

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 30/5/2022

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. Located on the banks of the Rocky River near the southern slopes of the Flinders Ranges, Laura is a service town for the surrounding rural area but cottage crafts and tourism play an important role in the local community.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Ms Leanne Opperman
- Year of opening: 1875
- Postal Address: 1 East Terrace, Laura 5480
- Location Address: 1 East Terrace, Laura SA
- DECS Region: Yorke/Mid North
- Geographical location – 213 kms north of Adelaide
- Telephone number: 86632543/86632230
- Fax Number: n/a
- School website address: www.lauraps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0220.admin@schools.sa.edu.au

- February FTE student enrolment:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Preschool	0	13	13	15	8	11
Rec	14	8	12	10	13	7
Year 1	10	13	8	11	12	9
Year 2	6	12	13	8	12	12
Year 3	18	8	10	13	8	12
Year 4	5	18	9	10	13	8
Year 5	8	10	17	7	12	12
Year 6	5	10	8	17	8	8
Year 7	4	7	9	7	14	-
FTE	70	86	86	98	100	78
Males	38	49	45	48	52	44
Females	32	50	41	50	48	34

- Student enrolment trends:
Enrolments are steady with consistent numbers in the Preschool set to maintain numbers over the next two to three years.

The shift of Year 7 students to high school has impacted numbers in 2022.
- Staffing numbers:
The school has funded 7.2 FTE teacher time, maintaining 4 classes to support a high turnover of staff this year and a specialist Intervention Teacher.
The school utilises 74.5 permanent SSO hours/week with an additional 23 hrs /week for classroom and individual student support, including a Playgroup SSO and Preschool SSO.
- Public transport access:
Statliner bus daily from Crystal Brook, (22 kms away) to Adelaide
- Special site arrangements:
2 school buses transport students from nearby farming areas.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics:
Currently 23% School Card
Students are well adjusted typical country students who come from a variety of backgrounds.
- Student well-being programs:
Christian Pastoral Support Worker appointed in 2007. Helen Wurst works 8 hours per week in this role.
Growing with Gratitude implemented in 2022, in partnership with local primary and high school.
- Student Management:
The school has a Student Code of Conduct to which all students adhere. Serious behaviour incidents are rare.
School Captains and Vice Captains appointed annually through a merit selection process.
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:
MacLit and MiniLit literacy intervention to support literacy improvement.
Quicksmart in upper primary.
- Band Instrumental Music – All Year 5-6 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 (2017, updated annually)
- Site Improvement Plan 2022 (see separate document for details)
- Preschool QIP 2022

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: 8 areas of learning including LOTE (Italian)
- Back to Front Maths implemented in all classes, in partnership with local schools. Involves site visits, staff training in class and one on one with facilitator.
- Special needs: groups of students, identified annually for extra support. This is provided through the purchase of additional teaching staff and SSO support.
- Camps and Excursions are held as required and organised.
- Small classes with teacher and SSO support (R-6)
- 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
 - University of NSW Competitions available to all Yr. 3 students and above
 - Parent /Teacher Interviews (Term 2 and 4)
 - Written Reports (Terms 2 and 4) supported by evidence in student profile books
 - Student profile books used throughout the year
 - Monthly assembly
 - Informal interviews available on request from parents/Teachers
- Joint programmes
 - Cross-age tutoring
 - Whole school activities (eg Science Week, Book Week, Harmony Day etc.)
 - Whole school/individual class activities with other schools in the Upper Mid North Partnership (eg JP Activities Day, Mastermind)
 - Visiting performances for local schools, held with partnership schools.
- Café Laura is offered in terms 2 & 3 each year by our PCW, 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

- Interschool Sports Day
- Intraschool Sports Day
- SAPSASA (North Eastern District)
- A variety of sports is 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
- Performance Management
 - All staff participates 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.
- Class Garden Plots

8. School Operations

- Decision making structures:
 - : Student Class meetings
 - : SRC Meetings
 - : Staff Meetings
 - : Governing Council

- Regular publications
 - : Newsletter published 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)
 - : Student Diaries (daily communication)
 - : End of year presentation/Concert night
 - : Assemblies each month
 - : Skoolbag, SeeSaw, Whispir used to communicate with parents.
- School financial position
 - : The school is in a sound financial position.
- Governing Council
 - : meets three times a term
- Sub-committees of Finance, Grounds, Education, Fundraising
 - : 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 monthly assemblies
 - : 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 is situated adjacent to 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 readily available 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

12. Further Comments

<http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/yorkeandmidnorth/>