



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School Name: Barmera Primary School

School Number: 0506

Vision

Barmera Primary School is committed to providing a high quality learning program for all students. We prepare all of our students to be active, creative, critical thinkers in the twenty first century. We encourage risk taking by promoting problem solving, decision making and communication skills and using inclusive and empowering teaching practices. High expectations, engagement and achievement are valued by all. *"Learning unlimited."*

Mission statement

Barmera Primary School's mission is to inspire, nurture and assist all children to value and respect differences and achieve their full potential.

Core Values

The agreed Barmera Primary School values to be respected and followed by all are:

Friendship

Feeling safe

Continuous learning and improvement

Respect

Positive social skills

These five values underpin our teaching and learning at Barmera Primary School.

Code of Practice

All members of the school community will

- Foster positive relationships with each other

J:\Common\SCHOOL\School Context Statement\2021

- Ensure the provision of an environment in which students and staff are valued and have a sense of belonging and ownership
- Ensure an inclusive ethos in classrooms and in the school yard
- Ensure Grievance Procedures are in place and that students, staff and parents have a clear understanding of the correct processes
- Practise effective communication
- Recognise and promote the development of responsible behaviours
- Encourage risk taking by promoting problem solving, decision making and communication skills and using inclusive and empowering teaching practices

1. General Information

School Name **BARMERA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

School No. **0506**

Principal **Mrs Jayne Foulds**

Postal Address **1 Rumbold Drive, Barmera 5345**

Location Address **1 Rumbold Drive, Barmera 5345**

District **Riverland 18**

Distance from GPO **220 kms**

Phone No. **08 8588 2198**

CPC attached **NO**

Fax No. **08 8588 3008**

Index of Disadvantage **Category 3**

Deputy Principal's name

Katherine Fletcher

- School e-mail address

dl.0506.info@schools.sa.edu.au

- Staffing numbers

14 Teachers – 11 female and 3 male

1 Wellbeing Leader - male: 0.8FTE

9 Curriculum SSOs – 7 female and 2 male

3 Administration SSOs

1 Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO) – Female 24.5hrs week

2 Grounds person – male: 25hrs week

Pastoral Care Worker – female – 8.5 hrs week

- OSHC

Outsourced by Happy Haven

After school and vacation care

- Enrolment trends
 - Current (2021) enrolments at 183.
- Year of opening
 - The “new” Barmera Primary School opened in December of 1981.

February FTE Enrolment	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reception	20	23	14	16
Year1	35	29	28	15
Year2	31	22	27	27
Year3	40	24	16	29
Year4	27	28	23	12
Year5	28	38	27	23
Year6	25	24	36	27
Year7	34	26	30	35
TOTAL	240	214	201	184
School Card Approvals (Persons)	109	93	96	90
NESB Total (Persons)	40	45	45	38
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	37	41	36	41

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
 - Category 3 Index of Disadvantage. Indigenous students (23.9%), Students with Disabilities (11.41%), EALD (20.65%), school card (48.91%).
- Pastoral care programs
 - Wellbeing Leader 0.8, supported by Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET) and the Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO). PCW takes groups of students for pottery and craft sessions.
- Student management
 - A well-developed and consistently implemented student behaviour management policy exists. This is implemented by all staff and supported by leaders.
 - A “No Hat, No Play” policy is enforced during Terms 1 and 4.

The wearing of our school uniform is strongly encouraged and followed by most families.

- Student government

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is strong with two representatives from each class meeting regularly. The Year 6 and 7 leaders, along with the Wellbeing Leader coordinates the SRC. The SRC meet with the Principal as needed. The SRC run fundraisers for one state and one local charity. They also organise some lunch time activities and education programs e.g.: recycling.

- Special programs

Well-structured Special Education One Plan Program supports all students.

All students have a Focus Plan and Individual reading and numeracy goals and an Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

Teaching staff have formed “buddy” classes. These are generally a junior class with a higher-grade class.

Youth Environmental Leaders Group.

3. Key School Policies

1. Mission Statement:

Our mission is to educate, inspire, nurture and assist all children to value and respect differences and achieve their full potential

2. Our values:

Friendship

Positive Social Skills

Feeling safe

Continuous Learning and Improvement

Respect

- 3: Site Improvement Plan:

Literacy – Reading

Maths – Big Ideas in Number

4. Curriculum

- Special needs

Students on One Plans are supported through the provision of SSO time, targeted intervention and Special Education intervention

- Special curriculum features

English and Mathematics are central to all learning at Barmera Primary School.

Special curriculum offerings include instrumental music (flute, clarinet, trumpet, piano, and guitar), choir, pottery and gardening.

The Specialist Environmental program is a nationally recognised aspect of Barmera Primary School involving many activities, the most significant being the annual award winning Kids teaching Kids Expo.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

Interviews are held in Terms 1 and 3 with written reports going home in Terms 2 and 4. An Acquaintance Night or Teacher information sessions are held early in the year.

Individual Student Learning Plans are developed for every student and form the basis of agreed goal setting between the student, parent and Teacher.

Students in Years 3, 5 and 7 complete the NAPLAN assessments every year.
- **Joint programs**

Links with local schools are strong. The Barmera Primary School operates within the Berri Barmera Portfolio of schools which includes Cobdogla, Glossop, Berri and Monash Primary Schools ; Barmera, Berri and Monash Preschools, Riverland Special School and Glossop High School.

5. Sporting Activities

SAPSASA participation is encouraged and is strong. There are excellent facilities at school and local sporting involvement is encouraged. Well-attended coaching sessions and games are conducted in and out of school hours in a wide variety of sports. Students in junior and middle primary classes attend swimming lessons at Berri Pool whilst upper primary students take courses at nearby Barmera Aquatic Centre as an integral part of the school curriculum. An annual Sports Day with lead-up practice is held and well attended by members of the wider community.

The Activity Hall is a centrepiece for many sporting activities.

Our grounds are well maintained by our Grounds staff, providing excellent safe spaces for the various sporting activities children participate in.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Involvement in the Festival of Music Combined Primary Schools Choir has been an annual event.
- Our End of Year Concert is a feature of the school calendar - a celebration of the whole school year.
- A strong outdoor education programme exists with camps encouraged for students in Years 4 and above as well as overnight excursions and/or sleepovers for younger students.
- The school is extremely active in environmental programs, including Waterwatch, Clean-Up Australia Day and the Congress Convention, etc.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Staff work in Professional Learning Teams, in year level groups each term to support progress in reading and numeracy SIP focus.

Some staff members have served in excess of 10 years at this school, while others are new to the school providing a healthy mix of expertise and new ideas.

All staff are encouraged to attend relevant professional development linked to our Site Improvement Plan or their own Professional goals.
- Leadership structure

Principal, Deputy, Wellbeing Leader form the core of the leadership team.

The Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) is also an extremely active body focussing on staff and their welfare. They meet fortnightly.
- Staff support systems

Staff combine in four unit groups for professional development and support. Unit and year level meetings are held throughout each term.
- Performance Development

Ongoing discussion with staff in accordance with the guidelines of the DFE policy.
- Staff utilisation policies

Non-Instructional Time is currently provided in the form of Health and Physical Education, Science, HASS and The Arts.

An award winning environmental program runs throughout the school.

Student Wellbeing team, headed by the Wellbeing Leader includes Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO), Pastoral Support Worker.
- Annual leadership days

Barmera Primary School conducts annual leadership days in conjunction with The Berri Barmera Portfolio schools. The focus of these leadership days is on the development of leadership, negotiation, collaboration and decision making skills.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points 3.5
- Travelling time approximately 2.5 hours to Adelaide via Truro or Murray Bridge
- Housing assistance Allocated via Real Estate Management - needs based, single, shared, family.
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The school is located on very attractive grounds of some 9 1/4 hectares including a large oval. It consists of the following excellent facilities: 4

hexagonal brick building, each with a wet area, teacher preparation room and student toilets. Each unit is colour coded ie. Red, Yellow (also has shower facilities), Blue and Orange. 1 hexagonal brick building with a large resource centre, music/meeting room and a canteen, 1 hexagonal brick building containing a large staffroom, offices for Principal, Deputy Principal and Wellbeing Leaders room, toilets and a shower. 1 large brick activity hall (upgraded in 2011), 17.2m x 11.5m with storage areas and a disabled access toilet. One portable building used for Playgroup and OSHC. Specific classrooms for Science, Music, Technology and OSHC. All units are air-conditioned.

- Specialist facilities

All four classroom units have a 'bank' of 30 laptops each for student use (120 in total). Some classes can access class sets of iPads. All classrooms are equipped with Interactive Whiteboards plus flat screen TV's in double spaced classrooms.

The school also has a well-equipped resource area, which includes the library. This is made available for students before school and during lunch.

Gymnasium /Activity Hall is very well equipped and used for a diversity of activities.

Community Playgroup runs every Wednesday morning. 9-10.30am

Tennis courts

A well-stocked resource centre exists.

A large school oval, 3 playground areas, sensory swing, sandpits and undercover play areas.

Scrub area utilised for outside nature learning.

The school has incorporated a chicken coop and vegetable gardens into an Environmental Learning Centre.

- Student facilities

Lunch Orders – this is outsourced to a company - Grab and Go Food Express on a Monday and Thursday. Families order online.

Breakfast Club is available on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

All buildings except the double wooden transportable are at ground level. A toilet for handicapped persons is located centrally.

- Out of School Hours Care

This operates from our school and is run by Happy Haven.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

Decision-making is democratic through Staff Meetings, Unit Meetings, Year Level Meetings, SRC, Class Meetings, WHS Committee and Governing Council.

- Regular publications
 - School Newsletter is distributed fortnightly electronically and some classes have regular class newsletters sent home.
 - A weekly staff bulletin is issued to all staff on Fridays electronically for the following week, and staff regularly use the Team App for staff communication.
 - The school Facebook page promotes activities and school publications to the community and beyond.
 - All classes communicate with families using the Class DOJO online system.
- Other communication
 - A yearly planner is used in the staffroom.
 - All units have a phone system for both external and internal calls.
- School financial position
 - The school is in a reasonable financial position. It is well resourced with the active Fundraising committee generally quick to support new student focussed initiatives.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
 - Barmera is located in the Riverland, 220 kms from the Adelaide GPO. It has a population of approximately 4500 people. The town provides private and public hospital facilities, as well as dental and aged care. Within the Riverland there are some resident medical specialists as well as visiting specialist.
 - Past droughts, water allocation and high levels of the river in 2011 have had an adverse effect on the Riverland Community
 - The Barmera School Community consists mainly of fruitgrowers, people in small business and people associated with the tourist industry. Students with a Greek background form the majority of students from non-English speaking backgrounds.
 - School rooms are used for a number of meetings run by local organisations and school grounds are used for sporting events. The activity hall is used for a variety of activities including netball, basketball, volleyball, karate and taekwondo.
- Parent/Carer and community involvement
 - The school supports the Barmera Community through Clean up Australia Day, Salinity monitoring, use of the school's facilities, part of Barmera Action Group etc. The school encourages an "open door" policy towards parents and their involvement within the school. Volunteers take on many roles within the school with reading, fresh fruit program etc.
- Feeder schools
 - Most enrolling students come from the Barmera Kindergarten (1 km) whilst virtually all students travel by bus to Glossop High School (7 kms) for secondary studies. A senior campus and TAFE operates at Berri.

- Other local care and educational facilities
 - Glossop High school middle campus is located at Glossop (years 8 to 10). The senior campus (Year 11 and 12) is located at Berri
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - Sporting, cultural and shopping activities are well catered for. Nearby centres include Berri, Renmark, Loxton and Waikerie.
- Other local facilities
 - Many activities revolve around Lake Bonney, the Recreation Centre, churches and sporting clubs.
- Accessibility
 - There is no local public transport. Stateliner Bus Company operates between the Riverland, Adelaide and Mildura. There is a local taxi company as well as the Hospital community transport scheme.
- Local Government body
 - The District Council of Berri-Barmera operates as an amalgamated Council with main offices in Berri.