

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2022

**School number:** 0456

**School name:** Waikerie Primary School



## Contextual Statement:

Waikerie Primary School is located 180 kilometres from the Adelaide General Post Office and has a February 2022 census enrolment of 201 students. The school card population is approximately 39% with a small percentage of Aboriginal and non English speaking background students.

### 1. General information

- School Principal Megan Higgins
- Deputy Principal Leanne Jones
- 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 Bridge 2
- Waikerie Partnership  
Waikerie Primary School is a part of this partnership along with Swan Reach, Waikerie High, Ramco, 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.
- 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](http://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 is located on site in the old Principal's Residence.
- Play Group  
Play group is held every Friday morning, 8:45 – 10:30am.

## February FTE student enrolment

YEAR LEVEL	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
RE	22	31	37	36	44	24
01	25	21	37	37	36	43
02	27	26	34	34	36	31
03	35	28	19	19	31	36
04	30	37	22	20	20	28
05	39	29	22	23	19	19
06	29	38	37	38	19	23
07	32	29	30	30	36	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>224</b>

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
School Card Approvals	67	91	90	93	95	73
EALD	20	27	21	25	19	16
Aboriginal Enrolment	13	17	14	15	11	16

### Staffing numbers (as at February 2022 census)

Classroom teachers		Female 9 - 1.0	2 - 0.6
		1 - 0.2	1 - 0.4
Student Wellbeing Leader		Female 0.6	
Coordinator		Female 0.4	
Science - NIT		Female 1.0	
The Arts - NIT		Male 0.4	
Spanish - NIT		Female 0.4	
ACEO		Not Filled	
Aboriginal Education Teacher		Female 0.2	
Ancillary Staff	(Permanent Part Time)	Female 6.0	
	(Casual/Part Time)	Male 1	Female 4.0
Groundsperson	(Part Time)	Male 1 (20 hours)	
Pastoral Care Worker		Female (12 hours)	

## 2. **Students**

### General characteristics

Approximately 20% of students travel on school buses. The majority of these students reside on agricultural and horticultural properties. A significant proportion of families rely on various aspects of fruit growing for their income. ESL new arrival students and Aboriginal students attract additional funding.

### Student Wellbeing Programs

Breakfast program – Student Wellbeing leader oversees a breakfast program two mornings a week with volunteer support.

The school has a Student Engagement and Wellbeing Plan attached to the Site Improvement Plan as an ongoing priority.

Social and emotional learning programs that may be utilised in the school include Berry Street Education Strategies, Child Protection Curriculum and Peer Support/Buddy classes.

### Student Support

The school has a Student Wellbeing Leader who is a registered teacher. They provide leadership within a preventative and developmental model of primary school counselling. The Wellbeing Leader works with class teachers to implement a range of social and emotional initiatives.

The school provides additional SSO support to meet student learning needs particularly in Speech and Language, Literacy and Numeracy. This support varies from in class, to small group and 1:1 dependent on need. There are a number of student plans in place to document support.

Students with Disabilities are supported 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 support.

### Student Management

The school has a positive support approach and reinforces agreed appropriate behaviours through logical consequences and behaviour education. Clear behaviour guidelines have been established and documented in our Behaviour Support Process.

The 6 values are displayed throughout the school. We focus at the beginning of each year on our values. Values work continues throughout the year and certificates are awarded at student led assemblies. Restorative conversations are enacted.

### House Teams / Cup

Waikerie Primary School has 4 House Teams – Barker (green), Eyre (yellow), Flinders (red) and Sturt (blue). When students enrol at the school they are placed in a team. House Captains in 2022 are Year 6 students. At the beginning of the school year female and male students nominate for the positions and are voted in by team members. These leaders assist with school sporting events, organise their teams and activities. House leaders build positive team spirit, attitudes and promote participation.

The school also runs a House Cup competition. Students have the opportunity to receive *house tokens* in learning or break time as a reward for positive behaviour and actions. Tokens are collected, tallied and totals are announced at assembly and published in the newsletter.

### Student Leadership

At Waikerie Primary School we aim to promote and develop leadership skills in all students. These opportunities range from classroom responsibilities to more formal leadership roles. Leadership roles include School Leaders, House Captains, Student Voice representatives and Youth Environment Team (YET) members. Student Leadership positions are held in high regard by the principal, staff and school community. Student Leaders are representative of the Waikerie Primary School values. They are key participants in both the modelling of standards for their peers and younger students as well as proactively representing the school community.

### Special Programmes

Our choir participates in the Riverland Music Festival each year and our student leaders attend a Leadership day.

### 3. **School Improvement Plan priority areas**

- Reading, and Numeracy
- Student Wellbeing and Environmental Education are ongoing

### 4. **Curriculum**

- The Australian Curriculum is 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, Spanish and the Arts are R-6 Specialist subjects.
- Reporting procedures include parent/teacher/student discussions at the beginning of Term 2 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 TVs installed in all classrooms. Students have access to classroom computers and ipads as well as a computer suite. Tablets are utilised by our Year 6 and 7 students.
- A Playroom for the Junior Primary students is available.

### 5. **Sporting Activities**

- Year 5/6 students have the opportunity to be involved in a range of SAPSASA sports including 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 6 students participate in an Aquatics program each year.

### 6. **Co-Curricular Activities**

#### General

Students have the opportunity to learn various musical instruments through DfE teachers or private instructors. DfE instrumental music teaching is available in brass, guitar and woodwind. Private teaching is available in drums and piano.

YET (Youth Environment Team) is an initiative within the school which has made an 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 the Barmera Environmental Expo. There is a strong ongoing partnership between YET and the Riverland West Local Action planning group.

### 7. **Staff**

#### Staff profile

2022 has 1 new teaching staff member and a Coordinator in Primary Reading (0.4).

#### Leadership structure

Currently Principal, Deputy Principal and Student Wellbeing Leader

#### Decisions

Staff meetings are held each Thursday and comprise of professional learning, self review and management, and school administration. Other decisions are also made through consultation PAC, WHS and Finance committees. The school has a documented *Decision Making* process.

### Staff communication

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

### Performance Performance and Development

The school has a documented Performance and Development process that is aligned to the Department for Education Performance and Development Policy and Guidelines.

### Access to Specialist Staff

Support Services including Social Worker, Behaviour Support Coach, Special Education, Speech Pathologist and Behaviour Management are available through the Berri Education Office.

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

- Government housing available
- Access to the Country Incentive Allowance for new staff

## **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 and early years nature play.

### Specialist facilities

The school also has a school pool, hall, gym, computing suite, Science room, and a Play room which hosts the community playgroup.

### 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 school 11 seater 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, Fundraising and Grounds Committees. Parents and staff have input into these committees.

### Parent Complaint Management

The school follows the Department for Education documents 'Managing complaints at a site level'.

### 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 via the SeeSaw app and 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 Event, 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). Residents need to shop out of town for some speciality items. Eating establishments include the Hotel, Community Club, cafes and take-away shops.

### Other local facilities

A hospital and medical centre with several doctors. Physiotherapy, chiropractic and dentistry services available.

Football, netball, basketball, cricket, tennis and hockey clubs all have senior and junior competitions. Waikerie also has active bowling and Little Athletics clubs. The Recreation Centre caters for a variety of activities including a 24 hour gym facility and fitness classes.

Several churches are located within the region.

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

Waikerie has a community library attached to the Civic Centre.

Service clubs such as Lions and Rotary operate.

### Availability of staff housing

There are Government Real Estate Management houses available for eligible government employees. Three local land agents are in the town.

### Public transport access

Stateliner service to Adelaide twice daily

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](http://www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au)