

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2017

School number: 0456

School name: Waikerie Primary School

Contextual Statement:

Waikerie Primary School is located 180 kilometres from the Adelaide GPO (General Post Office) and has a February 2017 census enrolment of 261 students. The school card population is approximately 27% (2016 figure) with a small percentage of Aboriginal and non English speaking background students.

1. General information

- Acting School Principal Mrs Megan Higgins
- Acting Deputy Principal Mrs Sue Billett
- Year of Opening 1894 - on present site 1913
- Postal Address 23 Coombe Terrace, Waikerie 5330
- Location Address 23 Coombe Terrace, Waikerie 5330
- DECD Region Murray and Mallee
- Geographical location Road distance from Adelaide GPO 176 kms
- Telephone number 08 85412733
- Fax Number 08 85413410
- School website address www.waikerieps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address dl.0456.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Service
Known locally as WOOSHC, it is a 5 days per week after school and vacation care service. It has a high quality QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) rating running an outstanding program. It is located on site in the old Principal's Residence.
- Play Group
Commenced in Term 3, 2013 and is held every Friday morning.

February FTE student enrolment

YEAR LEVEL	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RE	20	26	25	26	23	22	22
01	29	28	32	26	38	25	25
02	33	30	25	34	28	27	27
03	32	34	29	27	39	35	35
04	45	28	31	28	27	30	30
05	33	41	27	34	29	39	39
06	46	27	43	25	36	29	29
07	25	42	27	44	25	32	32
TOTAL	263	256	239	244	245	239	239

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
School Card Approvals (Persons)	72	94	74	59	67
NESB (Total) (Persons)	18	16	16	11	20
Aboriginal F.T.E. Enrolment	6	12	15	14	13

- Staffing numbers (as at February 2017 census)

Classroom teachers	Male 0.2	Female 9.8
School Counsellor		Female 0.6
Science & YET - NIT		Female 1.0
Music/Drama & Arts - NIT	Male 0.4	
Spanish		Female 0.4
Aboriginal Education		Female 0.2
Aboriginal Education Teacher		Female 0.4
Ancillary Staff (Permanent Part Time)		Female 4
(Casual/Part Time)	Male 1	Female 5
Groundsperson (Part Time)	Male 1	
Pastoral Support Worker (Part Time)	Female 1	(1 ½ days)

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Approximately 30% of the students travel to school on buses. Most of these students reside on mixed farming properties or on fruit blocks. Many families rely on various aspects of fruit growing for their income. Approximately 30% of the students reside in Housing Trust accommodation. One quarter of students receive school card. ESL new arrival students and Aboriginal students attract additional funding.

- Student Wellbeing Programs

Breakfast program – Our Pastoral Support Worker operates a breakfast program three mornings a week with support from volunteers.

Proactive Programs running throughout the school are:

‘Value It’	Child Protection Curriculum
‘What’s the Buzz’	Kelso’s Choice
Peer Support/Buddy classes	Seasons for Growth

- Student Support

The school has a school counsellor who is a registered teacher. The counsellor operates a preventative and developmental model of primary school counselling. The counsellor works with class teachers to implement a range of social and health programs such as child protection, countering racism and harassment, anti bullying, anger management, conflict resolution, peer mediation, drug education, promoting equity and active student participation in the school.

A Pastoral Support Worker was employed in 2007 with the support of the parent community and the Schools Ministry Group. A Grant has been obtained to support this program.

In 2011 Waikerie Primary School became a KidsMatter School. The school counsellor attended the training and leads the school. The KidsMatter and National Safe Schools Framework underpin our whole school focus on student wellbeing.

The school provides additional SSO support to meet student learning needs particularly in Speech and Language, Literacy, Social Skills, Numeracy and Fine and Gross Motor. This support varies from in class, to small group and 1:1 dependent on need. Individual learning Plans (ILP’S) are in place for students with learning difficulties.

Students with Disabilities and Difficulties are catered for with additional SSO time and or special programs and where necessary a differentiated curriculum. One plans are developed and monitored.

Funding through the Aboriginal Programs Assistance Scheme enables our eligible Aboriginal students to have extra assistance in Literacy through targeted SSO support.

- Student Management

The school emphasises a program of positive management and reinforces agreed appropriate behaviours through logical consequences or behaviour education. Clear behaviour guidelines have been established and published in our Behaviour Self Management.

Teaching occurs around the 5 main school expectations and Values displayed throughout the school. Two weeks are devoted at the beginning of each year to our 'Value It' program based on our community owned values. Value work continues throughout the year and certificates are awarded at fortnightly student led assemblies. Restorative Justice practices are used where possible.

- House Cup Competition

Students are awarded tokens in their house colours (Flinders – red, Barker – green, Sturt – blue, Eyre – yellow) for following the school's values, rules and achievements. At the end of each term the members of the house with the most tokens receive recognition. At the end of the year the overall competition winners are awarded a house colours prize. The House Cup is then engraved with the name of the winning house.

- Student Leadership

Student participation has been a focus for several years encouraging students to take greater responsibility for various activities and decision making. A female and male School Leader are chosen by the student body. They lead assemblies and represent the school at various functions.

House Captains are also elected by the students. They run lunch activities for students and provide support at Splash Carnivals and Sports Day. The Choir Leaders, Disco committee and Youth Environment Team also provided leadership at different times.

Students are involved in the decision making process through class meetings and the active Student Representative Council which meets fortnightly.

- Special Programmes

Our choir participates in the Riverland Music Festival each year.

Year 7 Leadership Days

'Chics & Blokes' Year 7 Program

- Waikerie Partnership

Waikerie Primary School is a part of this partnership along with Swan Reach, Waikerie High, Ramco, Cadell, Morgan and Blanchetown schools and preschools. The site leaders meet regularly to discuss topics relevant to student learning and welfare (eg. transition to school and high school). From time to time students from the partnership join with Waikerie Primary School to take part in programs or activities offered at Waikerie Primary School or at Waikerie High School.

3. Site Improvement Plan priority areas

- Quality Teaching
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Student Wellbeing
- Environmental Education

4. Curriculum

- The Australian Curriculum was introduced in 2011 and is now implemented and reported on in English, Mathematics, Science, 'The Arts', Health and PE, Digital Technologies and Design, Humanities and Social Science (HASS) and languages (Spanish).
- Science as an R-7 Specialist subject was introduced in 2009 utilising the Primary Connections program and now the Australian Curriculum
- Drama/Music/Media/Dance sessions commenced from R -7 in 2011
- Spanish recommenced in 2017.
- Reporting procedures include parent/teacher/student discussions at the end of Term 1 and during Term 3 (optional) and written reports twice a year
- ICT is integrated across the curriculum at all year levels with Interactive White Boards (Smartboards) and TV's installed in all classrooms. Students have access to classroom computers and ipads as well as a computer suite. Acer tablets are utilised by our Year 6 and 7 students.
- A Playroom for the Junior Primary students was established in 2010.

5. Sporting Activities

- Year 5/6/7 students have the opportunity to be involved in a range of sports from SAPSASA swimming, hockey, athletics, basketball, netball and football. Parent support and involvement is high.
- Swimming lessons are conducted in the school's pool for the Junior Primary students and the town pool for Primary years. Year 7's participate in an Aquatics program each year.

6. Co-Curricular Activities

- General

Many students learn various musical instruments through DECD teachers or private instructors. DECD instrumental music teaching is available in brass, guitar and woodwind. Private teaching is available in drums, guitar and piano.

Some classes perform concerts or conduct class presentations each year. These are well supported and attended by the community.

YET (Youth Environment Team) is an initiative within the school which has made a huge impact on environmental awareness and has been active in participating in environmental projects both within the school and the Waikerie District. The Team has presented at the Youth Environment Conference in Adelaide and now the Barmera Environmental Expo. There is a strong ongoing partnership between YET and the Riverland West Local Action planning group.

An annual Public Speaking Competition was introduced in 2011 for Year 4-7 students.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

The Waikerie staffing situation has been fairly stable.

- Leadership structure

Currently Principal, Deputy Principal, School Counsellor and Senior Leader: learning improvement.

Decisions

Staff meetings and Professional Development sessions are held every Thursday afternoon. Other meetings include Year level teams, Leadership, PAC, WHS, Curriculum, Finance, and ICT. These operating committees report back to staff and or Governing Council.

- Staff communication

Staff communication via email, daily communication book, staff weekly bulletin and whiteboard. Other communication via pigeon holes.

- Performance Management

Teachers meet with their Line Manager to discuss their work in relation to school priorities and their own professional growth. All staff are completing Professional Development Plans each year.

Staff teaching observations commenced in 2012.

- Access to Specialist Staff
Support from Support Services including Special Education, Speech Pathologist, Behaviour Management and Hearing Impaired Coordinators is available through the Berri Office. A Wellbeing practitioner is assigned for 2017.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Government housing in the town
- Access to the Country Incentive Allowance for new staff
- Relocation assistance

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

There are three stone buildings, a solid brick class block and 3 timber framed classrooms.

The school grounds have been well developed and maintained to provide grassed, paved and shade areas with 2 turf court areas.

- Specialist facilities

Includes a school pool, hall, computing suite, Science lab, and a Play room. A new gym was built in 2010 and the Library and office extended, in 2011, with Commonwealth Building Education Revolution funds.

- Heating and cooling

All school buildings are air conditioned (Reverse Cycle).

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

The main classroom blocks, school hall, gym and administration building have ramps for wheelchair access.

- Bus Transport

Buses are used for school excursions. The small school bus is used for YET, SAPSASA and other events.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

The school has a Governing Council with representatives on the WOOSHC, Finance, Grounds and ICT Committees. Parents and staff have input into these committees.

- Code of Conduct & Behaviour Code Brochures

A “Code of Conduct” document for students, staff and parents was developed, in 2016, by a staff group and School Counsellor in consultation with staff and the Governing Council. It was then ratified by the Governing Council and disseminated to families. It was reviewed in 2015 and updated to “Community Code of Conduct”.

The Student Behaviour Code was developed in 2007 by the School Counsellor, staff and leadership in consultation with Governing Council. It was reviewed and updated in 2015 and retitled the Behaviour Education and Self-Management (BESM) Agreement.

- Parent Complaint Management

The Parent Complaint Management Procedure was developed by leadership in 2011 and updated in 2016.

- Policies and Procedures

The following Policies have been ratified by Governing Council and apply to the whole school community – Sun Smart, Phone and No Bullying.

- Regular publications

Newsletter published fortnightly and also available on the school’s website.

- School financial position

The school is in a sound financial position.

- Special funding

Country Areas Program

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

Most employment opportunities are linked to the fruit and grape growing industry (block hands, picking, packing, transport).

The majority of the students come from an English speaking background but there are a number of Indian students attending the school. A few students are from other non English speaking backgrounds.

- Parent and community involvement

Although work commitments have made it more difficult to find volunteers who are able to make time regularly available to the school, parents serve on committees, assist teachers in the classroom, on excursions and camps.

Events such as Acquaintance evening, Splash Carnivals, Sports Day and assemblies are very well supported.

- Feeder or destination schools

Students mainly transition from the Waikerie Children's Centre and to Waikerie High School

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Good local shopping facilities for most purposes (two supermarkets, butcher, two bakeries, hairdressers, clothing stores, etc). Residents need to shop out of town for some speciality items. Eating establishments include the Hotel, Club, Cafes and take-away shops.

- Other local facilities

A hospital and medical centre with several doctors. Physiotherapy, chiropractic, naturopath and other specialist services available.

A School Dental clinic operates from the local hospital (500 metres from school).

Football, netball, golf, cricket, tennis and hockey clubs all have senior and junior competitions and good facilities.

Waikerie also has excellent bowling greens, a croquet club, heated town swimming pool (with club) and a Recreation Centre catering for a variety of activities including basketball, squash and badminton.

Several churches are located within the region.

Many other recreational activities are based around the River Murray, eg. water skiing.

Waikerie also has a community library attached to the Civic Centre.

Several service clubs also operate.

- Availability of staff housing

There are several Government Real Estate Management houses available for eligible government employees – there are no longer any furnished flats.

Availability of good quality private rental accommodation varies, but there are three land agents who generally know what is available.

- Public transport access

Stateliner service to Adelaide twice daily

School buses (mostly by private contractors) bring students to school from outlying areas.

Taxi service available

- Local Government body

Loxton and Waikerie District Council, Strangman Road, Waikerie, telephone 8541 2077.

Publications include Waikerie and Surrounding Visitors Guide, Riverland Visitors Guide and on request at the District Council Office, information on "What Waikerie has to Offer". The Loxton Waikerie Council operates a website at www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au.