

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 03/06

School Name: Ascot Park R-7 Gymnastics Focus School

School Number: 0340

1. General Information

Part A

Schoolname : ASCOT PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
 School No. : 0340 Courier : Inner South
 Principal : Mr Vince Mulkerin
 Postal Address : 1-37 Pildappa Avenue, Park Holme 5043
 Location Address : 1-37 Pildappa Avenue, Park Holme 5043
 District : Inner South
 Distance from GPO : 11 kms Phone No. : 08 82763055
 CPC attached : NO Fax No. : 08 82779007

February FTE Enrolment

Year level	2003	2004	2005	2006
Reception	23	20	20	16
Year 1	37	28	26	18
Year 2	31.2	21.2	30	27
Year 3	36.2	37.6	28	34
Year 4	29.2	35	39	27
Year 5	22	25	28	41
Year 6	42	23	20	26
Year 7	31	35	22	12
Total	245.6	227.8	212	201
School Card	130	140	186	
NESB Total	48	44	48	57
Aboriginal	4	5	7	5

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.

Part B

- Deputy Principal
:Mr Tony Trimboli
- Staffing numbers:
 - :Formula staff 9
 - School Counsellor 0.6
 - Special Education 0.7
 - Gymnastics Focus Class Teachers 2.1
 - Gymnastics Teacher 0.8
 - ESL 0.61
 - FIR 0.41
 - Teacher/Librarian 0.6
 - Coordinator 1.0
 - SSO Permanent Hours 103.5 hours
 - SSO Temporary (we currently buy) 90 hours

PTO

- OSHC/Vacation care
:OSHC service operates from 3:10-6:00 pm. A Vacation Care program operates during the holidays.
- Enrolment trends:
: Enrolment at the school has fluctuated over many years. Numbers have dropped significantly in the last 2 years.
- Special arrangements:
:The gymnastics Focus class caters for the educational needs of students who are in an elite gymnastics program. These students come from all parts of the metropolitan area and operate on a modified school day to fit in with training schedules. This is a collaborative venture between parents, DECS, Gymnastics SA and sponsors. From past students the program boasts several medallists in World Championships, Commonwealth Games, World Aerobics and Olympic Games.
- Year of opening
:1926 – The present school was built in 1974.
- Public transport access
:Buses travelling N and S stop outside the school on Marion Road. The railway station is 1/2 km from the school.

2. **Students (and their welfare)**

- General characteristics
:9 classes with preference for composite classes.
The school's index of disadvantage is category 4.
15% of students are from non-English Speaking Backgrounds including Saudi Arabia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Poland, Serbia, Italy and Russia.
School Card assistance is 55%.
10% of students with Negotiated Education Plans.
- Support offered
:The School Counsellor offers a wide range of class and extra support for individuals and families. A whole school Success Card program operates successfully. There are cross-age tutoring programs established collaboratively across classrooms.
Through the Counsellor community and government agencies can be accessed via referral.

The School also provides its students, families and staff the support of a School Christian Pastoral Support Worker (Chaplain).
The CPSW fulfils the role as described in the School Ministry Group Job and Person Specification.
This appointment commenced in 2006 and is for a period of 3 years. The position is possible through the school's collaboration with the South West Inter Church Council and the Heads of Churches School Ministry Group.
There is a Commonwealth Government sponsored family support program run by the City of Marion in conjunction with the school. This program is called Connecting Parents – there is more about this program further on in the Statement.
- Student management:
:The school discipline policy provides a framework for managing student behaviour and creating safe, orderly, productive and successful learning communities. The "School Behaviour Code" describes a range of specific strategies developed to meet the varying needs of students in the school setting and the different needs and expectations of the local community (families, students, staff, wider community and service providers).
Appropriate behaviour is encouraged with the following:
 - Social skills lessons relating to: Conflict resolution, Harassment, antiracism, peer relationships.
 - Implementation of the Stop, Think, Do Social Skills Program
 - Peer Support program.
 - Rewards including: Class teacher awards, whole school positive reward program and individual student plans and incentives.

- Student government
 - :Student voice is a priority at the school. This is led through the student group Voice of Kids (VOK). This group is coordinated by the Counsellor.
 - The Middle School Group holds regular student led meetings where decisions are made by the Middle School students about issues that relate to them. Middle School committees are established to ensure all students are actively involved in decision-making.
- Special programs
 - :Special programs for students include Gymnastics, Sports Clinics, Cross Age Tutoring LAP, Performing Arts.

PTO

3. Key School Policies

We believe that students who complete their schooling at Ascot Park R-7 Gymnastics Focus School will:

- Be literate, numerate and technologically skilled.
- Be self-motivated, and able to identify their strengths and weaknesses so they can use these skills to be life-long learners.
- Have knowledge and understanding of our country, it's history, geography and it's multicultural dimensions, including the variety of Aboriginal cultures.
- Have a knowledge, understanding and respect for people from all cultures and the Greek language.
- Have knowledge and abilities in choosing a healthy active lifestyle, caring for themselves physically and emotionally.
- Be honest and responsible for their actions, having the confidence to try out new experiences.
- Be able to develop positive relationships and social skills, working with others cooperatively, safely and happily.
- See there are numerous pathways to creatively enhance their own learning and lifestyle and be optimistic about their future.
- Have an understanding of the need to care for the world's environment and the skills to meet that need.
- Have knowledge of the local community and the skill to access this knowledge in and around the Marion Council Area.

Therefore as teachers We will:

Use an array of teaching methodologies to meet the needs of every student, including ICT skills

Be a positive role model

Value every child

Treat every child with respect and care

Be responsible for our own professional learning

Use that learning to extend the technological, social and academic skills for all

**What do we value?
What do we value?**

Where do we get our values?

Dedication

Our greatest asset is the people that form the Ascot Park R-7 Gymnastics Focus School. This includes, staff, students, their families and the wider community that supports the school.

We value:

- Team building and promoting partnerships with families and service providers
- Developing positive relationships
- Good citizenship
- Multiculturalism
- Empathy
- Respect for each other and treating each other fairly and honestly.
- Caring for each other and respect for property and the environment we work in.
- Acknowledging , valuing and building on community interests.

Excellence

We are committed to ensuring the educational needs of students and their families are met to the best of our ability.

We value:

- The universal need for learning and preparation for life.
- Creativity
- Discipline
- Enjoyment of learning the Greek language
- Improving knowledge of the world around us and of each other.
- Perseverance and the ability to solve problems
- Innovation and creativity
- Enjoyment and participation in physical activity
- Quality teaching, assessment and reporting that meet the educational needs of students and their families.

Honour and Integrity

As a community we are committed to providing a structure that is known to all, has input from as many participants as possible and is renewed and reviewed frequently.

We value:

- Equity and Social Justice for educationally disadvantaged sections of the school community.
- Developing trust between and within the sectors that make up the Ascot Park R-7 Gymnastics Focus School.
- Inclusion
- Leadership that builds on people's skills and values their input.

▪ **Strategic Priorities**

Priority 1

Optimising student achievement in literacy and numeracy.

- Improve reading levels
- All students at or above National Numeracy Benchmark levels

Priority 2

Enhance student's self-esteem and social skill development.

- Reduce disruptive behaviour in class
- Improve on task classroom behaviour and facilitate safe yard play.
- Reduce bullying behaviour

Priority 3

Improve physical fitness, reduce obesity, develop lifelong skills in a healthy lifestyle

Priority 4

Develop Ascot Park R-7 Gymnastics Focus School as part of the Park Holme Campus and as the school of choice in the local area.

- Improve attendance and punctuality
- Develop positive integration through the collocation process with the South Australian School for Vision Impaired (SASVI) and Kilparrin Schools

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
 - :Teachers use the SACSA Framework as a basis for programming and assessment.
- Special needs
 - :A Student Learning Team consisting of the Deputy, School Counsellor, SSO representative and class teachers has been established to discuss and plan for student needs especially for students identified as at risk.
 - Negotiated Education Plans are developed for students with disabilities and these students are supported through the special education teacher time working collaboratively with the classroom teacher and Special Education SSO and ESL teacher.
- LOTE
 - :Modern Greek is the LOTE curriculum. Currently there are 3 teachers who make "class share" arrangements so that Greek is offered to all students. In late 2003 and 2004 the methodology and sequencing for Greek will be formalised in

the school. A community consultation will occur and the agreement of Greek within a confirmed multicultural environment is anticipated.

- Teaching methodology

:Takes into account the developmental needs of students from early childhood to adolescence. Ascot Park is a 'disadvantaged school' and methodology needs to be inclusive of the range of students' needs. Students should perceive their learning to be relevant and enjoyable. Teachers are encouraged to explore new ways of working in order to more effectively meet student needs. Staff members are encouraged to collaborate with each other to this end. All members of the school community are acknowledged as learners and facilitators of learning.

We provide an inclusive curriculum for students at the school, to address their individual learning needs and provide maximum learning outcomes and personal development opportunities.

Teachers are encouraged to use critically reflective practices, take risks with methodology and to continually monitor and assess; what works, what doesn't and for which groups of students. An understanding of the practical application of social justice principles are key elements of teaching.

- Assessment procedures and reporting

:Assessment procedures are an integral part of the learning program. Teachers are encouraged to assess in a variety of ways. An agreed Assessment Plan and timeline is prepared each year. Whole school processes include: Acquaintance Night, Parent/Teacher/Student meetings, Take Home Books, written reports and open days.

Individual portfolios are used by all teachers in the school to report on student progress in Term 3. Information nights and reports (term 1), three way interviews (Term 2) and Reports in Term 4. Translators are supplied for NESB students. Teachers provide term overviews outlining SACSA requirements and assessment techniques.

Students are also involved in self-assessment and Parent/Caregivers are encouraged to add comments in portfolios.

The school was in the Data for Learning Project, and is now in the Innovation Strand of the Moving Forward with SACSA Program. We collect data for literacy and numeracy to allocate Standards in September. A sound knowledge of SACSA Outcomes is part of T and D for the year with all teachers reporting against the Outcomes in English and Maths. A coordinator has been appointed to facilitate Professional Development and developing ongoing procedures for this program. This program continues in 2006.

In order to have a meaningful context for assessment and data collection the school is developing a School Portfolio and the Coordinator will oversee this development in conjunction with the assessment and data collection process.

- Special needs

:Special needs are met in a variety of ways including flexible student behaviour managements structures and processes; Special Ed (teacher and SSO support), Special Grants, ESL support and LAP.

- :Special curriculum features

:Gymnastics is a focus at the school. All students learn gymnastics. Class teachers are expected to participate actively in the lessons. Teachers learn how

to conduct gymnastic lessons and are expected to take them on their own as needs demand. Students display their skills at events such as Xsite, the Marion Learning Festival, our Annual Gym Assembly, school demonstrations etc.

Gymnastics Focus Classes

As well as a whole school focus, two classes have been established to specifically concentrate on Gymnastics at an elite level. These students are part of a program called Gym-JETS. The Gym-JETS is a joint program of Gymnastics SA and Ascot Park R-7 Gymnastics Focus School. The Focus classes have been specifically established to support high performance gymnasts. To be selected into the full-time program, primary school children are required to attend the Gym Focus Class at Ascot Park. Students are grouped Year 2 to 4 and 5 to 7. The ultimate aim of the program is to produce gymnasts of national ranking who will represent Australia in international competitions whilst providing a high quality primary academic and social learning program based at the Ascot Park R-7 Gymnastics Focus School.

- **Joint programs**

:Marion Council library is adjacent to the school and is used regularly by many classes. Ascot Park is also a member of The Marion Alliance which is a cluster of schools including, Clovelly Park, Marion P.S., Forbes PS, Hamilton Secondary College and Ascot Park, Oaklands Estate and Mitchell Park Kindergartens.

5. Sporting Activities

:Sports Day is held annually and reflects the school PE program.

There is a vibrant after hours sports team program facilitated by the Gym staff member. After hours team sports in local competitions rely on parent support for coaching and transport. Staff members are encouraged to assist parents with a sport. eg communication, practise etc.

Students participate in SAPSASA sports – athletics, cross-country, cricket, netball, basketball, swimming and football. Some talented students attend sports camps and country exchanges. District Sports Day is usually held at the beginning of term 4. Skill clinics are organised to visit the school when available.

Other entered activities include: beach volleyball, rugby league, milo sports and Life Be In It activities

Swimming and aquatics.

Whole school gymnastics program.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

:Choir participate in the Primary Schools Music Festival.

Each year a special Gym Assembly is held. Community leaders, parents and students attend.

Instrumental music programs are provided at a Cluster/School level for interested students.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

8 classroom teachers including two teachers for the Gym classes and specialist teachers. 110 SSO hours. Teaching areas are large open space units converted to “flexible” teaching spaces, most with access to wet areas. Teachers are encouraged to work together and collaborate as teams
- Leadership structure

:The Leadership team consists of the Principal, DP, Counsellor, Coordinator and Admin/Finance Officer. There is a representative Management Team for “nuts and bolts” matters and all teachers are expected to join one of three groups that oversees the implementation of the school priorities. The PAC meets regularly and is a major decision making body.
- Staff support systems

An induction program is organised. OHS&W structures and processes are used to maintain a healthy work environment. A Grievance procedure for staff is published. Unit/team meetings are held regularly. Staff contribute to the agenda for staff meetings. Performance Management processes that facilitate feedback to staff that is relevant and useful are being developed.
- Staff utilisation policies

:Each year staff members are consulted about preferred roles etc. The PAC meets about the deployment of staff. Decision-making takes into account school priorities, staff skills and needs, DECS guidelines, resources available.
- Access to special staff

:Staff can access a range of support services to assist with students with disabilities eg GO, speech therapist, hearing/visual impairment support teachers. Currently the school counsellor can be consulted about student behaviour management issues and resources such as CAMHS, Behaviour Support Unit staff etc can be contacted for assistance in meeting student needs. Some ESL support is available at the school. A pianist is employed to assist with choir. HPI is occasionally available via Grants.
- Incentives

:Additional transfer points reflect the complexity of the school.

Current Placement Points	Base	Complexity	Total
2005	1.0	2.0	3.0.

8. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

:The school was opened in 1926. It was rebuilt in 1974. The school is basically two large, single storey, solid red brick buildings. Within each are single classrooms that can be converted to 2 or 3 teacher units. Most rooms have access to wet areas. There is a Resource Centre, Computing room, Drama/multipurpose room, withdrawal rooms, and school activity room. large oval, 3 adventure playground areas, netball, basketball courts.

Ascot Park Primary School now shares space with Kilparrin Teaching and Assessment centre and South Australian School for Vision Impaired. These 2 schools collocated to this site in 2005.

- **Specialist facilities**
Large activity rooms, Marion Library adjacent to school, resource centre and computing room, Family and LAP coordination room and Out of Hours School Care and Vacation Care.
- **Staff facilities**
:Staffroom, adjacent toilets. Teacher preparation rooms. Shower.
- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
:Ramps into classroom blocks, disabled persons toilet, carpark.
- **Access to bus transport**
:Bus stop outside school on Marion Road, train station 0.5 km. The School Council owns a bus used daily to transport elite gym students to Marion Recreation Centre for training. Also available for excursions etc. Staff are encouraged to have a bus license.
- **Other**
:Warradale Child Care Centre adjacent to school. Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) 3:10-6:10 each day run by School Council. Vacation Care is run each holiday break.

9. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**
:School Council.
Staff meeting.
SSO meeting.
Management meeting.
Year Level meetings.
PAC.
Student decision making through the VOK Group
A decision-making process for use at staff meetings has been documented and is used.
- **Regular publications**
:A fortnightly Newsletter. Gym Gazette produced regularly by gym class. The Staff handbook is given to all staff.
- **Other communication**
:Daybook, Update (staff internal weekly bulletin), planner board in staffroom, meeting minutes, Assembly.
- **School financial position**
Options for fundraising at the school are limited.
Currently the school fee for students is \$166.00.

A Budget Committee oversees the development of the budget annually. Budget managers oversee the spending. The Finance Committee meets each term to monitor spending.

10. Local Community

- General characteristics
 - :A very interesting and varied community. A mix of nationalities, rental and purchase properties, reasonably high transience and some families who have attended Ascot Park PS for several generations. Unemployment levels vary and the relatively high School Card component reflects the overall needs of the school community. Parent and community involvement in the LAP program, after hours sports, classrooms etc.
 - The school has a large Oval, which is regularly used by community groups particularly cricket and baseball clubs.
 - A number of community organisations use the school facilities for out of hours activities. These include karate clubs, religious groups, and language school.
- Feeder schools
 - :Ascot Park Kindergarten, Oaklands Estate Kindy, Mitchell Park Kindy.
- Other local care and educational facilities
 - :Warradale childcare facility is next to the school. Preschools mentioned above. Hamilton Secondary College and Pasadena High Schools are the closest Secondary schools.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - :Park Holme Shopping Centre is a 5-minute walk, Westfield Marion is a 5-minute drive. The Castle Plaza at Edwardstown is 10 minutes away and Glenelg is 10 minutes drive away.
- Connecting Families Program
 - In conjunction with the City of Marion the school is part of the Strengthening Families Program. This is a Commonwealth funded project that aims to develop a strong sense of educational community within young families. Activities include family workshops, play gym activities, discussion groups and general support for young families in dealing with issues around parenting and skilling for future schooling. A worker is at the school 2 days a week and facilitates all activities.
- Other local facilities
 - :Marion Library across the road.
 - Marion swimming pool.
 - Marion Recreation Centre.
 - Tennis courts within walking distance.
 - Urban camp at Warradale Primary School.
 - An Arabic Language Schools operate at the school on Saturday mornings.
- Local Government body
 - :Marion City Council.