

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2007

School number: 0629

School name: Wharminda Primary School

1. General information

Part A

- Principal: Matthew McCurry: B.Ed.

- **Part B**

- Deputy Principal's name, if applicable

:No Deputy

- School e-mail address

:info@wharmindaps.sa.edu.au

- Web Address

:wharmindaps.sa.edu.au

- Staffing numbers

: The staffing complement is 2.4 comprising of a Principal (1.0), a Junior Primary Class, and an Upper Primary Class. There are currently 3 part time teachers at the school. The class teacher and the Principal share the Upper Primary. The Junior Primary teachers share the Junior class. The school has 44 hours of permanent ancillary time, of which 37 hours are allocated to one SSO and 3 hours are allocated to the Groundsperson. An additional 14 hours has been purchased under P21 for another SSO.

- Partnerships 21 status

:Wharminda Primary School opted into the first round of Partnerships 21.

- OSHC

:No

- Enrolment trends

:Current enrolment trends indicate that the school will not increase above 30 in the next three years.

- Special arrangements

:No

- Year of opening

:1914

- Public transport access
:The closest public transport (Stateliners) is at Port Neill, 26 kilometres by dirt road from Wharminda, which operates daily. Plane service is available from Port Lincoln, 100 kilometres away.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
:Most students travel to school on a school bus. The students are from 16 families, most live on farms in the local district. Wharminda currently has a two class structure R-2 and 4-7. The children from 5 families are School Card holders. There is one student from an Aboriginal or Non-English speaking background.
- (Pastoral) care programs
:Students are involved in social skill programs with their teachers and the Principal. The small school atmosphere allows staff, students and parents to get to know each other well facilitating a high level of pastoral care at all times.
- Support offered
:Support is available through visiting specialists from Port Lincoln or Whyalla.
- Student management
:Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Class and yard rules are negotiated between students and staff. A school behaviour code has been developed and maintained. The bus policy is in line with Cleve Area School to provide consistency in both schools for dealing with bus issues.
- Student government
:The Student Representative Council meet regularly. There is an Executive of 2, Chairperson and Secretary. They hold office for 2 terms. A student committee structure exists to enable genuine student voice R-7. The work students do in committees is treated as part of their assessable learning.
The SRC keep a stock of iceblocks in a freezer they purchased themselves. This is a good source of income for students and in 2005 they are purchasing a TV and DVD video.
- Special programmes
:Parents and Grandparents provide classroom support. This support is encouraged and greatly appreciated. SSO classroom support and 1:1 support for special needs students is provided.
Close links exist between Wharminda Primary School and Cleve Area School, enabling regular visits and shared learning for students with their peers from a larger school.
Wharminda Primary School takes part in learning activities each term with three other small schools; Pt Neill, Ungarra and Karkoo Primary Schools. The schools work together to provide professional and social contact for staff, children and parents.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Learning Plan & other key statements or policies

:All teaching and learning programmes are planned in line with the SACSA Frameworks and Site Learning Plan.

The school addresses the issue of isolation with a range of programs and experiences offered during the year, which help to address the social justice issues of geographical isolation.

Site Learning Plan statements of Strategic Intent in three key areas.

- Our students are engaged in effective literacy learning.
- Our students develop broad numeracy skills.
- Our students show the values of respect, tolerance and caring for others.

There is a major emphasis on including real life learning experiences in across all curriculum areas.

- Recent and or expected achievements in relation to key outcomes

: Expected Literacy learning outcomes from Site Learning Plan

- Literacy skills transferred to other learning areas: eg children independently conference and editing their work; children monitor and correct own speech.
- Students initiating real life literacy learning experiences.
- Greater teacher satisfaction in literacy teaching.

Expected Numeracy learning outcomes from Site Learning Plan

- Improved student numeracy skills.
- Students able to transfer numeracy skills to other areas of learning.
- Students able to use numeracy skills in real life situations.
- Children seem keen to take part in numeracy problem solving activities, eg ...'Can I do that?...
- Children initiating discussion about numeracy activities eg 'Let's do it this way.' 'Look what I have found out!
- Better numeracy results in LaN tests.

: Expected Social Skills learning outcomes from Site Learning Plan

- Ongoing positive relationships between teachers and students
- A happy and safe learning environment
- Positive comments between students
- All children included at play times
- Respect shown to unknown adults, including new staff members
- Students display tolerance of difference
- Students act in respectful and caring ways to others
- Behaviour Code in place and understood by all.

Annual update of 2 curriculum computers and purchasing of other information technology equipment is continuing. Year 6 and 7 students have their own flash disks. Digital cameras are used daily across the school to enhance and celebrate learning.

Enterprise Education – ongoing development of student enterprise education programme.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
 - :All curriculum areas are covered throughout the year. The main focus currently is Literacy, Numeracy and Values Education.
- Open Access
 - :No
- Provision for special needs e.g., ESL
 - :We have one identified special needs student who is receiving weekly SSO support. 14% of our students have dyslexia. Governing Council has approved 1 hour of extra SSO support each week for these students in 2005.
- Special curriculum features
 - :The whole school is involved in:
 - Fitness and Brain Food each morning to start the day.
 - A 90 minute Literacy block each day
 - A maths block for 90 minutes four days a week.
- Teaching methodology
 - :Teachers use a variety of teaching methodologies suitable to the diverse needs of our students.
- Assessment procedures and reporting
 - :The school reports to parents in Terms 2 and 4 through a formal written report. Parent Teacher interview are conducted in Term 1 with an optional interview available for parents in Term 3. Staff use a variety of assessment techniques and procedures to gather information on each student.
 - :Each student has a diary (4-7) or communication book (R-3), which is used by parents and teachers to communicate regularly. Staff and parents readily approach each other to discuss issues by phone and in person both in and out of school.
- Joint programmes
 - :The school is part of a Small Schools on Eyre Cluster which provide the Year 6/7 students with a Leadership Camp each term. This provides the students with an opportunity to meet other students their own age and to gain further leadership skills.
 - Ungarra, Pt Neill, Karkoo and Wharminda Primary Schools work closely together in a number of areas and are known as the SEEP (Small Eastern Eyre Primary) network. The SEEP network Principals plan together, students share learning days in various curriculum areas, and some staff T&D is co-jointly planned.
 - In 2005 staff from Cleve Area School and Wharminda Primary School are rekindling regular visits between the two schools.

5. Sporting Activities

:There are club sports that are played competitively in our community. These include – Tennis, Softball, Football, Cricket, Basketball, Eight Ball, Bowls, Golf, Squash and Netball. Pt Niell, Karkoo, and Ungarra join with Wharminda to hold an annual Swimming Carnival, Beach Sports Day and Tabloid Sports Day. The year 6/7 students have the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA sports each year.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Special

:The school has an established native vegetation scrub area. Daphne Bates, a member of the community, successfully coordinated the funded project with the assistance of students, parents, other community members, and staff. It includes a direct seeded site, rock garden area and approximately 700 trees planted by the students. The students collected native seed in the area and propagated the trees.

The school has been involved in KESAB for a number of years and has many awards. This year the Junior Primary class are planting flowers in pots and upgrading the gardens around the admin building as part of their science learning.

There is a well-managed Playcentre on site. It operates on Friday mornings and provides an interesting programme of activities for pre-school children of all ages. Parents participate with their children and stay for recess with school staff. The Junior Primary class and Play centre enjoy combined activities and excursions at least once each term.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff support systems

:The Junior Primary teachers provide a cohesive curriculum with some time provided by the school each term to help facilitate co-operative planning. School events are planned at staff meetings in a collaborative manner. The whole school works together on special events and in curriculum areas eg shared lunches, Auskick.

- Performance management

:Learning Conversations take place each term. Staff are encouraged to manage their own professional learning, with the Principal's support. Learning Conversations with teacher's link class practice with the Site Learning Plan. Learning conversations also occur with SSOs.

- Staff utilisation policies
:Ancillary time is divided between two people. One ancillary staff member works 37 hours a week on administrative, finance and library management tasks. The other SSO provides classroom support and does the school newsletter. The grounds person works 3 hours a week maintaining the grounds. We also have an Hourly Paid Instructor employed to allow music to be delivered into the school on a weekly basis. There is no Tier 2 allocation.
- Access to Special Staff
The Guidance Officer is from Pt Lincoln with support from a Psychologist funded by Division of General Practice (medical doctors). Disability services, Learning Band Coordinator and Leadership support are available from Pt Lincoln.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
:0 points per year
- Isolation placement points
:5 points per year
- Shorter terms
:No
- Travelling time
:No
- Housing assistance
:Rent assistance can be applied for when renting housing in Port Neill or at Wharminda in the local district.
- Cooling for school buildings
:All school buildings are airconditioned.
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
:Yes
- Additional increment allowance
:No
- Designated schools benefits
:No
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:No
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:Yes

- Locality allowances
:Yes
- Relocation assistance
:Yes
- Principal's telephone costs
:Yes

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
:The school is accommodated in a triple block (two classrooms and a library), an activity room and Playcentre, a new administration building, a storage shed, a shed used for science, technology and art, and a shelter shed. All buildings are in good condition and have recently been painted.
The grounds are spacious and play areas are paved or grassed. A new pergola has been build with paving set to be updated and a new playground and shade areas is in development.
- Cooling
:Yes all buildings are air-conditioned.
- Specialist facilities
:No
- Student facilities
:The school has a well-maintained computer area in the library for student and staff use.
There are ample shaded play areas. Children really enjoy playing in the sand pit under the pergola, where staff sit at recess and lunch. The school oval is well used by students during break times.
There is rainwater and cooled drink fountain water available for student use.
Students have access to a wide variety of spots and play equipment at recess and lunch times.
- Staff facilities
:The administration building provides staff with a teacher preparation area close to teaching resources. Staff have access to computers and the internet in the library and admin area. Wharminda is an educonnect school.
- Access to bus transport
:At times parents transport students for excursions and SAPSASA events. We use the school bus for whole school and class excursions when we have a driver available.

• **School Operations**

• Decision making structures

:The school is a Partnerships 21 School and has a very active Governing Council, which meets twice a term. The Governing Council prefer to reach decisions using a consensus approach. Adhoc committees are formed as the need arises. Parents are keen to take part in school decision making.

A Finance Committee that includes the Principal and three parents representatives meets twice a term before Governing Council to review the budget. This committee meet more frequently when setting the annual budget.

The PAC meets at least once a term to discuss personnel issues.

O.H.S &W is addressed weekly as part of staff meetings.

The Drug Strategy Core Team is called EAGLE (Educating About Good Living Experiences) and meet periodically to discuss and plan activities for the school and local community.

S.R.C.and student committee meetings are the forums for student voice. Student raised issues are communicated with staff through staff meetings; the Principal in adhoc meetings and parents at Governing Council. Students do not attend staff meetings because they need to be on the bus immediately after school.

Wharminda Primary School has a formal Decision Making Policy.

• Regular publications

:A school community newsletter is published fortnightly. An update is printed in the 'off' weeks to remind families of important events. Each class contributes, general information is included, as well as community notices and school diary dates. Community members, parents and other local schools can elect to have an electronic copy of newsletters. Past newsletters can be purchased, by prospective staff and parents, for a minimal cost. Please contact the newsletter editor or Principal.

A staff handbook and parent handbook are updated each year. The Principal communicates with staff each week in a circular called 'Wharminda Whispers'. Staff utilise a daybook diary to keep informed about daily school happenings.

• School financial position

:The Global Budget has helped our school to be in a sound financial position. Governing Council has made a commitment over a number of years to top up DECS staff funding to maintain 2 classes.

During 2005 a new pergola will be erected. This project will be managed by Governing Council, from monies saved for the purpose.

Parents fundraise in various ways during each year. S.R.C. manage their own fundraising.

• Special funding

:Country Areas Incentives and funding.

• Local Community

• General characteristics

:Located 105kms NNE of Port Lincoln on Eyre Peninsula, Wharminda has been a focal point for the farming community since the early 1900's. Each term community events are held at the school and are well attended. Some children attend Tumby Bay or Cleve Kindergarten travelling on the school bus and most pre-school children attend Playcentre at Wharminda once a week.

Most families are involved in farming or education. All school families socialise together either through sports or informal gatherings.

Parents are very supportive of the school and this is demonstrated by the frequent visits into the school, which includes classroom support. Working Bees are very well attended and a lot is achieved. Parents and grandparents often carry out maintenance work as soon as the need arises.

The Wharminda community is known for its friendliness.

• Other local care and educational facilities

:Most students attend Cleve Area School and Tumby Bay Area School on their completion of primary school. A transition programme caters for year 7 students.

Playcentre occurs at the school site one morning each week.

Occasional care is provided by the Children's Centre in Cleve for preschool children.

• Other local facilities

:There are no town facilities, with mail in and out three times a week. There is a Community Hall, Sports Ground and Grain silos. A doctor is available at Cleve, Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln. There is a dentist at Tumby Bay and Pharmacies at Tumby Bay and Cleve. The Port Neill/Arno Bay Football Club plays against Kimba, Cowell, Rudall and Cleve. A Community Library is located at both Tumby Bay Area School and Cleve Area School.

Most families shop at either Cleve (55kms) or in Port Lincoln. Cleve has a reasonable shopping precinct, which includes a supermarket, chemist, banking facilities, post office, community library, newsagency, furniture and hardware store. There are similar facilities at Tumby Bay (65kms). Port Lincoln has a good range of shopping and service facilities including a Service SA Centre, which provides government department, access eg Motor Registration.

The general store at Arno Bay delivers grocery items to the Wharminda Hall three times a week, by order. This is a very handy service provided at a minimal delivery cost. Items are paid for by monthly account.

• Availability of staff housing

:There are no houses available from Real Estate Management at Wharminda or Port Neill. Rent assistance can be applied for when renting farmhouses at Wharminda or housing in Port Neill. Contact the Principal for information about local farmhouses that may be available in the local community.

- Accessibility
 - :There is a bus service from Pt Lincoln that stops at Arno Bay and Port Niell daily to and from Adelaide. The airport at Pt Lincoln provides daily flights to and from Adelaide. There is no other public transport in the area.
- Local Government body
 - :Wharminda is in the Cleve District Council

12. Further Comments

Working at Wharminda Primary School is a rewarding professional experience. There is a significant amount of professional development presented across the Eyre Peninsula for staff. New teachers are welcomed into the area, both at the school and district level.