregivers are actively involved in many ways across our school, supporting students attending Plympton Primary School

7. **Staff (and their welfare)**
• **Staff Profile:**
  21 Teaching staff (17.7 FTE)
  7 Ancillary staff (4.3 FTE)

• **Leadership structure:**
  Principal, Senior Leader, Student Counsellor

• **Staff support systems:**
  A structure of learning teams (Profesional Learning Communities) enables teachers to work collaboratively together in planning and programming across R-7.
School Services Officers perform a variety of tasks including whole class, individual and/group support for students and teachers and office administration.

DECD support personnel visit the school on a regular basis, working closely with teachers, parents/caregivers and our Special Education Teacher (0.4FTE) – Speech Pathology, Educational Psychology, Behaviour Coaches.

- **Performance Management:**
  A Performance and Development policy supports staff to set and review performance goals and to plan career pathways.

### 9. School Facilities

The school grounds are in good condition and resemble a park setting, with ample room for playingfields, playground equipment and car parking. In 2015 a nature play space was developed which provides a stimulating environment for student play.

The school has a basketball/netball court, school hall/gymnasium and swimming pool.

Buildings include a solid brick administration block which houses 4 classrooms and Resource Centre, a 4 teacher DEMAC unit, 2 separate classrooms and one heritage-listed block of 6 classrooms. $2 million was spent in the 2009 BER upgrade, renovating the heritage and library buildings in the school. All buildings are air-conditioned.

Our Information and Communication Technology program is enhanced by a comprehensive computing set-up across the school, including a computer suite, a pod of computers in the library, notebook computers, iPads and mini iPads as well as Interactive Whiteboards in each teaching setting.

Our Resource Centre/Library is an important learning space in our school, well resourced for students and teachers.

### 10. School Operations

Decision making is based on a democratic, participatory model with regular consultative forums which include:

- Staff meetings
- Leadership meetings
- Student Representative Council (SRC)
- School Council & associated sub committees
- Personnel Advisory Committee.

Decisions are made in different forums, in line with the school’s decision making policy.
There is a high degree of consultation with relevant stakeholders from across the school community.

The school newsletter is published fortnightly. It is distributed in hard copy, on the web site, via email and by our school App. Staff bulletins are circulated each week. Our school intranet is also a medium for sharing communication across the school community.

R-7 school assemblies are run by students on Friday afternoons at 2:30pm on even weeks each term.

- **School Financial Position:** Sound
- **Special Funding:** None

### 12. Further Comments

Main feeder pre-schools are DECD kindergartens at Netley, Kurralta Park, South Plympton and Glandore as well as a range of other privately run childcare facilities.

Parent /caregiver involvement is both enthusiastic and energetic.

A variety of community groups use the school facilities including three separate Ethnic schools, providing services for Portugese, Bengali and Arabic speakers.

Year 7 students transition to a range of high schools including William Light R-12, Urrbrae, Mitcham Girls, Brighton, Underdale, Adelaide, Glenunga, Hamilton and Henley.

The local government body is City of West Torrens (phone 8416 6333).