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

Penola Primary School has a proud tradition of serving the Penola community since 1855. Students have graduated from the school able to contribute to, and participate in our local and global community.

Student well being and learning is at the core of all we do.

The school has an outstanding record of student achievement built on close and supportive relationships between staff, students and parents. The sense of belonging, adventure and care evident in learning programmes is seen through student:

- Self esteem
- 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 pastoral care focus that fosters increasing independence and collaboration on the part of our students. A talented, caring staff work alongside students, assisting them to achieve their goals and an understanding and caring approach towards others.

Our school invites families, who seek quality educational experiences in an attractive and supportive learning community for their children, to enrol their child(ren). Together we can make a difference.

Please contact the Principal Mr Paul Harmer for further information:

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Penola Primary School is located near the centre of Penola on Riddoch Street. The well maintained school buildings, are situated on expansive grounds ideally suited to children’s play, and the extensive sporting programme offered to students. The School play areas have recently undergone significant upgrades with excellent facilities.

Classrooms are spacious, readily accommodating activity based learning programmes. The school also boasts a state of the art computer suite catering for up to thirty students and specialist areas for art and music.

R/1 Classroom refurbishments have just been completed, making the early years environment up to date and practical for their first school experiences.

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 programme. If so, they will be familiar with our school.
4. We have student intakes once per term.
5. Forms and further information is readily available from our front office.

Fees in 2013 for a full year are $200 ($180 book fees plus $20 performance levy).

Uniforms can be purchased from the front office. Whilst they are not compulsory, most children choose to wear the uniform as a reflection of the pride they have in their school.

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

School Times

8:30 am  Yard Supervision
8:45 – 10:45 Classes Commence
10:45 - 11:10 Recess
11:10 – 1:10 Classes
1.10 - 1.20 Supervised eating time
1.20 - 2.00 Lunch play time also access to computers and library
2.00 - 3.15 Classes
3.15pm  Dismissal
Classes usually have fruit time in the morning (5mins).
Curriculum

The school’s curriculum is in a transition phase between the implementation of the Australian Curriculum and the South Australian Curriculum and Accountability Standards Framework. Currently we are working with the Australian Curriculum in Maths, English, Science and History. You can access the rolling curriculum on www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

Arts

The Arts covers areas of Dance, Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts. Within these areas design, literacy, numeracy and communication play a significant role. The Arts fosters the development of creative expression, innovative responses to challenges and analysis of expressive communication. Penola Primary has a strong Arts focus that is supported by visiting performances and artists.

English

English involves learning about texts and language through speaking, listening, reading, viewing, handwriting, spelling and writing. Learners think about and use a range of literature, media and everyday texts. Progressively they will understand how language is constructed and how they can use it to communicate with others. The ability to use the English language is a strong precursor for success in other areas of learning. The teaching of English is an essential component of our School’s curriculum.

Health and Physical Education

Health and Physical Education is concerned with learning about healthy development and change. Knowledge, practices, skills, attitudes and values relating to health and physical education contribute profoundly to a sense of identity and an understanding of our society. By engaging children in this area of learning we aim to promote a lifelong commitment to participation in active and healthy living. Specialist PE lessons are given to students in Yr 4-7 focussing on fitness and skill development as well as individual sports.

Design and Technology

Involves the development of thinking skills that enable children to reflect on a range of possibilities, make choices and adapt to change. The use of information technology to develop ideas, texts, search and sort information is an important component of this curriculum area.

Literacy

Through involvement with the Literacy National Partnerships Program (LNNP) which funded a Literacy Coach and the Principals as Literacy Leaders (PALL) Program, the school has refined its literacy practices and embraced a whole school approach, which is now embedded in its teaching practices. A school Agreed Literacy Practices document and resource folder was produced and teachers expected to use it as a guideline to their practices. Students identified as requiring extra assistance are supported by the Intervention Program.

Mathematics

Mathematics is an active engaging process where children develop their own understanding of mathematical concepts, processes and patterns. They build their capacity for abstract reasoning and problem solving. A whole school approach to teaching and understanding Maths is a focus in 2012-13. Successful practices in literacy have been used as a model to improve mathematics teaching and learning. Penola Primary students have traditionally demonstrated high levels of achievement in this area of study.
Science
Science helps us understand our physical world. Learning in this area develops student ability to inquire and understand natural phenomena through observation, experimentation and prediction. It is an active process. Science builds our capacity for scientific reasoning. Through the learning process students develop the ability to see relationships, cause and effect and ways to be engaged in their physical, biological and human world. A redeveloped room was created to cater for hands on Science lessons. Students from Reception to Year 3 are involved in specialist Science lessons in the Science facility for two one hour lessons per week. Middle and Upper Primary Science in integrated into the classroom teachers program, with the Year 7’s often utilising the high school facilities and personnel to assist with Science.

Society and Environment
Society and environment expands students’ knowledge and understanding of their own society and others. It highlights the interdependence of people, their society and the environment. Through this area of study students are encouraged to take an active role in society as they build an understanding of their world through time, history, relationships, government and culture. The development of a set of values, attitudes, sense of equity and environmental sustainability will be an outcome of students’ actively participating in these studies.

From 2014 Society and Environment will make way for two subjects – History and Geography as part of the transition to the Australian Curriculum.

Information Technology
Student competence using Information Technology is critical to future success. Underpinning skill development, is access to a structured and challenging learning programme and the availability of hard and software. The school boasts an excellent state of the art computer suite with 25 computers, digital equipment, Internet access through a Local Area Network and classroom computers. We also have a number of Ipads and Netbooks that various classes will loan from the library. Staff members are skilled in the teaching of information technology.

The fundamental importance of Literacy, Numeracy and Information and Communication Technology concepts and understandings means they are interwoven throughout all areas of study.

Christian Pastoral Care Worker
Penola Primary is fortunate to have the funding to employ a Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW). Their role emphasizes the pastoral care of individuals and groups of students. They are available to support families address issues by mutual arrangement. Feedback about the CPSW in parent and student opinion surveys has been very complimentary. We are yet to appoint a CPSW in 2012.

Canteen
The canteen provides a range of freshly food for purchase during recess and lunchtime five days per week. Lunch orders submitted in the morning are available Wednesday to Friday. The canteen utilises volunteers and is managed by a part time manager.

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.
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. Active After School Sport is offered e.g. basketball, soccer, dance, games, and golf.

Camps and Excursions
An outstanding camps and excursion programme is available to students. These range from sleepovers on short camps in the early years up to week long camps in Ballarat and Adelaide. Destinations are negotiated with parents and children. The camp programme is subsidised by a range of fundraising activities such as: raffles, the production of Pickled onions, pruning and class performances.

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

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

Communication
Communication with parents is through informal contact, the newsletter, website and media. Information about student learning is shared through information sessions, two written reports, interviews and direct contact as needed. We believe this is a two way process that has positive outcomes for all concerned.

Intervention and Extension
Both intervention and extension programs run within our school. Literacy and numeracy intervention programs are tailored to age and ability appropriate programs. These programs are coordinated by the Intervention coordinator and facilitated by the SSOs. We have also implemented extension programs both in small group outside of the class, as well as in class Maths and Science challenges Students from Year 2-7 are invited to participate in University of NSW competitions in Mathematics, English, Spelling, Writing and Computing.

Student Behaviour Management
Penola Primary School has a very strong values based learning programme. Student behaviour is excellent. The school’s Values Education programme has translated into an easy and trusting relationship between students and between students and staff that is strongly supported by parents. Disruption to learning caused through inappropriate behaviour is minimal.

Parents enrolling their child will be provided with a copy of the school’s Behaviour Code.

Sports
Student learning is enhanced by physical fitness. Consequently, Penola Primary offers student access to daily fitness sessions, P.E. lessons for skill development and access
to sports equipment and spacious grounds for recreational play. We also have swimming lessons at the beginning of Term 1, athletics in Terms 1 & 4, Cross Country Term 2 and school sponsored sports after hours.

Swimming and athletics carnivals are designed to enhance participation. 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.

**Parent Participation**
Parent involvement in the life of the school is 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
- Ripper Reading, Learning Assistance Programme, 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 very successfully.

**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
- Sand Cave regeneration project
- Youth Environment Group

We have utilised grants from DEWNA and the NRM board to fund a number of these projects, including a new sustainability centre, where much of the learning takes place.

**Student Representative Council**
Student voice is important. 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 executive apply for their positions to a staff panel at the beginning of each year, whilst class representatives (Yr 4-7) are elected by their peers.

**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 plan units of work, combine for activities and get to know the students before they start school.
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Arts Festival

Have-a-go Cricket

Year 5/6 Camp

Year 4/5 Camp

Sports Day

Sports Day
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