

School Admissions

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Lookups for Non-Members - before you ask for a lookup please remember that fields displaying the wording "(members only)" **doesn't necessarily mean that it contains information for that field in that database.** You can request one of our researchers to research further for you which may/may not produce further information. For this you will need to ask for a research request - [click here](#)

Lookups for Members - before you ask for a lookup please remember that if a displayed field is **BLANK it means that there is no further information available for that field in that database.** You can request one of our researchers to research further for you which may/may not produce further information. For this you will need to ask for a research request - [click here](#)

1. Introduction

This document describes the School Admissions dataset, also known as School Registrations.

School Admissions

2. School Admissions

2.1 Summary

This database contains school admission records for 226 South Australian schools. There is an entry for each school a pupil attends and for each year of attendance. For some schools there will be an entry for each term of a school year. If a student attends multiple schools in a year, there will be a record for each school.

2.2 Coverage

Record coverage is from 1847 to 1996 with varying degrees of coverage depending on the school. Refer Section 3 School Information for detailed information on coverage of the school of interest.

2.3 Source

Source is usually either school registers or State Records. Refer Section 3 School Information for detailed information on records sourced from State Records (Schoolmaster Returns) as well as for some of the school where it is different to school registers.

All data were transcribed and composed by Genealogy SA (GS) volunteers, with the following exceptions:

- Port Pirie East and West schools were transcribed by Arthur Green.
- All Moonta schools, Agery and Weetulta schools were provided by Marilyn Philbey (YPFHG).
- Pine Forest School provided by J & D Ramsey.

2.4 Volume

There are 232,664 school admission records for 226 schools in this dataset version [20251207].

2.5 Additional information

There are variations between schools of what data was collected and, over time, the quality and consistency of that data, has also changed. Whatever data is present in the source is transcribed and provided in the dataset. Where that data does not fit a frequently collected field it will be found in the *Notes* field.

Information about what data was collected for the Schoolmaster Returns can be found in Section 3.1 School Information.

3. School Information

3.1 Summary

There are over 220 individual school registrations recorded with varying years of coverage. An alphabetical list of the schools is provided in Appendix A at the end of this document, along with, the years of coverage (based on dates of registration), location if not in a main town and other relevant information.

Some schools may have multiple entries as they have used different names eg Blair Athol, Gilles Street.

3.2 Schoolmaster Returns

These records were derived from State Records GRS 24/6, namely letters to the Colonial Secretary from Schoolmasters to provide evidence to justify payment from the government. The 1847 Act for the Encouragement of Education provided payment to teachers who had 20 or more students aged between 6 and 16. They include the years 1847-1851 and were transcribed by Alison Hicks.

School Admissions

Data are sourced from two types of forms both of which are included in one input table. These were completed either by:

- 1) Parents - giving the parents' name, residence and number of children, and noting:
 - Surnames of the children can't be accurately inferred as the same as the parents due to them sometimes not being the parents. If there is no child name you will find "<unknown>" in the Surname fields and the number of children into Given Names field. (See Search Tip in this section.)
 - If an age is provided, this will be found in Given Names. E.g. "2 children, ages: 4, 6"
- 2) Teachers - giving teachers' name and ages of students, attendance and course of instruction and noting:
 - These are in standard format of Surname, Given Names, and Age can be found in the Notes field.

Names and residences are transcribed as written. Many of the parents' names were transcribed from their signatures, resulting in variations in spelling with many names being spelt phonetically. Where names were very difficult to decipher due to handwriting, BDM records, shipping records and newspaper items in Trove were checked to confirm interpretation of the names.

This explains the 2 types of records you may see:

- One has the children's names, and possibly their ages, but not their parents' names.
- The other has the parents' or guardians' names and possible the ages (but not normally the names) of the children.

Because the names of the schools were more of an address than a name, these were not added as separate schools. Instead are recorded with the school name "Schoolmaster Returns".

Search tip: to locate the Schoolmaster records without a child name, search for "<Unknown>" (or first 3 characters) in the Surname field. Then sort on Given Names/s or any other sortable field.

3.3 Sunday Schools

Sunday Schools Napperby South and Warnertown were originally previously part of this collection but have now been removed. They will be included in a new collection of Church Records sometime in the future.

3.4 Woodville James A Nelson Special School Spastic Home

This is probably the Woodville Spastic Centre Special School, later known as the James A Nelson from 1978. It now appears to be The Grove Education Centre.

3.5 Chicago

Now known as Kilburn.

3.6 Moonta Mines

Source is Journal attendance records. Registration Date is in the format YYYY-MM where 'YYYY' is the year of attendance and 'MM' is the month. Recorded at end of month/quarter. For example, 1917-09 shows the year of 1917 and the month September indicating the pupil was in attendance at end of September 1917.

3.7 Myponga Jetty

Also known as Cowiealunga School.

3.8 East Adelaide Girls

Now known as St Peter's Girls.

3.9 Noonameena School

Later known as Mindyarra School.

3.10 Yappara South

Also known as Toora.

School Admissions

4. Versions

This is the latest of several updates to the School Admissions dataset since it was first created in 2016. Outlined below, along with the action taken where available, is provided for each update.

1. 16/08/2016: Original conversion for MPCviewer plus 1 new school
2. 31/01/2017: Added records for 8 new schools, some corrections
3. 30/11/2017: Added records for 11 new schools, normalisation changes to data
4. 31/03/2018: Added records for 15 new schools, normalisation changes to data
5. 29/07/2018: Added records for 26 new schools
6. 06/10/2018: Added Schoolmaster Returns
7. 24/10/2018: Added records for 10 new schools
8. 13/02/2019: Added records for 24 new schools
9. 11/06/2020: Added records for 9 new schools
10. 22/09/2021: Added records for 21 new schools
11. 17/02/2022: Added records for 10 new schools
12. 13/07/2022: Added records for 10 new schools
13. 19/01/2025: Added records for 50 new schools
14. 07/12/2025: Added records for 35 new schools

4.1 Version M-20160816

- This version contains the same data as the old Access DB, corrected and otherwise modified to be used with MPCviewer. It also includes a new school Wheetelande Primary.

4.2 Version M-20170131

- Added 8 schools
- Made corrections to existing records

4.3 Version M-20171130

- Added 11 schools: Barunga, Brownlow, Dawson, Macsfield, Murdoch's Hill, Pichi Richi, Pleasant Park, South Hummocks, Wilsdonville, Yararoo, Yarra.
- General cosmetic and normalisation changes to existing dataset.

4.4 Version M-20180331

- Added 15 schools: Bo Peep, Brinkworth, Buchanan, Carriewerloo, Hundred of Gregory, Kapinnie, Marble Hill, Millbrae, Morgan East, Mulpata, Point Pass, Round Hill, Tarnma, Wepar, Wiltunga.
- General cosmetic and normalisation changes to existing dataset.

4.5 Version M-20180729

- Added 26 schools: Agery, Cameron East, Hawker Primary, Hill River, Hindmarsh Tiers, Moonta High, Moonta Infant, Moonta Mines (Journal), Moonta Mines Boys, Moonta Mines Girls, Moonta Mines Infant, Moonta Opportunity Class, Moonta Primary Boys, Moonta Primary Girls, Narrowie, Neale's Flat, Neuroodla Primary, Olary Rural, Parilla North, Petheron Primary, Pine Flat, Pine Forest, Weetulta, Willow Plains, Worlds End Creek Primary, Yongala Woolshed.

4.6 Version M-20181006

- Added Schoolmaster Returns.

4.7 Version M-20181024

4.8 Version M-20190213

- Added 24 schools: Bangor, Belvidere, Blair Athol Infant - Boys, Blinman Rural, Boucaut, Bruce Primary, Caroline Primary, Davenport, Dawesley, Garfield Primary, Gum Creek, Mt Gunson, Mypolonga Primary, Orrie Cowie - Brutus, Port Adelaide Infant - Boys and Girls, Port Clinton, Richman's Valley Primary, Stone Hut Primary, Thrington, Umeewarra Mission, Wandearah South, White Hut, Winninowie, Yeelanna.

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4.9 Version M-20200611

- Added 9 schools: Schools: Bower; Bundaleer Springs; Dollings Corner Primary; Grassy Flat / Norton Summit; Hundred of Hart; Myponga Jetty; Wanilla Rural. Plus Sunday Schools: Napperby South / Warnertown Methodist Sunday Schools (moved into Church Records January 2025).

4.10 Version M-20210922

- Added 21 schools: Armagh; Blair Athol Infant Boys; Blair Athol Infant Girls; Boolgun; Bowhill East; East Adelaide Girls; Frayville; Gilles Street Infant Boys; Gilles Street Infant Girls; Gilles Street Primary; Gilles Street Primary Boys; Gilles Street Primary Opportunity Class; Gilles Street Primary Special Girls Class; Hindmarsh High; Kulde; Lake Sunday; Laura Primary; Mannanarie Primary; Rockford; Wirrabara Forest; Yappara South.

4.11 Version M-20220217

- Added 10 schools: Apoinga, Gomersal, Gumbowie, Holder Siding, Kulkawurra, Lowaldi, Morella, Mount Brizell, Wappilka, Woodside Camp.

4.12 Version M-20220713

- Added 10 schools: Alma South, Blair Athol Primary Girls, Beltana Rural, Charlton, Cockburn Rural, Coromandel Valley, Mylor Primary, Victor Harbor Higher Primary later District High, Wanilla (extension), Woodville Spastic Centre Special School.

4.13 Version M-20250119

- Added 50 schools: Back Valley School, Blewitt Springs Primary School, Bookpurnong School, Borrika School, Caltowie Extension Primary School, Carew School, Clements Gap School, Concord School, Currie St, Practising School Boys and Girls, Daveyston Rural School, Gilles Street Primary School Girls, Goodwood Primary School Boys, Gordon School, Hatherleigh School, Hundred of Ninnes School, Maggea School, Marama Primary School, Middle Inman School, Millicent School, Moorowie Primary School, Mount Muirhead School, Mt Melville Primary School, Myrta School, Nailsworth Infant School Girls, Nangari School, New Well School, Noomameena School, later Mindyarra School, Nunkeri School, Perponda School, Pilchera Bore School, Pinefield School, Prospect Infant School Boys, Prospect Infant School Girls, Prospect Primary School Boys, Prospect Primary School Girls, Pyap School, Saint Clair School, Sandalwood School, St Joseph's Private School Clare, St Mary's Catholic School, Mount Gambier, Stockwell School, Stony Grove School, Sturt Street Infant School Boys and Girls, Sturt Street Infant School Girls, Sunbury Primary School, Tilley Swamp School, Waddikee Public School, Whyalla Infant School Boys, Whyalla Infant School Girls, Yurgo School.

4.14 Version M-20251207

- Added 35 schools: Currie St, later Currie St Practising School - Boys; Currie St, later Currie St Practising School - Girls; Sturt Street Primary School - Boys; Sturt Street Primary School - Girls; Bookabie Rural School; Brighton Infant School - Boys; Brighton Infant School - Girls; Bublacowie Primary School; Coobowie Primary School; Currency Creek School; Glenelg Primary School - Special Class; Hummock Hill, later Whyalla Primary School - Girls; Karoonda Area School; Karoonda School; Koonunga School; Le Fevre Peninsula District High School; Le Fevre Peninsula District High School - Boys; Le Fevre Peninsula District High School - Girls; Morn Hill School; Mount Schanck School; North Shields School; Payneham Primary School; Petersville School; Pickering (Wool Bay) Primary School; Rowland's Flat School; Salisbury Estension School; Sturt Street School - Opportunity Class; Walker's Dam, later Wunkar School; Walkers Flat School; Westbourne Park Infant School - Girls; Wilton Primary School; Wynarka School; Yorke Valley School; Yundi School.

School Admissions

Appendix A – Alphabetical Listing of Schools

School	Min Year	Max Year
Agery	1886	1982
Allendale North	1910	1943
Alma South	1883	1921
Apoinga	1924	1936
Armagh	1915	1942
Back Valley School	1935	1956
Bangor	1936	1963
Barunga	1887	1888
Beltana Rural	1964	1967
Belvidere	1930	1942
Blair Athol Infant Boys	1949	1983
Blair Athol Infant Boys	1934	1980
Blair Athol Infant Girls	1949	1981
Blair Athol Primary Girls	1949	1977
Blewitt Springs Primary School	1935	1969
Blinman Rural	1936	1980
Bo Peep	1919	1927
Bookabie Rural School	1892	1968
Bookpurnong School	1913	1943
Boolgun	1929	1938
Borrika School	1915	1941
Boucaut	1890	1995
Bower	1917	1937
Bowhill East	1940	1947
Brighton Infant School - Boys	1944	1972
Brighton Infant School - Girls	1946	1974
Brinkworth	1895	1905
Brownlow	1910	1916
Bruce Primary	1937	1962
Bublacowie Primary School	1912	1943
Buchanan	1926	1946
Bundaleer North Rural	1913	1968
Bundaleer Springs	1895	1925
Burra Infant	1881	1895
Caltowie Extension Primary School	1917	1944
Cameron East	1900	1916
Carew School	1953	1962
Caroline Primary	1893	1944
Carriewerloo	1917	
Charlton	1907	1943
Chicago	1914	1919
Clements Gap School	1892	1942
Cockburn Rural	1940	1969
Concord School	1929	1953
Coobowie Primary School	1919	1971
Coromandel Valley	1869	1916
Currency Creek School	1923	1962
Currie St, Practising School Boys and Girls	1891	1891
Davenport	1922	1951
Daveyston Rural School	1921	1970
Dawesley	1877	1907
Dawson	1948	1964
Dollings Corner Primary	1926	1945
Dowlingville	1922	1949
East Adelaide Girls	1886	1888
Emu Downs	1917	1948
Frayville	1934	1942
Garfield Primary	1925	1941
Geranium Plains	1894	1947
Gilles Street Infant Boys	1929	1961
Gilles Street Infant Girls	1929	1961

School	Min Year	Max Year
Gilles Street Primary	1901	1924
Gilles Street Primary Boys	1916	1995
Gilles Street Primary Opportunity Class	1926	1955
Gilles Street Primary School Girls	1915	1995
Gilles Street Primary Special Girls Class	1945	1971
Glenelg Primary School - Special Class	1958	1974
Gomersal	1929	1951
Goodwood Primary School Boys	1979	1981
Gordon School	1881	1926
Grassy Flat / Norton Summit	1880	1893
Gum Creek	1898	1957
Gumbowie	1887	1900
Hatherleigh School	1866	1932
Hawker Primary	1901	1997
Hill River	1934	1953
Hindmarsh High	1910	1914
Hindmarsh Tiers	1919	1938
Holder Siding	1929	1937
Hummock Hill (later Whyalla Primary School-Girls)	1940	1965
Hundred of Gregory	1925	1946
Hundred of Hart	1895	1941
Hundred of Ninnes School	1886	1927
Hundred of Yongala	1887	1903
Kapinnie	1946	1951
Karoonda Area School	1942	1987
Karoonda School	1915	1942
Koonunga School	1881	1947
Kulde	1930	1940
Kulkawurra	1930	1940
Lake Sunday	1883	1942
Laura Primary	1917	1967
Le Fevre Peninsula District High School	1910	1911
Le Fevre Peninsula District High School - Boys	1911	1914
Le Fevre Peninsula District High School - Girls	1911	1914
Lowaldi	1930	1940
Maaoupe	1951	1956
Macsfield	1917	1948
Maggea School	1919	1967
Mannanarie Primary	1906	1970
Marama Primary School	1954	1967
Marble Hill	1895	1923
Melton Valley	1939	1965
Middle Inman School	1921	1956
Millbrae	1930	1940
Millicent School	1879	1888
Moonta High	1907	1977
Moonta Infant	1880	1891
Moonta Mines	1917	1919
Moonta Mines Boys	1891	1968
Moonta Mines Girls	1878	1968
Moonta Mines Infant	1891	1895
Moonta Opportunity Class	1947	1950
Moonta Primary Boys	1878	1972
Moonta Primary Girls	1878	1972
Moorowie Primary School	1904	1940
Morella	1925	1950
Morgan East	1913	1944
Morn Hill School	1891	1956
Mount Brizell	1936	1940
Mount Gunson	1974	1984
Mount Melville Primary School	1878	1889

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School	Min Year	Max Year
Mount Muirhead School	1886	1920
Mount Schank School	1892	1953
Mount Templeton	1881	1915
Mulpata	1924	1945
Murdoch's Hill	1926	1944
Mylor Primary	1894	1996
Mypolonga Primary	1916	1996
Myponga Jetty	1889	1907
Myrla School	1920	1945
Nailsworth Infant School Girls	1917	1969
Nangari School	1929	1967
Narrowie	1926	1937
Neale's Flat	1932	1942
Neuroodla Primary	1959	1962
New Well School	1928	1940
Ngapala	1925	1938
Noomameena School	1929	1941
North Shields School	1911	1970
Nunkerri School	1918	1940
Olary Rural	1963	1985
Orrie Cowie - Brutus	1916	1947
Payneham Primary School	1966	1991
Parilla North	1921	1945
Perponda School	1924	1942
Petersville School	1919	1960
Petherton Primary	1913	1946
Pichi Richi	1929	1940
Pickering (Wool Bay) Primary School	1913	1940
Pilchera Bore School	1930	1940
Pine Flat	1898	
Pine Forest	1907	1945
Pinefield School	1924	1935
Pleasant Park	1952	1959
Point Pass	1936	1945
Port Adelaide Infant Boys	1917	1977
Port Adelaide Infant School - Boys and Girls	1881	1995
Port Clinton	1947	
Port Pirie East	1885	1970
Port Pirie West	1877	1970
Prospect Infant School Boys	1921	1977
Prospect Infant School Girls	1926	1977
Prospect Primary School Boys	1927	1979
Prospect Primary School Girls	1921	1980
Pyap School	1912	1943
Richman's Valley Primary	1923	1946
Rockford	1892	1894
Round Hill	1881	1904
Rowland's Flat School	1898	1926
Saint Clair School	1912	1931
Salisbury Extension School	1943	1948
Sandalwood School	1919	1944
Sandergrove	1933	1952

School	Min Year	Max Year
Schoolmaster returns	1847	1852
Sebastopol School	1881	1895
South Hummocks	1924	1944
St Joseph's Private School	1921	1952
St Mary's Catholic School	1959	1970
Stephenston	1900	1914
Stockwell School	1953	1971
Stone Hut Primary	1896	1967
Stony Grove School	1925	1937
Sturt Street Infant School Boys and Girls	1894	1895
Sturt Street Infant School Girls	1920	1929
Sturt Street School - Opportunity Class	1960	1974
Sunbury Primary School	1932	1942
Sunshine	1907	1925
Tarnma	1924	1945
Thistle Beds	1889	1906
Thrington	1918	1956
Tilley Swamp School	1958	1964
Umewarra Mission	1962	1968
Victor Harbor Higher Primary	1910	1928
Waddikee Public School	1942	1945
Walker's Dam, later Wunkar School	1925	1974
Walkers Flat School	1948	1958
Wandearah South	1898	1917
Wanilla Rural	1950	1990
Wappilka	1927	1929
Wardang Island Primary	1959	1967
Weetulta	1887	1970
Wepar	1930	1970
Westbourne Park Infant School - Girls	1927	1973
Wheetelands Primary	1908	1929
White Hut	1877	1951
Whyalla Infant School Boys	1952	1952
Whyalla Infant School Girls	1951	1952
Willow Plains	1883	1937
Wilsdonville	1929	1944
Wilton Primary School	1926	1970
Wiltunga	1887	1945
Winninowie	1921	1939
Wirrabara Forest	1881	1928
Woodside Camp	1961	1962
Woodville Spastic Centre Special School	1956	1974
Worlds End Creek Primary	1924	1944
Wynarka School	1914	1940
Yappara South	1928	1943
Yararoo	1928	1937
Yarra	1905	1919
Yeelanna	1902	1972
Yongala Woolshed	1903	1918
Yorke Valley School	1884	1939
Yundi School	1946	1962
Yurgo School	1926	1946