



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 22/2/2017

School number: 0220

School name: LAURA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Laura Primary School

Birth to Primary

Laura Primary School is a small rural school in the mid-north of South Australia. Rooms are spacious, well-equipped and air conditioned. Grounds are picturesque and provide a beautiful and supportive learning and working environment. Our vision is to encourage staff and students to achieve excellence in all areas of school and have confidence in their abilities. Our current school values are Respect, Honesty and Perseverance, following a student-led review in 2017. In 2018 Laura Primary School amalgamated with Wirrabara Primary School and Laura Preschool/Rural Care to create a Birth to Primary educational facility. We currently have 86 primary students and 13 preschoolers.

Literacy, in particular Writing, is a focus for teacher development and Site Improvement with the school's involvement in the 2nd year of the DECD Brightpath Writing Assessment Tool trial. A systemic approach to the teaching and assessment of Writing which includes changes to classroom practices is the basis for future curriculum foci. The school is also involved in developing automaticity in Numeracy through the QuickSmart program and will train five educators in the program in 2018. Involvement in the Upper Mid North Partnership's STEM inquiry project will continue in 2018 and the Upper Primary class will work collaboratively with other schools in the Upper Mid North Partnership. Italian is taught by a specialist teacher as a Language Other Than English and includes cultural aspects. Staff learning is based on school and individual needs and is provided through activities organised by our partnership of local schools, our own site based activities and training provided by recognised organisations and individuals. Student learning resources are up to date and in use throughout the school.

Parent support is strong and students have a voice through class meetings and the Student Representative Council. The SRC seeks to provide students with genuine input into the work of the school and to provide opportunities for the development of decision making and communication skills. We are an integral part of the community and participate in the Laura Folk Fair, which attracts up to 10 000 visitors annually.

Students are very active at our school and participate in a wide range of State sporting activities as well as local sport. There is a strong instrumental music program providing all Year 5-7 students with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

As a result of the amalgamation, major building upgrades are expected to commence in 2018. This will see extensions made to the Preschool/Rural Care building and the stone building. The original school building will be modernised to incorporate teacher offices and workspaces as well as an information/STEM learning hub.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Mrs Prue Hunter
- Year of opening: 1875
- Postal Address: East Terrace, Laura 5480
- Location Address: East Terrace, Laura SA
- DECS Region: Yorke/Mid North
- Geographical location – 213 kms north of Adelaide
- Telephone number: 86632543/86632230
- Fax Number:86632233
- School website address: www.lauraps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0220.admin@schools.sa.edu.au

- February FTE student enrolment:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Preschool							13
Rec	7	3	9	5	11	14	8
Year 1	7	9	8	20	5	10	13
Year 2	4	8	4	6	18	6	12
Year 3	6	4	5	11	5	18	8
Year 4	3	5	3	9	8	5	18
Year 5	11	3	10	4	4	8	10
Year 6	7	10	8	6	4	5	10
Year 7	11	8	10	4	6	4	7
FTE	57	50	57	64	61	70	86
Males	37	30	33	35	31	38	49
Females	20	20	24	29	30	32	50

- Student enrolment trends:
Enrolments are steady with consistent numbers in the Preschool set to maintain numbers over the next two to three years.
- Staffing numbers:
The school supports 6.6 FTE teacher time, including the Principal and 1.0 Early Years Leader. It was decided to support a full time EY leader to oversee the amalgamation of the Preschool and Rural Care in 2018 and to provide leadership and transition for the early years. The school utilises 121.25 SSO hours/week and 119 hrs ECW hours/week for Rural Care support. Some of the SSO hours are permanent administration hours while others support student learning in classrooms and specific learning programs.
- Public transport access:
Stateliner bus daily from Crystal Brook, (22 kms away) to Adelaide
- Special site arrangements:
2 school buses transport students from nearby farming areas.

- In April 2018, an OSHC service will be provided by a third party provider, Happy Haven. Before and after school care, as well as vacation care will be offered depending on community requirements.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics:
Currently approximately 15% School Card
Students are typically active country students who come from a variety of backgrounds.
- Student well-being programs:
Christian Pastoral Support Worker appointed in 2007. Late last year the Governing Council agreed to continue with the Christian Pastoral Support worker program and funding has been approved until end 2018.
- Student Management:
The school has a Student Code of Conduct to which all students adhere. Serious behaviour incidents are rare.
School Student Leaders and Deputy Leaders are appointed annually through a merit selection process which includes all students. Class SRC reps are elected by class members. Each SRC rep's term is for a semester
Class meetings are held weekly. SRC meetings held fortnightly.
- Special programmes:
Teeth cleaning programme for the whole school (financed by Governing Council)
- Coordination programme R-4 on a needs basis.
- Band Instrumental Music – All Year 5-7 students
- Students participate in the local Folk Fair in April – sing Advance Australia Fair and are part of the parade.
- Student's participate in the Remembrance Day event with the local community.
- Students visit the hospital aged care residents and Senior Citizens during the year.
- School Concert at the end of each year
- School Magazine produced each year

3. Key School Policies

- Successful OHS&W Audit (2007)
- Behaviour Code and Grievance Procedures (2018, updated annually)
- Site Improvement Plan 2018 (see separate document for details)

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: 8 areas of learning including LOTE (Italian)
- Learning support: groups of students, identified annually for extra support. This is provided through the purchase of additional teaching staff and SSO support. In 2018
- Camps and Excursions are held on a regular basis
- Small classes with teacher and SSO support (R-7)
- Computers, Laptops, iPads and Interactive Whiteboards in all classrooms, and they are an integral part of classroom practice.
- Specialist IT Room
- An abundance of Teaching Resources and concrete materials
- Student assessment procedures and reporting:
 - NAPLAN Tests
 - PAT testing
 - Internal testing regime
 - Parent /Teacher Interviews (Term 1 and 3)
 - Written Reports (Terms 2 and 4)
 - Fortnightly assembly
 - Informal interviews available on request from parents/teachers
- Joint programmes
 - Cross-age tutoring
 - Whole school activities (eg Science Week, Book Week etc.)
 - Whole school/individual class activities with other schools in the Upper Mid North Partnership (eg JP Activities Day, Mastermind)
 - Year 6/7s Included in Gladstone High School Sporting Carnivals.
- Café Laura is offered in terms 2 & 3 each year by our Pastoral Care Worker, Helen Wurst. This provides all students with the opportunity to plan, cook and serve afternoon tea to their extended family members on a roster system.

5. Sporting Activities

- Intraschool Sports Day
- SAPSASA (North Eastern District)
- A variety of sports are available across the District for both students and adults.

6. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
 - Staffing is stable with all staff living in the wider local district.
- Leadership structure
 - Principal

Early Year Leader

- Performance Management
 - All staff participate in Performance and Development processes including the establishment of a Personal Development Plan.
- Staff have a strong commitment to hosting Student Teachers and Work Experience students.
- All staff are actively encouraged and supported to engage in Training and Development activities in line with the priorities in the School Improvement Plan and their PDP.
- Access to Special Staff
 - The school has access to Specialist Staff in the areas of Psychology, Special Education, Hearing Impaired and Speech.
 - The school has links to CAMHS, Family SA and the Southern Flinders Health Service.

7. School Facilities

- The school comprises:
 - : Main Stone Building housing Administration, Computer Room, well-equipped Staff Room, Kitchen and Library.
 - : Three Transportable buildings (all air conditioned)
 - : Multi-Purpose Building with kitchen facilities
 - : Main hardplay area (synthetic turf)
 - : Large oval and two other grassed areas
 - : Wide variety of play equipment
 - : Outdoor Gym Equipment
 - : Beach Volleyball court
 - : Disabled toilet and shower facilities
 - : Abundance of shaded areas
 - : Well equipped computer room.
- Some of these facilities will undergo major redevelopment in 2018
- Class Garden Plots

8. School Operations

- Decision making structures:
 - : Student Class meetings
 - : SRC Meetings
 - : Staff Meetings
 - : Governing Council
 - : Personnel Advisory Committee
- Regular publications
 - : Newsletter published electronically fortnightly with community access.
 - : School handbook available
 - : Magazine (prepared annually)
 - : Term overviews (provided by all class teachers).

- Other communication
 - : Class newsletters (produced by individual teachers)
 - : Learning Expos to showcase student learning. (1 each term, rotating between day time and evenings so that all families can visit the school)
 - : Student Diaries (daily communication)
 - : End of year presentation/Concert night
 - : Assemblies each fortnight

- School financial position
 - : The school is in a sound financial position.

- Governing Council
 - : meets twice per term

- Sub-committees of Finance, Grounds, Fundraising, OSHC
 - : meet at least once a term.
 - : Very active and supportive of school

11. Local Community

- Parent and community involvement
 - : Strong and active support is given. All sections of the community are represented in school affairs including Senior Citizens, RSL, local sporting bodies.
 - : Good numbers of parents attend fortnightly assemblies
 - : Regular voluntary support in classrooms and at working bees.
 - : Laura Folk Fair is a major event on the local calendar attracting up to 10,000 visitors annually. The Governing Council runs the BBQ over the weekend which is the school's major fundraiser.

- Feeder schools
 - : The pre-school which is situated adjacent to the school is now part of the school. School facilities are shared and a strong transition programme is in place. The school's PCW worker regularly visits the pre-school's sessions as part of the programme..
 - : Laura is a feeder school to Gladstone High School 10 kms away. 2 school buses travel through Laura daily to the High School. GHS also has a Trade Training Centre as well as running agriculture and viticulture programmes.
 - : A TAFE facility is located at Port Pirie 44 kms away.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - : Golden North Ice-cream is the main employer in Laura
 - : Most shopping facilities are available and Laura is centrally located to larger shopping precincts.

- Other local facilities
 - : A hospital is located in the town with 2 resident doctors and regular visiting specialists.
 - : Dental facilities are available in Jamestown and Port Pirie.

: Local Chemist

: The town has good facilities for sport such as football, netball, cricket, tennis, bowls and golf.

- Availability of staff housing

: One government house in the town.

- Local Government body

: Northern Areas Council