



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2020

Updated:

School number: 0571

School name: Blanchetown Primary School

School Profile: Blanchetown Primary School's core values are Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Excellence and Honesty. Our student's dispositions for learning are to be curious, motivated, risk-taking, powerful learners. At Blanchetown Primary School, we want all learners to be part of a caring, inclusive, success-orientated, quality-learning environment, which empowers everyone to continue lifelong learning with confidence. Blanchetown Primary is a family orientated school that is made special by the strength of the relationships that have been developed within our community. 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 styles and rates of learning.

1 General information

- School Principal name: Ashlee Salter
- Year of opening:
- Godley Street, Blanchetown, SA 5357
- Location and Postal Address:
- DECD Region: Waikerie Partnership, Riverland
- 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
- School e-mail address: dl.0571.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service:
- February FTE student enrolment:

Feb FTE Enrolment PRIMARY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Special	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	5	5	2	6	4
Year 1	5	6	4	2	6
Year 2	1	3	6	5	2

Year 3	4	1	2	7	6
Year 4	2	2	1	3	7
Year 5	1	2	2	0	3
Year 6	2	1	2	2	0
Year 7	2	3	1	2	2
TOTAL	22	23	20	27	30
School card percentage	45%	43%	10%	22%	20%
NESB enrolment	0	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal enrolment	2	0	0	1	2

- Student enrolment trends: increasing
- 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:

Blanchetown Primary School work closely with surrounding schools and is a member of the Riverland West Small Schools Network. We are committed to the Professional Learning Community established with Morgan, Cadell and Ramco Primary Schools. We work closely with Waikerie Primary, Swan Reach Area, Waikerie Children's Centre and Waikerie High School throughout our Partnership endeavours. Teachers meet as often as we possibly can to discuss planning to enhance student-learning outcomes, plan interaction days and moderate student work.

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 community. The school's excellent reputation reflects if 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 involved with the Berry Street Trauma Awareness training as well as the SMART professional development. We host a breakfast club every Tuesday morning and Healthy Lunches are made fortnightly by our Parents and Friends committee. We have a Pastoral Care Worker who works closely with students, their families and our wider community.
- Student support offered
:Students who are not meeting the DfE standards have 1:1 intervention with our student support officer. We run the MultiLit, Quicksmart and Jolly Phonics programs.
- Student management
:We have a Behaviour Management Flowchart and follow the Department's behaviour policy. 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.
- Student government
:We have student leaders at Blanchetown Primary School who engage in a leader's program at the beginning of the year. 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 all students are given the opportunity to meet with the Principal 1:1 to discuss how to make our learning even better. Students meet as a whole school every morning during 'circle time' so questions can be answered, all students can be greeted by all staff and ideas can be brought up with the student body.
- Special programmes
:Students engage in different sports throughout the year through our Sporting Schools grant and this year, having won a grant for gardening in 2019, students will be involved in a kitchen garden programme where we grow, harvest and cook our own produce for brekky club. In term 1, we have a Splash Carnival, Blanchetown Primary School sports day and Mid Murray Sports Day, Aquatics programme for Year 6/7 students in Baramera, Swimming lessons, Blanchetown Beginnings 4 year old programme on Wednesday afternoons, Play Centre for preschool children, Exhibitions of Learning 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 goals for 2019 were as follows:

READING

Goal- Increase student achievement in reading for Years 3-5.

Target- 5 out of 7 Year 3 students to achieve DfE SEA in PAT-R.

Challenge of Practice: If we explicitly teach students how to comprehend texts with a focus on inferencing, then we will significantly increase student achievement in reading

We achieved our Reading Goal in 2019 as 5 out of 7 students achieved the Standard of Educational Achievement in PAT-R that was required for their year level.

MATHS

Goal- Maintain and increase the number of students achieving the higher bands in numeracy for years 2-4

Target- All Year 2 students to achieve higher bands in PAT-M

Challenge of Practice: If we explicitly teach estimation and problem solving strategies, including 'reasonableness' then we will maintain and/or increase student achievement in numeracy

We did not achieve our Maths target in 2019 as not all students reached higher bands in PAT-M. This now becomes our main aim in 2020; to ensure our students are achieving the SEA in PAT-M and reaching higher bands.

2020 Site Improvement Plan

To maintain and increase reading achievement for Years 3-5

To maintain and increase the number of students in higher bands

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: Blanchetown Primary School is passionate about delivering all the key learning areas of the Australian Curriculum, using high quality teaching and learning approaches, including 'Transforming Tasks' where we ensure multiple entry and exit points in learning tasks for all learners. We aim to develop expert, powerful 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. In 2020, we have a strong focus on Numeracy as this is an area our data is showing needed further work. We design learning starting with curriculum outcomes and include current approaches to differentiate and scaffold learning.

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.

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.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Hosting of brekky club, lunchtime activities, book week parade and the whole school camp is always a highlight.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
:We have a small number of staff
- Leadership structure
:The Principal is the only leadership position in the school, however close communication with all staff ensures teachers have the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills
- Staff support systems
In 2020, staff are involved in the Berry Street program as well as Jolly Phonics Grammar and Spelling. We are also doing the One Plan training and developing our skills internally for our Site Improvement Plan. Where necessary, we discuss our professional development with the Learning Improvement Division and work with surrounding schools.

- 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 twice per year for written feedback. Our Performance Development guidelines are developed inline with DfE policy.
- Access to special staff
Students have access to DfE Support Services with a referral from class teachers

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
:subsidised accommodation is provided as required in a house next door to the school
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
: N/A
- Additional increment allowance
: N/A
- Designated schools benefits
: N/A
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:No
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:eligible
- Locality allowances
:no
- 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. The main buildings consist of:
 1. The main solid brick flexible space building that includes two classrooms (with a moveable wall in between), a staff room/kitchen and bathroom. The office/administration area was upgraded in 1997.
 2. A small weather board building is used for our Play Centre. A bathroom was installed in 2018.
 3. 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
 4. A new library/general learning area (with a kitchen) was installed in 2010 as part of the BER project.
- Heating and cooling
:electric heating and cooling across the school
- Specialist facilities and equipment
Kitchenette available in Library
- Student facilities
Zen Den reading nook and board games corner
- Staff facilities
Staff meeting room in library, teacher resource area upstairs, compactus for storage in main room, staff lunch room
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
:ramp to library building
- Access to bus transport
We have our own privately run bus (12 seater)

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
Governing Council meets twice per term
- Regular publications
School newsletters are sent out on Mondays once per fortnight, staff emails are sent out every Sunday evening
- Other communication
:Closed Facebook group for families, See Saw by classroom teachers, approval of posts by Principal
- School financial position
:the school is in a sound financial position

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

The Blanchetown School Community is involved in a cross section of employment including grape, citrus and stone fruit growing, grazing and grain farming, tourism and small business. The school and town population is increasing due to large investments, in the local area, in chicken farming.

- Parent and community involvement

: The school is seen as a focal point for the community and is very well supported by the Parents and wider community. The school grounds are used for sporting events on the weekends.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

:BP with Post Office, hotel, general store and a takeaway shop

- Other local facilities

There is a medical centre open every second week on a Thursday

- Availability of staff housing

Government Employee housing is available 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 month.

- Local Government body

: Mid Murray Council phone 85691600

12. Further Comments

: 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.

- Blanchetown is a small robust community that works hard to improve the town and support and improve the local facilities which remain. Families are generally supportive of each other and there is a definite sense of the school being a large family.

- Staff are very supportive of each other and work very hard to improve the learning outcomes of all students. Staff work as a team and share responsibilities. The school is very well resourced. All curriculum computers are networked which means all students have access to the internet. Our current ratio is 1 student per computer or iPad.

- There are opportunities to participate in recreational river activities, and district football, netball and lawn bowls competition.