



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: June 2023

**School number:** 0571

**School name:** Blanchetown Primary School

## School Profile:

The core values have just been modified (Term 2 2023) to Responsible, Respectful, Resilient via our Positive Behaviours for Learning pilot program. We empower our students to use their values everyday by ensuring explicit teaching, modelled values and positive feedback. Our staff have collaboratively designed a Teaching Matrix that sits behind our PBL framework. We encourage our students to reach their personal best by promoting Active Learners within our classroom communities. We facilitate Community Circles on Monday mornings to further enhance our teaching of whole school values.

We are a well resourced school with new decodables and 1:1 ICT devices. We have picturesque grounds with a newly developed garden, fruit tree aisle and nature play strip. We have recently upgraded our facilities and now boast brand new carpets, painted rooms, blinds and modern, functional new windows and doors. Our students learn in modern spaces which are inviting and inclusive for all.

Our school has a culture which values connections and positive regards for all students. Wellbeing for learning is paramount and we uphold high expectations of all students and staff. We utilise the Science of Learning and our evidence based knowledge of child development and apply these principles to our practice. Our staff are dedicated, approachable and helpful. Students use their agency within our classrooms as active learners to choice learning assessment tasks for example and help codesign their learning goals based off our comprehensive data collection schedule. Students are supported to reach their individual learning goals and these are celebrated. Student data is used to differentiate learning needs. To engage our students in their learning, we build upon student interests. At the beginning of the year we hand out a student interest web to families so we are able to build upon passions and hobbies for enhance learning engagement. Staff are actively engaged in their own capability development and regularly research to inspire and innovate. Leadership know students well, are supportive and collaborate with all staff for the best outcomes for our students. We value the relationships we create with our community and endeavour to have high levels of communication via multiple modes.

The vision of Blanchetown Primary School is to provide an accessible, inclusive, caring, success orientated learning environment to ensure students and their families are empowered to continue their life-long learning with confidence. We are committed to

supporting the individual needs of our students, their families and the community in a positive culture whilst upholding the values of our school.

Last year we were really proud to have hit our Site Improvement Plan target of 100% students reaching the standard for Phonics Screening Check. We have an explicit phonics program and extensive data collection schedule which have helped us to reach this target. We utilise the program, Little Learners Love Literacy to facilitate our Phonics teaching in our R-2 Little Learners classroom.

This year we have a Student Wellbeing Officer who works 1:1 or in small groups to facilitate lessons around relationship building and resilience. Our SWO works with students in our newly developed garden space which has been a great addition to our site.

We have a Playcentre that is open on Thursdays 9-12 for 0-5 year olds and through this our site plays an extra supportive role in our community as we facilitate learning programs for Birth to Year 6.

## 1. General information

- School Principal name: Ashlee Salter, Sue Billett
- Year of opening: 1868
- Postal Address: Godley Street, Blanchetown
- Location Address: as above
- DECD Region: Waikerie
- Geographical location - ie road distance from GPO (km): 176km
- Telephone number: 85 405 041
- Fax Number: 85 405 115
- School website address: [www.blanchtnps.sa.edu.au](http://www.blanchtnps.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [dl.0571.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0571.admin@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC): No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No

- February FTE student enrolment:

Feb FTE Enrolment PRIMARY	2023
Special	0
Reception	3
Year 1	3
Year 2	4
Year 3	1
Year 4	6
Year 5	3
Year 6	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>
School card percentage	13%
NESB enrolment	0
Aboriginal enrolment	0

- Student enrolment trends: Enrolments waiver. Currently, in July we have 17 students enrolled.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

2 x 1.0 classroom teachers 1 x 1.0 Principal 1 x classroom support SSO 1x front office administration SSO

- Special site arrangements:

We work closely with other schools in our Portfolio such as by having Student Free Days together. Our Principal/s attend Portfolio meetings twice per term.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Blanchetown Primary School is an exciting, safe and family orientated school that is made special by the strength of the relationships that have been developed within our students. The school's excellent reputation reflects its commitment to continuous improvement, professional and dedicated staff and providing students with a comprehensive curriculum that caters for different learning styles and rates of learning.

- Student well-being programs

Staff are trained in Berry Street Trauma Awareness as well as the SMARTAR professional development. We are beginning to incorporate What's the Buzz. Healthy Lunches are made weekly by our Parents and Friends committee and we have Toastie Tuesdays for our students. We have a Student Wellbeing Officer (previously Pastoral Care Worker) who works closely with students, their families, staff and our wider community.

- Student support offered

Students not reaching SEA standards are supported with individualised, targeted learning programs and progress monitored regularly.

- Student management

All students have the right to feel safe in a supportive environment, be treated with respect and learn to their personal best. We have the responsibility to ensure that the rights of all individuals are observed at all times. All students have learnt strategies to regulate emotions and have access to spaces if they are required with staff support.

- Student government

Student Voice is run by the Principal in formal meetings twice per term. Weekly Community Circles are a great time for students to voice their ideas. We have student leaders (Year 6's) at Blanchetown Primary School. All students are involved in maintaining various aspects of the school including, planning and hosting events, implementing new ideas

and actions as devised by the student body and the relationship students develop with our Principals allows them the confidence to discuss how to make our learning even better.

- **Special programmes**

Students engage in different sports throughout the year through our Sporting Schools grant and this year, having won two gardening grants, students have been involved in planting and harvesting a garden. BPS have an annual sports day, Mid Murray Sports Day (hat trick winners), swimming lessons, Play Centre for preschool children, and our annual school camp.

### **3. Key School Policies**

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:  
Blanchetown Primary School's Site Improvement Plan for 2023:

#### **Reading**

Goal: To increase Reading Achievement

Target: 3/4 Year 2 students to achieve 40+ on the Dibels Word Reading Fluency End of Year test

Challenge of Practice:

If we embed the Phonics Instructional Routine and implement the SoR Morphology Scope and Sequence to teach systematically and explicitly with a focus on differentiation we will accelerate reading improvement

#### **Maths**

Goal: To increase Numeracy Achievement

Target: 5/6 Year 4 students will achieve PAT-M 110 (SEA) or better by the end of term 3

Challenge of Practice:

If we embed a whole-school Maths Instructional Model to ensure differentiation for all students and focus on addressing misconceptions in Number we will accelerate numeracy improvement.

- Recent key outcomes: Our school is proud of the recent achievements we had had for example, 100% of our Year 1 students reached above the benchmark for the Phonics Screening Check in 2022.

#### 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: Blanchetown Primary School is passionate about delivering all the key learning areas of the Australian Curriculum, using high impact teaching strategies. We work closely with our Curriculum Leaders to ensure innovative curriculum planning and learning programs that are based off of evidence and research. We aim to develop active learners by fostering deep understanding and promoting dialogue as a means of learning. We create safe conditions for rigorous learning and challenge our students to achieve at high standards as they form their own student learning goals based off our data collected and tracked rigorously. Children's wellbeing is central to all that we do, because we know that being healthy in mind and body is vital for leaning and leading a rewarding life. Parents and caregivers are kept informed of student's progress through interviews, written reports and regular informal conversations before/after school, during our open days and at numerous events the school hosts. We also have two assemblies per term and a term overview is sent home in Week 1 outlining the learning program that is upcoming. We publish a regular newsletter and utilise Seesaw for further communication such as photos and event reminders etc.
- Teaching methodology:  
Our students have a 1:1 device, ipads in R-2 and laptops in 3-6 so they can focus on the skills required. We are well resourced and we have SSOs who support student learning and wellbeing outcomes. Our SSOs regularly listen to students read and work 1:1 or in small groups on targeted intervention based directly from data sourced by teaching staff. We have ICT support fortnightly. Our teaching methodology is based on High Impact Teaching Strategies and best advice.
- Student assessment procedures and reporting  
Written reports are sent home twice per year, at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Interviews are held at the end of Terms 1 and 3. Data is regularly collected, collated and analysed. We have recently designed Individual Learning Profiles and have incorporated Essential Assessment throughout our school.

## 5. Sporting Activities

- Participation in a variety of sports is encouraged. Students are involved in a range of coaching clinics in various sports throughout the year thanks to the Sporting Schools grant. Students have access to SAPSASA sporting opportunities.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Lunchtime activities, book week parade and the whole school camp are always highlights. We also host other activities throughout the year such as Roonka excursion and Milo's Birthday Party as well as the team who wins the Dojo points each term gets to choose a fun activity that students engage in at the end of each term.

### 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile  
We have a number of staff rostered on at different days, but usually we have 2-4 SSOs on any given day, 2 teaching staff and a Principal.
- Leadership structure  
Ashlee Salter works M, T, Th, F and Sue Billett on Wednesdays as our Principal. They work closely with our Portfolio Curriculum Advisors to ensure best practice is in place.
- Staff support systems  
BPS dismisses students at 2:30pm every Thursday for Professional Learning Community time. Constant Professional Developments are underway for staff in a large range of areas such as Maths and Literacy and Wellbeing for example. Beginning this year, for three years, all staff are involved in the Positive Behaviours for Learning Pilot.

- Performance Management  
We have a whole school Performance Management outline that we abide by. Teachers have the opportunity to do peer observations as well as engage in Line Manager observations once per year for written feedback. Regular 'Walk Throughs' occur on the daily. Our Performance Development guidelines are developed inline with DfE policy.

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

- Complexity placement points  
:N/A
- Isolation placement points  
: N/A
- Shorter terms  
: N/A
- Travelling time  
: N/A
- Housing assistance  
: For Staff
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance  
: N/A
- Additional increment allowance  
: N/A
- Designated schools benefits  
:N/A
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools  
:N/A
- Medical and dental treatment expenses  
:Eligible
- Locality allowances  
:Yes
- Relocation assistance  
:Yes



- Principal's telephone costs  
:No

## 9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

*The school is located on attractive grounds which include an oval and tennis/netball courts. Our main building houses our front office, Year 3-6 classroom and our Library space, as well as our Art Room, Principal Office, Staff Kitchenette and bathroom. Another building is used for our Little Learners R-2 and Teacher Prep and Storage Rooms. A small weather board building is used for our Play Centre. Grounds include extensive grassed playing areas, playground equipment, three tennis courts with markings for two netball courts, a large oval, sports shed and groundperson's shed. We have a newly developed Nature Play Space and now a wonderful Garden for our kids.*

- Heating and cooling  
Yes
- Specialist facilities and equipment  
*Art Room and Kitchenette in the Little Learners space*
- Student facilities  
*Student Leaders, Healthy Lunches on Fridays and Toasties on Tuesdays*
- Staff facilities  
*We have a Teacher Prep Room and Storage space as well as multiple spaces for staff to access for break times including our Library and staff kitchenettes.*
- Access for students and staff with disabilities  
:Yes
- Access to bus transport  
*We own our own bus and transport students to and from school 4 days per week.*

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures  
*We have a supportive Governing Council and a wonderful Parents and Friends Committee.*
- Regular publications  
*Weekly staff emails, termly planner for families and staff, newsletters*
- Other communication  
*Assemblies and Seesaw app*
- School financial position  
*Sound financial position*
- Special funding  
*Positive Behaviours for Learning, Wellbeing grant*

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics

*The Blanchetown School Community is involved in a cross section of employment including grape, grazing and grain farming, tourism and small business. We have chicken farms locally.*

### Parent and community involvement

*We have a wonderful family feel at our site. Everyone works together for the best outcomes for our students. We have a supportive Governing Council and Parents and Friends Committee. The school grounds are used for Football and Netball on some weekends.*

- Feeder or destination schools  
*Most students attend Waikerie High School in Year 7.*
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
*Blanchetown Shell Service station 24/7*

- Other local facilities  
*Chemist on Sundays*
- Availability of staff housing  
*Government Employee Housing next door to the school*
- Accessibility  
*A Stateliner bus runs to Adelaide daily and a Mid Murray Council funded bus runs to Waikerie and Barossa various times in the monthLocal Government body*

## 12. Further Comments

*Our school is a hub for the Blanchetown Community where we have a very dedicated staff. Families are generally supportive of each other and there is a definite sense of the school being a large family. The Governing Council is a very active committee who helps oversee the school's education program, finance, grounds, facilities, sport and fundraising. A strong sense of pride for the school exists in the community. This is something that the staff work hard to maintain. There are opportunities to participate in recreational river activities, and district football, netball and lawn bowls competition. The school is committed to delivering an innovative and engaging educational learning program as well as promoting wellbeing strategies and lots of fun!*