



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated:

**School number:** 0760

**School name:** Loxton Primary School

## School Profile:

Our vision is to deliver a high quality curriculum to all students to maximise their learning potential. High quality teachers that build knowledge and skills that ensure successful learners using the Australian Curriculum.

As the local community school, we take great pride in providing high quality teaching and learning experiences for all students. We value the positive relationships we foster and build with students and families. We focus on strengths and encourage our students to be the best they can be.

Our Site Improvement goals at Loxton Primary School focus on Literacy and Numeracy.

Our Literacy approach is explicit with students utilising the Big 6 of Reading skills, including oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension in an integrated approach to reading instruction. This includes students participating in systematic, synthetic phonics instruction when learning to read.

Numeracy learning includes students working through the Big Ideas in Number framework to ensure they have a conceptual development of number sense, which is fundamental to all mathematical learning.

We offer a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for students across all year levels. We have a strong sporting culture with fantastic achievements in sports with many students representing the Riverland and at State level. Community involvement is strongly encouraged with students undertaking a variety of activities through choir, SES support, Mardi Gras participation.

Our school has excellent facilities including both a Junior Primary and Upper Primary designated playground, with a spectacular nature play, edible garden and outdoor learning area, an all-weather outdoor stadium and a 5 bay kitchen. The kitchen is supplemented by a large garden with students from Rec - Year 6 participating in a range of cooking and gardening activities.

Our newly created Vision 'Dream Believe Learn Achieve' provides us with the 'what' we want for our students and this is clearly supported by our clear focus on our School Values, providing the 'how' we are going to achieve this. Our values are embedded in everything we do, from School Awards to our Behaviour Education policy. Our School Values are: Belonging, Caring, Learning, Persisting and Respecting

# 1. General information

- School Principal name: Mrs Bernie Lipman
- Deputy Principal's name: Mrs Kelly Freer
- Year of opening: 1914
- Postal Address: PO Box 496, LOXTON SA 5333
- Location Address: P15 Pyap Street, Loxton 5333
- DECD Region: Riverland – Berri Portfolio
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 250kms
- Telephone number: 08 8584 7408
- Fax Number: 08 8584 6493
- School website address: [www.loxtonps.sa.edu.au](http://www.loxtonps.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [dl.0760.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0760.admin@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Happy Haven
- February FTE student enrolment:

<b>February FTE Enrolment History</b>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reception	44	39	49	35	33	35
Year 1	44	41	38	46	37	38
Year 2	48	44	40	37	48	38
Year 3	52	43	41	37	35	52
Year 4	40	48	40	42	37	36
Year 5	40	40	55	41	42	37
Year 6	53	40	39	52	42	46
Year 7	49	54	42	41	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>School Card %</b>					40%	36%
<b>ATSI %</b>					8%	10%
<b>SWD %</b>					9%	9%
<b>EALD %</b>					2%	4%

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- Student enrolment trends: In 2022 enrolments numbers decreased due to the move of Year 7 to high school. Numbers have been relatively stable over the last 5 years and the trend appears to be very similar for 2023.
  - Staffing numbers (as at February census):
    - Teaching staff: 20 FTE plus 0.4 Aboriginal Education teacher, 0.8 Wellbeing Leader, 1.0 Deputy Principal, 1.0 Principal, 0.4 Literacy/Numeracy Coordinator, 18 hours ACEO, 265 hours ancillary SSO including administration, classroom support, library support and GSE.
  - Public transport access: Nil
  - Special site arrangements: Nil

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Loxton Primary School is situated on the River Murray in the Riverland. Most students live in the local town with approximately 16% living in outlying areas on farms/fruit properties. These students access buses to bring them to school while others walk or ride to and from school. Staff are on duty from 8.30am to support children who arrive early due to parents working.
- Student well-being programs
  - Child Protection curriculum
  - Well-being meetings- held weekly with Principal, Deputy Principal, Leader of Wellbeing, Pastoral Care Worker and ACEO. Minutes from meeting stored on TEAMS for all staff highlighting students on radar.
  - Berry Street Education Model- embedded with common language, Statement of Practice.
  - Wellbeing Room- focus on supporting students' regulation and behaviour.

- Student support offered

Targeted Literacy support is provided to students through explicit intervention programs MaqLit with an SSO. Students are identified for the program using learner achievement data collected at a school and system level and grouped according to their needs in relation to the programs. Students identified with a disability are supported as per their individual One Plans. Speech and Language support is provided to students who have a current speech program assigned by the Department for Education Speech services. This program is reviewed regularly through our Student Review Team and regular speech assessments. Students in the Early Years are supported by SSOs through InitaLit Booster groups identified through school data and reviewed by SSOs and Class Teachers twice a term. Maths support is provided by SSOs for 1 lesson in every class across the week working with

students who need support or to challenge and stretch. Students are identified by the Class teacher based on school and class data.

- Student management

The Behaviour Education Policy is the method by which we cater for the safety and wellbeing of everyone involved with the school - students, staff, parents/ caregivers, and visitors.

This policy is based on the Education Department School Discipline Policy.

We believe that

- Appropriate student behaviour results from a partnership between staff, students and their families/caregivers.
- All individuals and groups need to be valued and treated with respect.
- All behaviour is chosen for a purpose.
- Individuals must accept responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Consequences for inappropriate behaviour are non-violent, logical, related to student's behaviour and negotiated as part of our Student Behaviour Education policy.
- Behaviour expectations are made explicit to students.

While aiming to establish a clear and concise series of steps for dealing with inappropriate behaviours, we also acknowledge the vital importance of creating an atmosphere of genuine care and concern such that inappropriate behaviours are less likely to occur.

- Student government

Loxton Primary School acknowledges the importance of leadership within the student body. The establishment of a Student Representative Council provides an avenue for students to express views and become part of the decision making process with regard to issues that affect the student body. It also provides an opportunity for students to take on leadership roles.

*Representatives:*

- One or Two School Leaders from Year 6.
- Deputy Leaders (Yr 6's) may be elected if deemed necessary/ worthy.
- One male and one female student per class per semester from Grades Reception to Year 6.
- One Indigenous Rep from year 5-6. Voted in by all Indigenous students each semester.

*Roles:*

Roles include but are not limited to organising:

School Fundraiser eg- Cupcake Day, Sausage Sizzles, Community Service eg: SES volunteer work, Remembrance Day/Anzac Day wreath commemorations, School Disco.

- Special programmes

Swimming & Aquatics, Bike Ed, iCAS testing opportunities provided, Instrumental Music, Choir, Gardening, Cooking

### 3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

The Annual Report and Site Improvement Plan are available on [www.loxtonps.sa.edu.au](http://www.loxtonps.sa.edu.au). Other key policies are also found on our website.

- Recent key outcomes:

- Phonic Screen Check testing results showed an increase of 15% from 2021 with 78% achieving benchmark. This upward trend has continued since the introduction of the PSC in 2018 where 33% of students achieved benchmark. The growth of student achievement from 33% to 78% this year is significant and due to the introduction of InitialLit, decodable readers, Heggerty Phonological lessons, data collection and analysis and collaborative planning in the Early Years. We continue to track and monitor student data to support this upward trend.
- Running Records:
  - Year 1 Running Records - 76% achieved Standard of Education
  - Year 2 Running Records - 75.5% achieved Standard of Education
  - Progress Achievement Test (PAT) is undertaken each year to track student growth in Reading and Maths. Teachers use the data to inform planning and support student learning. The Department for Education set benchmarks for Standard of Education. Our results were positive, on average 82% of students achieved benchmark in Reading and 79% on average in Maths. We continue to work on comprehension being a focus of our reading goal and problem solving in number for Maths.
- Year 3
  - PAT Reading – 94% Achieved Standard of Education
  - PAT Maths – 83% Achieved Standard of Education
- Year 4
  - PAT Reading – 81.5% Achieved Standard of Education
  - PAT Maths – 79% Achieved Standard of Education
- Year 5
  - PAT Reading – 68% Achieved Standard of Education
  - PAT Maths – 73% Achieved Standard of Education
- Year 6
  - PAT Reading – 83% Achieved Standard of Education
  - PAT Maths – 81% Achieved Standard of Education
- Our NAPLAN data showed some impressive results. Of particular note was the Year 3 cohort with nearly half the cohort achieving in the Higher Bands. We were excited with this result as this is the first cohort to undertake the full cycle of InitialLit since its implementation. Maths continues to be a focus, particularly consistency in problem solving across year levels. This will continue to be our focus in 2023.
- Year 3 Reading – 46% in Higher Bands
- Year 5 Reading – 25% in Higher Bands
- Year 3 Maths – 23% in Higher Bands
- Year 5 Maths - 14% in Higher Bands

## 4. Curriculum

Subject offerings: : Australian Curriculum (including the implementation of the Department for Education Curriculum Units creating state wide consistency) is covered by classroom teachers, with Specialist subjects in PE & Health, Technology F-2, Science 3-6 and HASS F-3.

- Open Access/Distance Education provision: Nil
- Special needs:

The Deputy Principal and Principal along with Literacy/Numeracy Coordinator support the differentiation of curriculum to individual student needs by working closely with students and staff. LPS employs several SSOs (student support officers) who have a wide range of skills, including one SSO at level 3 supporting Speech and Language, one SSO at level 2 supporting students with complex behaviours using “What’s the Buzz?”, three SSOs at level 1 supporting support targeted small group intervention using MacqLit and InitialLit working with teachers to ensure student learning goals are met.

- Teaching methodology:  
High Impact Strategies of explicit teaching, clear learning intentions, sequence of learning, differentiated teaching through focus groups, questioning. ICT is integrated across the curriculum at all year levels with Interactive White Boards and TVs in classrooms. Students have access to classroom computers and ipads as well as a computer suite. Year 6s have their own suite of laptops to support their learning.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting

The school endeavours to provide parents/caregivers, staff and students with an ongoing record of what students know and can do. Students who wish to, are encouraged to enter the International Assessment for Schools Mathematics, English, Spelling, Writing, Computing and Science competitions.

As a school staff we are committed to reporting to parents/caregivers on their child’s progress and achievements every term. Providing accurate assessments with relevant feedback. Encouraging open communication between teacher/parent, and parent/teacher. Providing evidence of assessed students’ work.

Reporting procedures include parent/teacher interviews in Term 1 and during Term 3 (optional) and written reports occur twice a year

## 5. Sporting Activities

Loxton Primary offers a highly regarded specialist P.E. programme. School Sport (formerly SAPSASA) participation is encouraged. Many children are involved in both school and out of school sports. Years R-5 students attend swimming lessons at the Loxton Pool. In addition, Upper Primary classes take a course in Aquatics and water safety. Annual Sports Day and Swimming Carnival are held, each year.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Assemblies are held every fortnight on a Friday morning. They are well attended by our families and community members. Assemblies involve classes sharing their work, drama, dance and music and are an acknowledgement by the school of significant student achievement. Each classroom present awards to students throughout the year which are in-line with our values.

The Annual School Concert is held each year in Term 4. This is a large presentation and is greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the whole school community.

Each year the year 6's are invited to participate in annual excursions in Term 4 with the Loxton feeder schools. This is a wonderful transition experience for our students, as they have the opportunity to mix with other year 6 students from surrounding schools before starting high school.

The Year 6's celebrate the end of their primary school years at a Graduation Evening which is held at the Loxton Precinct.

Fun Run is held annually as a fundraiser but is the initial stage for cross country running. This is a marvelous event that involves the whole school taking part in a 'Run' down by the river on a designated course beginning at the Loxton Aquatic Club. A short course is set up for the R-3 students while the Years 4-6 students compete in age groups over 2km. The top 5 in each age group are invited to take part in the Riverland District Carnival Cross Country

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

The movement of teaching staff has been minimal over many years, with many staff having served over ten years at the school. In recent years new contract teachers have joined the work force.

- Leadership structure

Leadership consists of Principal, Deputy Principal, Leader of Wellbeing, Literacy/Numeracy Coordinator, all on tenured positions. Working together and modelling strong collaborative practices are a strength.

- Staff support systems

Staff members working collaboratively on school culture, vision and values is an integral part of the life of the school. Staff Matters group supports the wellbeing of staff with initiatives to support wellbeing, self-regulation, mindfulness and self-care. A Positive Pair is a recent addition to promote staff and ensure they are valued by once a term coordinating a fun activity for all staff to join in.

- Performance Development

Performance Development for staff within the school is shared between the Principal and the Deputy Principal. The process is a collaborative one with teachers and SSO's negotiating the focus and direction of the professional learning and class



interaction with leadership. Peer feedback is part of the site process and PLC discussion also supports attainment of individual goals for student learning.

There is a strong culture of collaboration and support. Emphasis and energy is committed to developing close relationships and working together toward shared goals for improved student learning outcomes.

- Staff utilisation policies

The Personnel Advisory Committee consisting of the Principal, Union Rep, SSO and Teacher representatives who meet 2 x a term or when necessary to support the management of the staff profile. All staff are involved in consultation, with the Governing Council supporting the Principal with the overall direction of the Site Improvement Plan.

- Access to special staff

All staff work closely with Student Support Services eg: Behaviour Coach, Special Educator, Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Hearing Specialist and Educational Psychologists.

- Other

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## **8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

### *Country Incentives*

Loxton Primary School attracts financial benefits for teachers under the new Country Incentives Allowance.

## **9. School Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds

The school is located on very attractive grounds which includes a large oval with cricket pitch, football goals and a large undercover Stadium with basketball/netball/tennis court outlines. A covered playground area for Middle Primary students is frequently attended. A Junior Primary playground and grassed area with covered sandpit with a fantastic nature play area for use by all students. An administration block, Junior / Middle / Upper Primary classrooms, the old school house (OSHC), library and Hall, a 5 bay Kitchen, extensive garden, a computer room, and music room. All rooms are air-conditioned.

- Heating and cooling

All classrooms are air-conditioned including air purifiers where required and natural ventilation.

- Specialist facilities and equipment

Music room to support Instrumental music for students in Years 4, 5, 6. Computer room with a class set of desktops with photocopy/printer. Double Science and Technology room with two sets of laptop trolleys (30 laptops) used to support



learning. Large Hall for all classes to access for music/dance/drama lessons. Also used for assemblies each fortnight. School Library for classes to use with large work area for research activities with access to two sets of laptop trolleys (30 laptops). Large 5 bay kitchen for classes to use for cooking/technology. Large garden for all classes to access which supplements some food for cooking. Outdoor stadium used for all PE lessons and community use on weekends/after school.

- Student facilities

A canteen is outsourced with services available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Ordering is via the QKR app. SRC Leaders facilitate a canteen for snack purchases on Thursday. A computer room is well equipped with computers, photocopier and printer. Students have access to laptops and iPads within classroom areas. All classrooms have been fitted with Interactive Whiteboards.

- Staff facilities

A staff workroom area with computers is available for use. All teachers are provided with a school laptop and iPad to support their work.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

A toilet and shower facility is available. Ramps allow access to the whole school.

- Access to bus transport

Students living more than 5kms from a government school have access to a school bus.

Other

OSHC operates a before, after school and vacation care via a Third Party Provider via the OSHC house.

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

Loxton Primary School has a clear decision making framework, with roles and responsibilities outlined for each group and committee.

Committees:

- Finance Advisory
- PAC
- Governing Council
- Wellbeing
- OSHC Advisory
- WHS
- Kitchen Garden
- Grounds, Facilities and Management
- ICT
- Events
- Recycling

- Regular publications

A SWAY newsletter is produced and circulated to all families 3 times a term via email, Facebook, Class Dojo and website. Individual teachers use Class Dojo to connect with families and class newsletters in hard copy are sent out at the beginning

of each term. Staff view absences via an electronic day book and use email and TEAMS for communicating at school. We have a Facebook page which is regularly updated to keep the school community informed.

- Other communication

EdSmart is used for consent to camps, excursions, sporting events etc. For families who cannot access emails, consent forms and information is sent home via hard copy.

- School financial position

The school is in a sound financial position but maintains close monitoring by the Principal, Business Manager and Finance Committee.

- Special funding

The school receives funding for Country Areas Program.

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics

Loxton Primary School is a category 4, R-6 school, which is situated on the southern side of the River Murray, in South Australia's Riverland district, approx. 250 km from Adelaide. It is located on the lands of the Erawirung people. Loxton has a population of nearly 5,000 people and its primary productions are agriculture and horticulture. Citrus fruit, wine grapes, almond and stone fruit are prevalent along with dryland farming and grain cropping. Both these industries provide work for many of our families as well as a vibrant main street with small businesses. Our school is an important part of our community – our end of year School Concert, Sports Day and Colour Fun are excellent examples of activities that foster our community spirit.

- Parent and community involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to be involved with the school. The school has an active parent community via Governing Council, parent volunteers helping in classrooms, library, kitchen cooking, garden and sports activities.

- Feeder or destination schools

Our school has excellent professional working relationships with Loxton Preschool and Loxton High School. The transition program from Preschool to School is a flagship for prospective parents as a buddy program is in place to support the new Reception students on their transition visits and in the first week of school. The transition program from School to High School is also strong as we work with other local schools to ready our students in the move to High School. Sharing of information between both Preschool to Primary School and Primary School to High School to support all our learners is paramount.

- Other local care and educational facilities

Learning Together Community Playgroup is operated in our Hall on Monday and Tuesday and is facilitated by a teacher employed on site. A Childcare Centre and Family Day Care operate in Loxton.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

The main street of Loxton, East Terrace, is within walking distance to the school with many small businesses operating with a Post Office, local community hotel and town library featuring.

- Other local facilities

Local sporting facilities include Football, Netball, Basketball, Cricket, Tennis, Bowls, Squash, 3 gyms and Swimming Pool. A hospital, medical clinic, physiotherapy with hydropool, dental clinic, optometrist are available. A RSL and many other small groups operate for locals to enjoy.

- Availability of staff housing

Government Employee Housing, or homes to rent or purchase are available.

- Accessibility

Accessibility to Adelaide via bus is available daily.

- Local Government body

Loxton Primary School is located in the Loxton Waikerie District Council area.

## 12. Further Comments

We welcome you visiting our website ([www.loxtonps.sa.edu.au](http://www.loxtonps.sa.edu.au)). If you would like a tour or visit to our school, please phone our front office to make an appointment.