

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and  
Child Development

**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 respect for and positive relationships with each other
- Ensure the provision of an environment in which students and staff are valued and have a sense of belonging and ownership
- Ensure the provision of success oriented, 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

## Part A

School Name **BARMERA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

School No. **0506**

Principal **Ms Natasha Hefford**

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**

<b>February FTE Enrolment</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Reception</b>	20	23	14	15
<b>Year1</b>	35	29	28	15
<b>Year2</b>	31	22	27	27
<b>Year3</b>	40	24	16	29
<b>Year4</b>	27	28	23	14
<b>Year5</b>	28	38	27	22
<b>Year6</b>	25	24	36	28
<b>Year7</b>	34	26	30	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	240	214	201	183
<b>School Card Approvals (Persons)</b>	109	93	96	77
<b>NESB Total (Persons)</b>	40	45	45	46
<b>Aboriginal FTE Enrolment</b>	37	41	36	38

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.

## Part B

- Deputy Principal's name  
Jayne Foulds
  - School e-mail address  
[dl.0506.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0506.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
  - Staffing numbers  
Total teachers – 12 female and 4 male (16 staff):  
1 Student Wellbeing Leader male: 1.0 time  
6 female SSOs and 1 male SSO  
3 Administration SSOs  
Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO) – Female  
One Grounds person – male 23 hours/week  
Pastoral Care Worker – female – 18 hours/week
  - OSHC  
OSHC consists of  
After school care  
Vacation care for primary school aged children.  
Enrolment trends  
Numbers have fluctuated over the last three years. Current (2019) enrolments at 214.
  - Year of opening  
The “new” Barmera Primary School opened in December of 1981.
- ## 2. Students (and their welfare)
- General characteristics  
Category 2 disadvantaged school. Indigenous students (19.15%), Students with Disabilities (10.74%), EALD (21.02%), school card (43.45%).
  - Pastoral care programs  
School Wellbeing Leader 1.0, supported by Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET) and the Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO). An intensive leadership program is conducted for all Year 7 students.
  - Student management  
A well-developed and consistently implemented student behaviour management policy exists. This is implemented by all staff, Behaviour Management Team and School Counsellor.  
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 fortnightly. Three teacher's co-ordinate the SRC. The SRC meet with the Principal as needed. The SRC run fundraisers for one state and one local charity. They also organize some lunch time activities and education programs e.g.: recycling.

Students apply to be on the Student Ambassadors team – these older students are on duty at lunch and recess times to assist mainly smaller children with play involvement and other social aspects of their day.
- Special programmes
 

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

All students have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

LAP programme operates with parent volunteers.

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

### 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, and computer education.

A computer room is established within the school. Another learning bank exists in the Resource Centre. There are a number of computers strategically placed around the school. 49 curriculum computers are connected to one file server. Another 31 computers are for staff use.

Classes can access class sets of I pads .

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

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 programmes**

Links with local schools are strong. The Barmera Primary School operates within the Berri Barmera Partnership 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 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 Groundsstaff, providing excellent safe spaces for the various sporting activities children participate in.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General

Involvement in the Festival of Music Combined Primary Schools Choir has been an annual event.

Our Christmas Assembly 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.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

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 Progress 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 through each term.

- Performance Development

Ongoing discussion with staff in accordance with the guidelines of the DECD policy.

- Staff utilisation policies

Non-Instructional Time is currently provided in the form of Health and Physical Education and Science specialist subjects.

An award winning environmental program runs throughout the school. Student Wellbeing team, headed by the student Wellbeing Leader includes Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO), Pastoral Support Worker.

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

- Housing assistance

A limited amount of Government housing is available in Barmera with more available in Berri (14 kms).

- Cooling and heating for school buildings

School Air Conditioned – split systems – including the hall/ gymnasium.

- Medical and dental treatment expenses  
Staff are eligible for reimbursement of certain travel and accommodation expenses incurred when obtaining medical or dental assistance if unable to access specialised treatment locally. Time is also allowed for necessary absence from duty.

## 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 buildings each with 4 teaching spaces, a wet area, withdrawal room, 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 Counsellor's room, a printing room, toilets and a shower. 1 large brick activity hall (upgraded in 2011), 17.2m x 11.5m with storage areas and a toilet for handicapped persons. 1 double wooden portable classroom used mainly for Science, Music and Technology and OSHC. All units are air-conditioned. A teaching space is set up for each of the following: Health and PE, Educational Computing (upgraded in 2011), Literacy and student welfare team.

- Specialist facilities

All classrooms have an electronic white board.

The computer room accommodates a full class

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

Tennis courts

A Science room with numerous resources exists.

A well stocked resource centre exists.

A large school oval is used by outside groups.

The school has incorporated a pond, greenhouse, worm farm and aviary into an Environmental Learning Centre. A chicken coop will be placed in the school during 2011.

- Student facilities

Healthy food Canteen operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with a wide range of offerings (Tuesday after a Monday holiday).

Fresh fruit platters are supplied, free, to all classrooms on Tuesday and Thursday.

- Staff facilities

Internet access is available throughout the school.

- 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  
We operate this care service after school and during vacations.

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures  
Decision-making is democratic through Staff Meetings, Unit Meetings, Year Level Meetings, SRC, Class Meetings, OHS&W committee, Governing Council and associated subcommittees: Education, Uniform, Grounds, Fundraising, Finance, Canteen and Traffic Safety.
- Regular publications  
School Newsletter is distributed fortnightly in hard copy and electronically and some classes have regular class newsletters sent home.  
A weekly staff bulletin is issued to all staff on Fridays.  
The school Facebook page promotes activities and school publications to the community and beyond.  
Many classes communicate with families using the Class DOJO online system.
- Other communication  
A yearly planner is used in the staffroom along with a Staff Day Book. 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.
- Special funding  
Category 2 Disadvantage School.

## 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 affect 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

The OSHC is located at Barmera Primary School and is the only care facility in Barmera

- 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.

- Availability of staff housing

OGEH accommodation exists in Barmera along with private alternatives.

- 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.

## 12. Further Comments

- Environmental Issues

The school is extremely active in environmental programmes, including Waterwatch, Clean-Up Australia Day, Salinity monitoring. Special Forever, Salinity monitoring, Congress Convention, etc.

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