



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 01/23

School number: 0931

School name: Penola High School



School Profile Text

Penola High School, a small rural high school, was established in 1962, and is situated in the oldest town in the South East of South Australia. The town borders the Coonawarra wine district, renowned internationally for its wines, and is central to the blue gum forestry industry.

The school prides itself on offering a broad variety of subjects, either at school or through other agencies such as Open Access and our local WREN network. The school is one of 6 regional high schools sharing a vocational education focus, Hospitality and Tourism being our specialty. The student catchment area consists of Penola, Coonawarra, Kalangadoo and Nangwarry townships as well as farming communities within the district.

Penola High School is a South Australian government school that has been enriching the lives of its students through dedication to the school's motto of **nurturing individual success**. The school provides stimulating and quality learning to meet the educational needs of students of all ability levels, in a secure and caring environment.

As a small school, we have the unique opportunity to know each and every student and family, enabling us to continually support them to achieve their chosen pathways to adulthood and create a sense of community and belonging.

1. General

School Principal:	Steve Carli-Seebohm
Deputy Principal:	Hillary Trotter
Year of Opening:	1962
Postal Address:	43 Cameron Street, Penola SA 5277
Location Address:	43 Cameron Street, Penola SA 5277
Department for Education Region:	South East Coast & Vines Partnership
Geographical location:	400km from Adelaide
Telephone number:	08 8737 0000
Fax number:	08 8737 0050
School website address:	www.penolahs.sa.edu.au
School email address:	dl.0931.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Child Parent Centre:	N/A
Out of School Hours Care:	N/A

February FTE student enrolment		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Secondary	Special, NAP, Ungraded etc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20 (Year 7)
	Year 8	27.0	27	22	18	23
	Year 9	20.0	22	26	21	14
	Year 10	19.0	18	19	24	20
	Year 11	21.66	12	16	18	21.6
	Year 12	11.4	14	12	15	16
	Year 12 plus	0.0	7	-	-	-
TOTAL		99.06	101	95	96	114.6
School Card Percentage		39.2%	37%	40%	30.03%	43%
NESB Enrolment		2	1	1	1	1
Aboriginal Enrolment		4	4	5	4	5

Student enrolment trends:

Penola High School is a Category 4 Index of Disadvantage site with an enrolment of 108 students at the end of 2022. Over the past 5 years enrolments have been stable at approximately 95-100. With the inclusion of Year 7s from 2022 onwards the school population will rise to approximately 110.

Staffing numbers (as at February census):

The leadership team comprises a Principal, Deputy Principal, and 1 Coordinator. The teaching staff of 15 includes 1 Teacher-Librarian. Of these, 11 are permanent. We have 7 permanent and 2 temporary ancillary staff, who provide administration, classroom and individual support and a groundsman who completes the staff team.

Public transport access:

The community is served by a daily Penola to Adelaide bus service. The Mount Gambier Airport is a 40-minute drive away, with daily flights to Adelaide and Melbourne. There is no local public transport.

Special site arrangements:

Students from other government secondary schools come to Penola High School for subject delivery in the senior school, while, in a reciprocal arrangement, some of our students attend other sites within the district to receive curriculum delivery. This is part of a secondary cluster arrangement, (Wattle Range Education Network - WREN), maximising staff expertise in the district and broadening curriculum opportunities for students.

The school has a joint usage agreement with the Wattle Range Council for the use of the stadium for sporting activities and Physical Education lessons.

The town's community library service is housed at, and staffed by Penola High School, opening times include out of school hours.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

Students are drawn from a radius of approximately 25kms from the school (60% of our students travel by bus). The Year 7 intake is drawn from Mary MacKillop Memorial School, Penola Primary School, Nangwarry Primary School and Kalangadoo Primary School in the normal catchment area. Approximately 40% of the students are in receipt of school card.

Student well-being programs

A 'Learning for Life' program operates for 1 lesson per week where students develop a range of life skills and engage with social education topics such as cyber safety and sexual education. Year level organisers have general oversight of the specific year levels and meet with home group teachers and parents to discuss common practices, and to monitor and support individual student's achievement and wellbeing.

Penola High School recognises the importance of ensuring incoming students are thoroughly prepared for life in a secondary school. Our transition programme consists of visits by teaching staff to our feeder primary schools, as well as visits by the primary school students to Penola High School. In addition, there are many collaborative activities between the sites that familiarise staff and students with each other, and provide for a more seamless transition to High School.

Each year, students and staff collaborate to organise a night tour of Penola High School, showcasing what the school has to offer for prospective students and their families. This successful practice has continued, and is complemented by school tours which run within, and outside of school hours, by leadership.

Student support offered

The wellbeing of students at Penola High School is at the centre of everything we do. The size and nature of Penola High School ensures that all students are individually known by all staff. Each member of staff takes a personal interest in the education and wellbeing of all students, with information about how individual students best learn being regularly shared amongst teachers. SSOs in the classroom help to ensure students are appropriately supported.

The wellbeing team consists of leadership, 1 student case manager and 1 pastoral care worker, with a school mental health practitioner joining the school in 2023. The wellbeing team plays a key role in connecting students to a variety of services within the school including: student learning support, special needs programs, social emotional development and wellbeing programs. Other services include: CAMHS, Headspace, SAPOL, Department for Education support services, and psychology and counselling practices.

We support families struggling with attendance through attendance follow up that identifies attendance issues. We meet and collaborate with students and families and devise solutions for improvement. This may include mentoring programs and alternative timetables.

Student management

The school community has always had a clear focus on maintaining a caring, secure and safe environment, in which the rights of all students to learn and all teachers to teach are supported and protected.

Our processes are based on the belief that behaviour issues are best dealt with in partnership. The leadership team, together with families and staff, promote positive behaviour to address any inappropriate student actions. This is achieved through strategies such as: restorative practices, Berry Street Education model, explicit teaching, modelling, conflict resolution, logical consequences and referrals to appropriate support services.

Student government

Student leadership is a key focus area of student development at Penola High School. Students elect their Student Representative Council representatives from their home groups, with senior presidents being elected through an application and interview process managed by leadership. The SRC meets regularly in Learning for Life time, representing and promoting student interests and opinions, as well as providing a communication link between the student body and staff. The SRC also makes recommendations concerning school procedures, organises activities including fundraisers and contributes to facilities for the benefit of students.

Special programmes

One Plans and agreed learning programs exist for students at risk and these are supported through the use of SSO hours for individuals.

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies 2022 - 2024

All stakeholders (staff, students and parents) were involved in the process of determining the strategic direction and improvement goals of the school for the 2022 - 2024 period.

All teaching staff participate in analysing data and reviewing goals and targets. They determine the challenges of practice and actions that are required to meet these targets.

Vision Statement:

Through continuous improvement, Penola High School aspires to prepare students for their future as positive, resilient and creative members of their community.

We envision a safe, collaborative learning environment with innovative and responsive teaching across the curriculum.

By maintaining high expectations of ourselves and other, we aim to ensure all students and families are engaged and empowered to meet the challenges of education, work and life in a challenging global environment.

Goals:

- 1. Increase student achievement in Reading through differentiated curriculum delivery in teaching and learning**
- 2. Increase student achievement in Numeracy through differentiated curriculum delivery in teaching and learning**

ESR Directives:

- 1. Improve student achievement for all learners by reaching agreement and developing high-impact teaching strategies**
- 2. Support continuous improvement of student achievement by strengthening and connecting performance development and professional learning processes to enhance evidence-based teacher reflection of practice**
- 3. Promote and strengthen a school culture of high expectations for all through a shared commitment and responsibility to continuous improvement**

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings

The comprehensive curriculum includes Year 8-10 programmes in the 8 areas of learning as determined by the Australian Curriculum. Japanese is the language taught.

In 2023 the school will consist of a dedicated Middle School (Years 7, 8 and 9) and Senior Secondary (Years 10, 11 and 12). The curriculum in the Middle School will be clustered into core teaching areas; Global Perspectives (including English, History, Geography), and How the World Works (including Science and Maths). In addition, Year 7 and 8 students will engage in taster programs in Japanese, Art, Home Economics, Agriculture, Design and Technology and Digital Technology. Year 9 and 10 students have their core subjects and are able to select electives such as Agriculture, Design and Technology, Home Economics, Art, Japanese and Digital Technology.

A comprehensive SACE curriculum is delivered onsite or through accessing neighbouring schools and Open Access College.

Open Access/Distance Education provision

For students who are unable to have their curriculum needs met on site there are many options available through Open Access.

Students can complete their learning through an offline course not offered at the school. They share a phone/video linkup lesson once a week with their teacher and other students from across the state who are completing the same course. They work independently for the rest of the week on the work that is sent to them via the Open Access College in Adelaide. Penola High School offers a mentoring program by connecting Open Access students to a teacher mentor in the school.

Special Needs

The Deputy Principal and Coordinator support Special Needs students with the assistance of an SSO and individually prepared learning programs. They are supported by Special Educators from the Mt Gambier Education Office.

Special Curriculum features:

ICT

All students in Year 7-9 are issued with a Chromebook, and Years 10-12 with a loan laptop for their exclusive school use. Staff are also issued with a laptop. Commonly used programs such as Microsoft Office, Adobe and Photoshop as well as internet access exist on both the curriculum and administration networks. Staff are trained in the use of Google Classroom to support 'virtual classrooms' and the IT committee actively seeks ways in which technology can be used to enhance learning in a 21st century environment. The school has purchased 30 iPads for use in classrooms and to support the learning. Students in STEM and IT classes make great use of our 3D printer. A small suite of high end desktops are available for students using CAD and other high resource programs, within our STEM space.

Flexible Learning Options

Students are able to undertake learning via a range of flexible models in addition to VET, Open Access and local delivery. Some of these options include Integrated Learning, Community Studies and Australian School Based Apprenticeships. Each of these is student initiated and directed learning options that require students to negotiate and organise their learning in consultation with staff.

Vocational Education: Traineeships and apprenticeships

Students complete their learning through part-time or full-time school and also through on-the-job training through their workplace provider. They complete a range of modules and attend weekly or monthly depending on the course.

School based apprenticeships enable students to complete their SACE whilst getting a start on a Certificate vocational course.

The school works closely with local industry to establish work experience and traineeships/apprenticeships where a student selects this as their pathway.

Student assessment procedures and reporting

Week 5 of Terms 1 and 3: Traffic Light reporting (work habits)

Week 10 of Terms 1 and 3: Reporting with teacher comments and grades

Week 2 of Term 2: Three-way interviews

Week 10 Term 2 and Week 9 Term 4: Graded reports

Teachers encourage ongoing communication around student growth and make themselves available to work with students and parents as the need arises.

5 Sporting Activities

Penola High School students are regularly involved in a wide range of sporting activities including a traditional inter-house competition involving swimming and athletics. Students also compete against other secondary schools in the School Sport SA – South East Zone, in interschool and knock out competitions which include swimming, athletics, cross-country, football, netball and cricket. Opportunities to compete at a state level are also enabled.

6 Other Co-Curricular Activities

Penola High School actively participates in cultural and educational opportunities through participation in excursions such as the Outdoor Education Camp and World Challenge. Specific excursions relevant to individual subjects in each year level are also organised.

The school program is also supported and extended by participation in such activities as the Lions Youth of the Year, Science & Engineering Challenge, MASA Quiz Night and various debating and public speaking competitions.

Students can also be involved in the boys and girls programs, which encourage students to improve decision-making, use initiative and work as a team.

Students in Year 10 have the opportunity to participate in the Youth Opportunities Personal Learning Program, with students in younger year levels having the option of the Tumbelin Adventure Therapy program.

7 Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

At Penola High School the teaching and support staff are a dedicated, hardworking and committed team. They are actively encouraged to undertake professional development and share their experience and expertise at weekly, year level and faculty meetings.

Leadership structure

The school has a Leadership team of Principal, Deputy Principal, Coordinator (Middle School and Wellbeing) and a Year Level Organiser at each year level.

Performance development

Performance Development processes encourage reflection, development and contribution to school SIP goals, and access to feedback. Teaching staff support each other by observing each other during the year. Individuals ask colleagues to focus on a specific aspect of their work and use the feedback to build good practice. Staff meeting structures include collaborative professional development opportunities which are built into the performance development structure.

Access to special staff

Mount Gambier Education Office provides additional support through the Integrated Support Services, including access to behaviour coaches, speech pathologist, psychologists and social workers etc.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Complexity placement points

N/A

Isolation placement points

N/A

Travelling time

Penola is approximately 4 hours from Adelaide and half an hour from Mount Gambier.

Housing assistance

Government housing available.

Locality allowances

Staff teaching at Penola are eligible for locality allowance.

Relocation assistance

As per Department for Education policy.

Principal's telephone costs

As per Department for Education policy.

9. School Facilities

Penola High School was built in 1962. Both the administration and Science buildings still stand today having benefited from numerous upgrades and improvements such as painting and internal re-furbishing over the years. The new Middle School area recently commenced operation, housing new classrooms and facilities, accompanied with an added STEM space.

The Community Library, which is housed within the school's main building, was recently upgraded with a new entrance door and furniture. The library has a free internet service available to both the students and wider community, and boasts an extensive supply of reading materials for all ages, as well as a designated children's area. The library also has a multi-function meeting room available for both internal and external use.

The school has two stand-alone buildings, the original Tech Studies building houses fixed machinery, as well as an internal classroom that can be shut off from the main area. The Home Economics building has a carpeted textile classroom and a refurbished kitchen area. The kitchen includes five gas oven and cooktops as well as a central ventilation unit and air conditioning. Kitchen cupboards and benchtops have been fitted out with a modern neutral look. Café 43, is a stand-alone cottage that has been converted to a fully operational commercial kitchen and service area, students who specialise in Food and Hospitality will be able to gain a certificate level in this area.

The school grounds are extensive and well-manicured. While the shedding is also extensive there are plans to revitalise some of the existing shedding, demolish that which is beyond repair plus add a second hand shed to the current suite. The school Ag farm houses a large shed and is fenced into 4 paddocks with running water for stock purposes. Currently these house cattle, and will house chickens in 2023, as part of our 9/10 Agriculture program.

The local Men's Shed group have a stand-alone shed that includes both a toilet and kitchen facility. The Men's shed meet on school grounds each Wednesday.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

The school recognises the valued partnership of parent, student and teacher in the education process and believes that all groups must be consulted in the determination and implementation of the school's educational programmes and its practices. A number of formal groups exist to facilitate the consultation process, these include the Governing Council, which meets twice a term and the Student Representative Council.

Decisions are reached by consensus within the Leadership Team and any matters that affect the school in general will be made known at the staff meetings. Staff meeting agendas are posted online with items being listed under one of three headings; For Discussion; For Decision; or For Notification. Individual staff members make organisational day to day decisions in their areas of responsibility. Once the consultation process has been undertaken, it is the role of the leadership team to ensure that all parties are aware of the decisions and it is the responsibility of the staff to implement the agreed policies.

Regular publications

Daily staff and student bulletins shared on Sentral, are a vital form of communication. A daily calendar is available on Sentral and the staffroom LED screen. A 2-3 week newsletter per term is published, promoting school/community events and student achievement. The Staff Handbook, Curriculum Booklet, School Yearbook and Penola High School brochure are other sources of information regarding the school and are available electronically on the staff drive and school website.

There is an active Facebook page which is a means of sharing and celebrating the school successes.

Staff communication includes a daily Principal's update.

Other communication

The school website www.penolahs.sa.edu.au and Facebook page are regularly updated with information.

School financial position

As a small regional High School, we struggle to manage on our funding however we work hard to be strategic and maintain programs and infrastructure. The school is in a sound financial position, with the Finance Committee managing the school finances.

Special funding

The school receives the following funding – Rural and Isolated Index, Open Access, additional ICT support, RAAP and Community Library funding.

11. Local Community

General characteristics

Penola is the oldest town in the South East of South Australia and is committed to preserving its heritage. The town borders the Coonawarra wine district, renowned internationally for its wines and is central to the forestry industry.

Parent and community involvement

A very positive relationship exists between staff, students and parents who participate in school activities and support the school in many ways. Parents place a strong emphasis on learning and support sporting events and many attend parent-teacher interviews.

Community support is clearly evident for the school with local businesses donating generously in the form of cash donations and items for events such as the Annual SRC Quiz Night and Penola Show fundraiser. A focus on revitalising community understanding and support will be a focus in 2023.

Continuity of Learning – Transitioning to Penola High School

The Continuity of Learning Program at Penola High School is designed to provide students and parents with a wide range of familiarization opportunities when students are transitioning from primary school. Students have experiences with our curriculum offerings and also extra-curricular activities. Key focus areas include working as a team, embracing changes, communication and cooperation, and catering and monitoring individual differences. Processes are established at this early stage to ensure students are able to develop holistically throughout their time in our school environment. Open and transparent communications are encouraged to enable the educational experiences for our students to be positive and successful. We work as a team and respond to each other's needs to ensure there are always knowledge and understandings surrounding our students' education and their social interactions at school.

Other local care and education facilities

The McKay Children's Centre is open for children aged 0-5 years.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Penola is 50 kilometres from other major centres including Mount Gambier, Naracoorte and Millicent. These centres adequately complement the local facilities. An airport with services to Adelaide and Melbourne from REX and QANTAS-link is situated near Mount Gambier.

Other local facilities

The district is well served by the local hospital, medical centre, dentist and physiotherapist. A large number of church groups, summer and winter sporting facilities (including a free swimming pool) and numerous cafes, restaurants, shopping outlets and galleries, reflect the artistic talents of the community. The local Foodland supermarket and majority of shopping outlets trade six to seven days per week.

Availability of staff housing

There is limited Government Employee Housing, however, the town boasts 2 real estate agents who are readily available to assist with rentals.

Accessibility

A regular bus service operates daily and car travel to Adelaide takes approximately 4-4 ½ hours.

Local Government body

Wattle Range Council

Arthur Street

PENOLA SA 5277

Telephone: 08 8737 2391