

RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY



Penola Primary is a community school offering students excellent educational opportunities in a safe and supportive learning environment.

Our Vision

Penola Primary School will be a supportive and progressive community where all individuals are respected and valued. Contemporary teaching practices, high expectations, and inquiry-based learning will inspire our students to become informed, compassionate, active, global citizens.



Penola Primary School

Penola Primary School has a proud tradition of serving the Penola community since 1855.

Students graduate from the school with the capacity to actively participate in and contribute to our local and global communities.

Student well-being and learning are at the core of all that we do.

The school has an outstanding record of student achievement, built on close and supportive relationships between staff, students, and parents. The curiosity, adventure, creativity, care, and sense of belonging that are evident in our learning programs, can be seen through student dispositions, values and attitudes, and learning achievement.

Feedback from students clearly indicates that they feel valued, supported, and encouraged in their learning.

Our approach is a holistic one, with a strong focus on dispositions that foster increasing independence and collaboration on the part of our students. A dedicated, caring staff works alongside students, assisting them to achieve their goals, and develop the global competencies of:

- Creative problem solving
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Character
- Citizenship

We extend an invitation to families seeking quality educational experiences in an attractive and supportive learning community, to enrol their child(ren) at Penola Primary School. Together we can make a difference.

Please contact the Principal, Anna Copping for further information:

Penola Primary School
Riddoch Street
PENOLA SA 5277

Telephone: 8737 2300

Fax: 8737 2877

Email: anna.copping393@schools.sa.edu.au

Website: www.penolaps.sa.edu.au

Map of Penola



Penola Primary School is located near the centre of Penola on Riddoch Street. The well-maintained school buildings, situated on expansive grounds, are ideally suited to children's play, and the extensive sporting programs offered to students.

The school play areas have recently undergone significant upgrades with excellent facilities.

Classrooms are spacious, readily accommodating hands-on learning programs while supporting explicit instruction. The school also has a computer suite catering for up to thirty students, class sets of iPads and laptops, a 3D printer, and specialist areas for art, music and science.

Classroom refurbishments, an outdoor learning space, and upgrade to our front office are recent additions to our school environment.

Enrolment Procedures

Enrolment at our school is an easy process.

1. School visits. Parents and children considering enrolling at the school are invited to visit the school for a guided tour and chat with our staff.
2. Students transferring from other schools can enrol by completing the necessary forms.
3. Children enrolling at school for the first time can follow the same procedure. In many cases, they will have been enrolled at the McKay Children's Centre and have taken part in the transition program. If so, they will already be familiar with our school.
4. Student intake is once per year with children turning 5 prior to May 1st eligible to begin school in that year.
5. Forms and further information are readily available from our front office.

Current fees for a full year are \$250 per student which includes books.

Uniforms can be purchased from the front office.

We do have a no hat, no play policy in Terms 1 and 4.

School Times

8:30 am—8.45am	Yard Supervision
8:45am – 10:45am	Classes Commence
10:45am – 11:10am	Recess
11:10am – 1:10pm	Classes
1:10pm – 1:20pm	Supervised eating time
1:20pm – 2:00pm	Lunch play time
2:00pm – 3:15pm	Classes
3:15pm	Dismissal

Curriculum

The school's curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum which includes subject areas such as:

- Maths
- English
- Science
- History and Social Sciences (HASS which includes Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics)
- PE and Health
- The Arts
- Technologies
- Languages (At Penola Primary this is Japanese).

Using playful pedagogies and inquiry approaches we strive to develop powerful learners who will be successful citizens ready for the ever-changing world. These align with the Global Competencies and the General Capabilities from the Australian Curriculum listed below.



Literacy

In the Australian Curriculum, students become literate as they develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to interpret and use language confidently for learning and communicating in and out of school, and for participating effectively in society. Literacy involves students listening to, reading, viewing, speaking, writing, creating oral, print, visual and digital texts, and using and modifying language for different purposes in a range of contexts.

Literacy encompasses the knowledge and skills students need to: access, understand, analyse and evaluate information; make meaning; express thoughts and emotions; present ideas and opinions; interact with others; and participate in activities at school and in their lives beyond school. Success in any learning area depends on being able to use the significant, identifiable, and distinctive literacy that is important for learning, as well as being representative of the content of that learning area.

Becoming literate is not simply about knowledge and skills. Certain behaviours and dispositions assist students to become effective learners that are confident and motivated to use their literacy skills broadly. Many of these behaviours and dispositions are also identified and supported in other general capabilities. They include: students managing their own learning to be self-sufficient; working harmoniously with others; being open to ideas, opinions and texts from and about diverse cultures; returning to tasks to improve and enhance their work; and being prepared to question the meanings and assumptions in texts.



Numeracy

In the Australian Curriculum, students become numerate as they develop the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across other learning areas at school and in their lives. Numeracy encompasses the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that students need to use mathematics in a wide range of situations. It involves students recognising and understanding the role of mathematics in the world and having the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully.

When teachers identify numeracy demands across the curriculum, students have opportunities to transfer their mathematical knowledge and skills to contexts outside the mathematics classroom. These opportunities help students recognise the interconnected nature of mathematical knowledge, other learning areas and the wider world.

Critical and Creative Thinking

In the Australian Curriculum, students develop capability in critical and creative thinking as they learn to: generate and evaluate knowledge; clarify concepts and ideas; seek possibilities; consider alternatives; and solve problems. Critical and creative thinking involves students thinking broadly and deeply using skills, behaviours and dispositions such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination, and innovation in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school.

Responding to the challenges of the twenty-first century – with its complex environmental, social and economic pressures – requires young people to be creative, innovative, enterprising, and adaptable, with the motivation, confidence, and skills to use critical and creative thinking purposefully.

Dispositions such as inquisitiveness, reasonableness, intellectual flexibility, open- and fair-mindedness, a readiness to try new ways of doing things and consider alternatives, and persistence, promote and are enhanced by critical and creative thinking.

You can access the rolling curriculum on www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

STEM and ICT

STEM is a curriculum based on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. At Penola Primary we teach this as a specialist subject as well as integrating it into everyday lessons. Students engage in a range of STEM-based learning, including, but not limited to, design, construction, hypothesising, experiments, coding, design and 3D printing. Through STEM, students develop key skills in:

- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Critical analysis
- Teamwork
- Independent thinking
- Initiative
- Communication
- Digital literacy



Employer demand for STEM qualifications and skills is high, and will continue to increase in the future. Currently, 75 percent of jobs in the fastest growing industries require workers with STEM skills.

To support STEM and ICT, Penola Primary has a computer room with 30 computers, a 3D printer, a computer hub in the library, a class set of IPADs, interactive whiteboards in every class and over the next few years every class from Years 3-7 will have a class set of laptops (the Year 6/7 and 5/6 classes already have a set each). With the recent installation of a fibre optic network, we also offer high speed internet.

Intervention and Extension

Both intervention and extension programs run within our school. Literacy and numeracy intervention programs are tailored to individual needs and evidence-based programs are used to support student development. These programs are coordinated by the well-being coordinator and facilitated by the SSOs who are trained in delivering intervention and well-being programs. We also have a strong focus on providing academic stretch for those students requiring extension. Extension opportunities are built into every Literacy and Numeracy lesson.

The Song Room

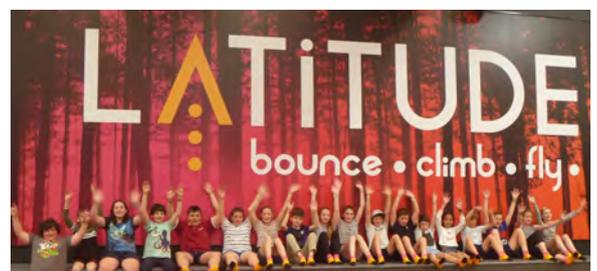
Penola Primary has been selected to be part of the Song Room program – Transformational Learning through Creativity. The Song Room is a foundation focussed on arts education and the involvement of our school with the Song Room is endorsed by the Music Strategy within the Department for Education. The program will work on building classroom teacher capacity in delivering music and arts education, and will have a dedicated teaching artist working with teachers and the school. The program will be funded for three years. Research points to developing music and arts skills in our students having a significant impact on overall academic success, and well-being.



- Analysis of NAPLAN tests prove that children’s literacy jumped an entire school year with The Song Room
- Almost 100% of children participating in The Song Room achieved literacy results above national minimum standards
- Science and technology grades were significantly higher to the tune of an extra six months learning for children in The Song Room
- Children in The Song Room programs had higher academic performance and social-emotional wellbeing compared to children without that access.

Camps and Excursions

An outstanding camps and excursion program is available to students. These range from sleepovers or short camps in the early years, up to week long camps in Ballarat and Adelaide. Destinations are negotiated with parents and children. The camp program is subsidised by a range of fundraising activities such as: class based events, raffles, tree planting, wire dropping, and selling firewood.



Students also have the opportunity to attend at least one professional performance per term.

Canteen

The canteen provides a range of freshly made snacks for purchase during recess Monday and Tuesday and recess and lunchtime Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Catering for gluten free and other allergies, the canteen sells homemade lunches for reasonable prices. **Lunch orders** submitted in the morning are available **Wednesday to Friday** and can be ordered via the QKR app. The canteen utilises volunteers and is managed by a part-time manager.

Choir/Music

Penola Primary traditionally has an enthusiastic choir that participates in the Adelaide and South East Choir Festivals. Students are trained by members of staff and give regular performances at school events and for local groups. The choir practices are held in school time.

Private music (woodwind and piano) and singing lessons are offered on site.



Communication

Communication with parents is through informal contact, the newsletter, website, school stream, email, and social media such as Facebook. Classes also interact with parents through apps such as SeeSaw which allows teachers to share your child's learning with you as it happens.

Information about student learning is shared through information sessions, a written report, interviews with report, and direct contact as needed. We believe this is a two-way process that has positive outcomes for all concerned.

Community Involvement

Penola Primary School is an integral part of our local community and is very supportive of community initiatives. The school's parent bodies and student representative council often play a major role in a broad range of community schemes, global missions, and charitable projects, such as Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Pink Up Penola, Do It For Dolly, Clean Up Australia, Lucindale Field Days, Wagner's Rose Day, Penola & Coonawarra Arts Festival, Penola Show, National Reconciliation Week, and many more.



Links to Surrounding Schools

Penola Primary School has very close links to both the Kindergarten (McKay Children's Centre) and Penola High School. Strong transition programs operate between each of the sites to assist with the beginning of school and the move to secondary school. The school utilises the community library regularly, with high school staff presenting lessons and assisting children around the library. Specialist Science and Art lessons are also often taken at the high school, to utilise their staff and facilities.



Junior Primary staff work with the kindy staff to support student learning by combining for activities, mentor programs, participating in an educator exchange and transition program, and a big breakfast to welcome new families. Staff at both sites have worked together to establish shared agreements, including how children learn and their view of the child.

These practices ensure students transition to and from Penola Primary School with success.



Out of Hours School Care

Out of Hours School Care is provided on location in our art room. Bookings can be made by contacting McKay Children's Centre on 8737 2535.

Parent Participation

Parent involvement in the life of the school is warmly welcomed. Parents usually choose to support their child in the following ways:

- Governing Council and Parent Club
- Canteen
- Listening to students read
- Camp and excursion supervision
- Sports coaching
- Classroom assistance

We believe learning is enhanced when parents, students and staff work together. Our school is a community school where this team effort works with great success.

School Sport

A number of after-school sports such as football, basketball and cricket are offered to students. Information about these is provided prior to each season.



Student Behaviour Management

Penola Primary School has a strong values-based learning program. The school's approach to behaviour management is based on a trusting relationship between students and staff that is well supported by parents. Students are supported to take responsibility for their own behaviours.

Parents enrolling their child will be provided with a copy of the school's Behaviour Guidelines that has been developed with the input of our students.

South Australian Primary Schools' Amateur Sports Association (Sapsasa)

Sapsasa is a program run by the DfE and School Sport SA that provides a broad range of sporting opportunities for primary aged children. It also provides a pathway from school sport to state level sport. Sapsasa is generally for students in Years 6 and 7, but some sports such as athletics, cross country and swimming are made available to children as young as ten. Participation in Sapsasa teams is considered part of the school program with all accompanying rights & responsibilities, and our students are strongly encouraged to try out for Sapsasa teams.



Penola Primary School boasts a very proud history in both Sapsasa and state teams. Participation in Sapsasa also has close links to the academic curriculum, as well as the personal and social capabilities. Our school sports coordinator, Tony O'Connell, is also the district Sapsasa convenor and he can answer any queries that you may have.



Sports

Student learning is enhanced by physical fitness. Consequently, Penola Primary offers student access to daily fitness sessions, P.E. lessons for skill development, access to sports equipment and spacious grounds for recreational play. We also have swimming lessons midway through Term 4, Athletics in Terms 1 & 4, Cross Country in Term 2, and school sponsored sports after hours. Expert tuition in a range of sports is provided each term through the Sporting Schools initiative.



School swimming and athletics carnivals are designed to enhance participation and foster friendly house team rivalry. Students compete in selection trials prior to these events so students of similar ability compete against each other. This has resulted in almost 100% participation levels on the competitive days.



Student Representative Council

Student voice is important and highly valued at PPS. Students can influence school operations individually or work through the Student Representative Council. The SRC has run charity events, socials, identified and funded areas of improvement, and led assemblies. The SRC presents at governing council meetings once a term to discuss what they have been doing and to propose future projects. The SRC executives apply for their positions to a staff panel at the beginning of each year, whilst class representatives (Year 4-7) are elected by their peers.



Sustainability Program

The students are involved in a number of sustainability programs at our school.

These include:

- Vegetable and herb garden
- Chook shed
- Recycling and compost program
- Youth Environment Group
- School Garden Projects



To support our sustainability program all children have the opportunity to participate in Garden Groups where they work in the garden and pick produce to cook with or sell. Some students have the opportunity to participate in 'Matt's Crew'. This provides real-life, contextual learning experiences with Literacy and Numeracy embedded. Their projects have included the construction of the Loose Parts Shed, working in the garden at Pinchunga, designing and constructing nature play spaces, and numerous other projects.

