

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Updated: 2025

School Number: 0379

School Name: Reynella Primary School

School Overview

Reynella Primary School is a state co-educational school located 22 km south of the Adelaide CBD. Approximately 30% of our students are school card holders. We are classified as Category 5 for disadvantage and currently have 410 students across 16 classes. With a mid-year Reception intake, enrolments are expected to rise to approximately 440 students in Term 3.

Our school provides a happy, collaborative educational setting where students play an active role in their own learning. We offer a rich and safe learning environment that supports all students to be successful in learning and life—developing powerful lifelong learners and active, informed citizens.

We maintain a strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy, encouraging students to think creatively and critically and to use learning technologies effectively. Our students are explicitly taught about thinking and learning through our Mindsets for Learning: Resilience, Reflection, Focus, Responsibility, and Collaboration.

In 2025, we implemented Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) to establish a consistent language and philosophy around behaviour and to collectively define our school's vision and values in line with our community's expectations.

Our whole school agreements—Attentive Listening, Mutual Respect, Safety, Personal Best, Appreciation and Acknowledgement—underpin our positive approach to developing responsible citizenship across the school.

We promote student agency through opportunities for influence within and beyond the classroom. Five Student Action Teams—Environment, Communication, Citizenship, Wellbeing, and STEM—meet regularly to contribute to school life.

Community and parent involvement is actively encouraged as we work together to enhance student learning and development.

1. General Information

- **Principal:** Chris Tippet
- **Deputy Principal:** Anthony Parina
- **Senior Leader – Innovative Pedagogies:** Jen McEvoy
- **Student Wellbeing Leader:** Fiona Brown
- **Year of Opening:** 1858 (original), 1990 (current site)
- **Address:** 55–63 Concord Drive, Old Reynella, SA 5161
- **Partnership:** Panalatinga
- **Location:** 22 km from Adelaide GPO

- **Phone:** (08) 8381 1493
- **Fax:** (08) 8322 2939
- **Website:** www.reynellaps.sa.edu.au
- **Email:** dl.0379info@schools.sa.edu.au
- **Child Parent Centre:** No (Community Childcare Centre located next door)
- **OSHC Service:** YMCA (6:30am–6:30pm); Vaccare also available

February FTE Enrolment Data

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Reception	87	48	52	52	49
Year 1	75	86	55	50	54
Year 2	80	74	82	58	48
Year 3	70	75	74	82	53
Year 4	66	63	71	70	77
Year 5	74	61	62	69	63
Year 6	59	72	56	61	66
Year 7	37	-	-	-	-
Total	548	479	452	442	410

Student Demographics (2025)

- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Students (ATSI): 16
- Students with disabilities: 25
- Students from EALD background: 19
- Children in Care: 14

Staffing (as at February 2025)

- **Leadership:**
 - Principal (1.0 A5)
 - Deputy Principal (1.0 B3)
 - Senior Leader (0.6 B2)
 - Student Wellbeing Leader (1.0)
- **Teaching Staff:**
 - 19.4 FTE including:
 - Performing Arts (1.0)
 - PE (1.0)
 - French (0.6)
- **Support Staff:**
 - SSO1 × 6

- SSO2 × 4
- SSO3 × 1
- Admin Officer (37.5 hours)
- Business Manager (37.5 hours)
- Finance Officer (37.5 hours)
- AEW (30 hours)
- IT Technician (21 hours)
- Library Technician (28 hours)

Transport and Partnerships

- **Public Transport:** Accessible with a nearby interchange (~5-minute walk)
- **Special Arrangements:** Works closely with Panalatinga Partnership schools and preschools and the Noarlunga 2 Portfolio

2. Students and Their Welfare

General Characteristics

Our student body includes a diverse mix of learners with varying needs. We are committed to inclusivity and equity, supporting students from a variety of backgrounds with appropriate programs and interventions.

Student Wellbeing Programs

Led by our full-time Student Wellbeing Leader and Pastoral Care Worker, these programs focus on:

- Attendance and engagement
- Relationship building
- Crisis response and de-escalation
- Referrals and intervention

Student Support and Intervention

We implement Wave-based intervention strategies:

- **Wave 2:**
 - MiniLit & MacqLit
 - Junior Primary Phonics Boosters
 - Grow Your Mind
- **Wave 3:** Intensive 1:1 programs aligned to One Plan goals

We partner with In-School Psychology to address mental health needs of students and their families.

Student Management

Our Student Behaviour Education Policy is grounded in:

- **5 School Agreements:**
 - Attentive Listening

- Mutual Respect
- Safety
- Personal Best
- Appreciation and Acknowledgement
- Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like them to treat you
- PBL, Restorative Practices, Community Circles, and Zones of Regulation underpin our approach
- Support is also accessed via Department for Education Behaviour Coaches

Student Agency

Our school promotes student voice and influence through:

- A strong Culture of Thinking
- Design of rich learning experiences with critical, creative thinking
- **Student Action Teams:**
 - Communication
 - STEM
 - Environment
 - Wellbeing
 - Learning

Each team is supported by a leadership or teaching staff member.

Special Programs

- **Mindsets for Learning:** Resilience, Collaboration, Reflection, Focus, Responsibility
- **Project-Based Learning:** Integrated STEM via the Solution Cycle using design thinking
- **STEM Space:** *The Mae Jemison Mind Hub*
- **Buddy Class Program:** Cross-age peer collaboration and community building

3. Key School Policies

Site Learning Plan Priorities:

Area of Impact: Effective Learners

Goals:

- Identify and reduce learning gaps
- Improve engagement
- Strengthen literacy development
- Foster a predictable, supportive, and safe learning environment

Mission Culture:

- Shared goals and responsibilities
- High expectations and willingness to take risks
- Continuous improvement
- Caring, celebration and humour
- High-level communication and organisation
- Mutual trust and support among staff, students, and families

- High morale and appreciation

4. Curriculum

At Reynella Primary School, we teach all eight Learning Areas of the Australian Curriculum to ensure a well-rounded and engaging education for every child. These areas include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)
- The Arts
- Technologies
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages (French)

Supporting Diverse Learning Needs

We're committed to meeting the needs of every student. Many of our students receive support through the Inclusive Education Support Program (IESP). Those with identified disabilities have a *One Plan*—a personalised online learning plan that outlines goals and support strategies. One Plans are developed in partnership with families and reviewed each term to ensure they remain relevant and effective.

Students who need extra help with their learning are identified through ongoing assessment and data analysis. These students are supported through targeted *Wave 2* intervention programs. Where additional, individualised support is needed and students meet IESP eligibility, they receive tailored support from our dedicated Student Support Team, aligned closely to their One Plan goals.

Specialist Subjects

Students benefit from expert instruction in the following curriculum areas:

- **French (Reception to Year 7):** Taught by a part-time specialist teacher in a dedicated classroom. All students receive one 45-minute lesson per week.
- **Physical Education (R–6):** Delivered by two specialist PE teachers. All students have two 45-minute sessions per week.
- **Performing Arts (R–7):** Includes Music, Dance, and Drama, taught by a specialist teacher across two 45-minute lessons weekly.

Our Teaching Approach

We believe that great teaching blends *explicit instruction*—teaching skills and knowledge directly—with *inquiry-based learning*, where students explore and apply their understanding in real-world contexts. This balanced approach helps students master the fundamentals and develop critical thinking skills.

Families are kept informed through formal written reports at the end of Terms 2 and 4. We also provide opportunities to connect through an *Acquaintance Evening* early in Term 1, and *Parent-Teacher Interviews* later in Term 1 and again in Term 3. Increasingly, our staff also offer *student-led conferences* to encourage student voice and ownership of learning

5. Sporting Activities

Sport is a vibrant part of life at Reynella Primary. We offer a range of after-hours sports teams, with Soccer and Basketball being especially popular across all age groups.

Our students also participate in SAPSASA competitions and have enjoyed consistent success in sports such as Netball, Cross Country, and Australian Rules Football.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Music and choir are highly valued and well supported at our school. We have both Junior and Senior Choirs, which rehearse weekly and perform at school assemblies and local events. Highlights of the year include performances at the Primary Schools' Festival of Music (Term 3) and the Southern Music Festival (Term 4).

Instrumental music is another strong feature of our school. Year 3 students begin with the recorder, which often leads to further opportunities to learn instruments through the Department for Education's Instrumental Music Program in Years 4–6.

Our annual school musical is a celebration of the Performing and Visual Arts, showcasing student talent and creativity. The year ends with a family musical concert, a much-loved event that brings our community together in celebration.

7. Staff and Staff Welfare

Staff Profile

Reynella Primary School has a stable staff team comprising a balance of early-career and experienced educators.

Leadership Structure

The school benefits from a high-functioning, collaborative leadership team, consisting of a Principal, Deputy Principal, Senior Leader, and Student Wellbeing Leader. This team plays a vital role in the successful management of the school.

Collaboration and Support

A strong culture of collaboration exists across staff. Teachers work in Learning Communities, supported by aligned non-instruction time (NIT) to enable co-planning. Staff contribute to various committees including WHS, Teaching and Learning, Wellbeing, Social, Environment, Sports, and Learning Technologies.

Performance Development

Performance development is aligned with Department for Education policy, with formal review meetings conducted twice annually.

Staff Utilisation

Support staff include a full-time Business Manager, Secretary, and Finance Officer. Six part-time SSOs support classroom programs, library, ICT, and targeted interventions. An ACEO (30 hours/week) supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and a Groundsman maintains the school grounds.

Access to Specialist Staff

Through Student Support Services, the school accesses a Speech Pathologist, Behaviour Coach, Educational Psychologist, Attendance Officer, and Special Educator. These professionals form part of

the Student Review Team (SRT), meeting each term. The Deputy Principal also liaises with private providers (including NDIS-funded services) for additional student support.

9. School Facilities

Buildings and Grounds

The school, now over 35 years old, features brick buildings on landscaped, undulating grounds. Buildings are named after locally significant identities: Reynell, Carew, Morphett, and Kaurana. Eight modern classrooms, known as 'Billabong', were built in 2010 and include high-level technology and a shared learning street. Significant upgrades to the Administration building were completed in 2018, with internal refurbishments of Billabong in 2021.

Classroom Features

All classrooms are equipped with acoustic ceilings and sound-field systems. Each room is serviced by reverse cycle air conditioning. Modern wet-area classrooms are arranged in blocks of four, each with withdrawal spaces and connected by enclosed corridors and covered walkways.

Specialist Teaching Areas

These include:

- Physical Education in the Hall
- French and Music rooms
- Central Library and Computer Room
- STEM facility: *The Mae Jemison Mind Hub*
- Activity Hall (air-conditioned)
- OSHC-dedicated building
- Courtyard and amphitheatre

Technology Integration

Every classroom features an interactive whiteboard. The school maintains a 1:1 student-to-device ratio. Junior Primary uses iPads; Primary students use Chromebooks with access to the full Google for Education Suite.

Student Facilities

Facilities include an oval, soccer pitch, junior and senior play equipment, netball and basketball courts, indoor basketball, and an enclosed garden. The Covered Outdoor Learning Area (32m x 18m) supports all-weather physical activities and play.

Canteen

The canteen complies with *Right Bite* guidelines, selling only approved food items. Staff prepare fresh, healthy meals daily. The canteen also services Flaxmill and Pimpala Primary Schools and is managed by a Canteen Manager and Assistant.

Staff Facilities

A large staffroom includes a courtyard and meeting annexe. Staff have access to a dedicated workroom and three wireless-enabled printer/photocopiers located in Admin, Library, and Billabong.

Accessibility

The school is fully accessible via gently sloping paths and ramps, with disabled toilets, car parking,

and shower facilities. Regular public transport is available nearby, and private buses are used for excursions.

10. School Operations

Decision-Making Structures

The Governing Council oversees three branches:

- **Finance Advisory Branch** (including canteen operations)
- **Governing Council** (employs canteen staff and makes key decisions and approvals)

Staff are encouraged to work towards consensus-based decisions. Per the Decision-Making Policy, staff are given at least two weeks' notice for consultation on decisions.

Information Access

All staff have access to Google Drive for documentation, including:

- Leadership, Learning Communities, and PLT resources
- Policies and procedures
- WHS and environmental documentation
- Student data, support information, and timetables
- Cold Writes, Moderation, and I Can Statements
- Meeting schedules and Staff Bulletins

Publications and Communication

- **The Grapevine:** Distributed via Audiri in Weeks 2, 5, and 10 of Term 1; Weeks 2 and 5 of Terms 2 and 3; and Weeks 2, 5, and 9 of Term 4. Also published on the school website and available in print.
- **School Facebook Page:** Used to share classroom learning stories.
- **Weekly Bulletin:** Sent to staff on Sundays and includes sections for students and staff. Items for the Bulletin are submitted by Friday COB to the Finance Officer.
- **SMS Alerts:** Used for urgent communication and absence follow-up.

11. Local Community

Community Profile

Reynella Primary is located in the Carews Fields Estate, developed on the historic Hardy's Winery site. The community is predominantly English-speaking and includes a mix of family types. A new subdivision is currently being developed nearby.

Parent and Community Involvement

The school has a strong and engaged Governing Council. Parents support in classrooms, the canteen, and library. A robust LAP program also operates within the school.

Feeder and Destination Schools

Most students come from Reynella and Mary Bywaters Kindergartens, with increasing enrolments from other local schools. Year 6 graduates typically transition to:

- Reynella East College

- Wirreanda Secondary School
- Others attend Brighton High, Mitcham Girls, Christies Beach High, Urrbrae Agricultural, Cardijn College, and Woodcroft College.

Local Services

The adjacent Reynella Community Child Care Centre offers nearby early learning support. Surrounding secondary and private schools include Reynella East College, Christies Beach, Wirreanda Secondary, Woodcroft College, Prescott College, Southern Vales Christian College, and Sunrise Christian School.

Shopping and Accessibility

The Southgate Plaza and other retail outlets are nearby. The school is easily accessible via public transport and road, including South Road and the Southern Expressway.

12. Further Comments

Reynella Primary School is the second-oldest continuously operating primary school in South Australia, established on 4 May 1858 in Peach Street, Old Reynella. The original buildings still stand today as private residences. The school moved in 1902 to Old South Road and again in 1990 to the current Carews Fields site—land historically owned by Carew Reynell, originally used for vineyards.