

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 07/17

**School number: 0586**

**School name: Blyth Primary School**

## 1. General information

### Part A

School name	: BLYTH PRIMARY SCHOOL R-7	
School No.	: 0586	Courier: Blyth Primary School
Principal	: Ms Marie-Louise Adams	
Postal Address	: PO Box 18, Blyth 5462	
Location Address	: August Street, Blyth 5462	
Partnership	: Mid North Clare	
Distance from GPO	: 133 kms	Phone No.: 08 88445195
CPC attached	: NO	Fax No. : 08 88445021

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
February FTE Enrolment						
Primary						
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc						
Reception	4	7	15	8	7	5
Year 1	8	5	6	15	7	8
Year 2	2	5	5	6	17	7
Year 3	5	3	4	5	5	18
Year 4	7	6	3	4	6	6
Year 5	9	7	6	2	5	5
Year 6	7	9	7	4	2	5
Year 7	7	4	7	3	2	0
Secondary						
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.						
Year 8						
Year 9						
Year 10						
Year 11						
Year 12						
Year 12plus						
TOTAL	49	46	53	47	51	54
July total FTE Enrolment	55	54	53	47	51	54
Male FTE	29	34	33	29	30	34
Female FTE	26	20	18	18	21	20
School Card Approvals (Persons)	6	6	4			
NESB Total (Persons)	2	2	2	1	1	
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	4	5	2	1	1	

## Part B

School e-mail address: [dl.0586.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0586.admin@schools.sa.edu.au)

School website: [www.blythps.sa.edu.au](http://www.blythps.sa.edu.au)

**Staffing numbers:** Currently there are 3 permanent class teachers, one teacher works 0.8 the other two permanents are full time (3 classes). There is a 0.4 Contract teacher and a 0.1 TRT who provides German Lessons. The Principal provides 0.2 NIT in 2017 but in 2016 provided 0.4. TRT provides 0.2 German. 53 hours SSO & GSE as base with additional support provided for special programs and students with disability and learning difficulties.

**OSHC:** After School Hours Care commenced 2005. The Blyth Primary School OSHC service is managed by the Blyth Governing Council, and the Principal is the direct line manager of the OSHC Director. An annual sustainability grant supports the OSHC service. The OSHC in 2017 met all requirements in the National Accreditation process.

**Enrolment trends:** Steady

**Year of opening:** 1878.

**Public transport access:** One school bus services the local area. This bus is managed by the Clare High School. Students from Clare High School, Clare Valley Children's Centre and private schools in Clare also use this service.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

**General characteristics:** The children are a mix of town and farm children. Additional teacher and SSO time are provided to support students with specific learning difficulties or those who are high achieving.

**Pastoral Care programs:** A Pastoral Care-Worker works in the school for 9 hours per week. The PCW works collaboratively with staff and supports the family atmosphere of the school. Staff accept responsibility for providing pastoral care to students in their care but due to the size of the school they also share responsibility for the provision of appropriate care for all students. Children enjoy small class sizes and have the opportunities to nurture relationships with others of different ages. The school has a focus on building strong partnerships between staff, students, parents and the community, to develop a positive learning environment.

**Student management:** Our Behavioural Management Policy was developed through consultation with parents and SRC. Many positive support mechanisms for children to achieve success are in place. Bullying Audits occur twice yearly. Kidsmatter was formally launched in 2015. In 2017, staff are undertaking training and development in Positive Education in light of Martin Seligman's work in SA in 2012-2013

**Student government:** An active SRC has representatives from each class. It meets once per fortnight with the PCW. The SRC encourages and supports Student Action Groups and lunchtime activities.

#### ***Special programs:***

- Kidsmatter
- Sporting Schools ( after 8 years involvement in Active After School Communities)

### **3. Key School Policies**

#### ***2017 Site Improvement Plan Priorities***

In line with the MID North Partnership's vision of Creating a Community of Powerful as well as the directions from our 2016 External Review our priorities include:

- Student engagement
- Strengthened School and Parent communication
- Task design and moderation
- Growth mindset
- Numeracy
- Positive Psychology/Education
- Increase students achieving in the higher bands in literacy and numeracy.
- Increase achievement in writing

### **4. Curriculum**

#### ***Subject offerings***

In 2017 teachers are teaching and reporting against the Australian Curriculum in all learning areas. German is taught in our Languages program. We participate in the Wakakirri in even years, and the Festival of Music in odd years.

***Open Access:*** Not accessed.

***Special needs, including general learning support:*** Special and general learning support needs are met using SSO time flexibly- in class support, small group withdrawal or individual tutoring. Most students benefit from this support in some way throughout each term eg consolidation, repetition or extension of learning.. Parent volunteers and members of the local community also support learning programs.

#### ***Special curriculum features***

- Small classes allow for significant individual programming and flexible support.
- In even years the school enters the Wakakirri - utilising an integrated R-7 thematic approach with a high degree of student ownership and parent support. This is an important event for the school and local community.

***Teaching methodology:*** Teaching methodologies cater for a range of different learning styles and circumstances: from teacher directed to group or individual research tasks. Small class sizes allow for the capabilities of the students to be more fully recognised. ICT is integrated across the curriculum.

***Assessment procedures and reporting:*** These vary in response to students, the task and the curriculum area and include PATR and PAT Maths, Running Records, and Literacy Pro. We are a trial school for Brightpath in 2017 and are also trialling the DECD Phonic trial for Reception and Year One students. On-going records of results of standardised tests in spelling, reading and basic number processes are kept. Reporting takes the form of work samples, parent interviews, parent information nights and formal written reports twice a year.

**Joint programmes:**

- Partnership and Network Learning Groups
- Young Environmental Leaders
- Mid North Sports Day

## 5. Sporting Activities

Each class participates in sport and fitness on a regular basis. Sporting Schools Funding has provided opportunities to develop skills in AFL, Tennis and Basketball. The School organised an Archery clinic in term one. The school is part of the SAPSASA network for the area and participates in a variety of sports. We have swimming lessons once per year in Term 4 and have sporting exchanges and coaching with nearby schools. We combine for a yearly Sports Day with other small schools. The school has no teams in a weekend competition but the local community has a strong sporting ethos and many of the children are involved in these events

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

**General**

The school has been actively involved in Harmony Day and Bookweek over the past few years, often joining in with neighbouring schools.

The school is involved in community tree planting The Governing Council supports the Community Christmas Street Party.

Students organise and present whole school assemblies that are held each fortnight. Student achievements are also celebrated. Parents are invited to attend and there is much community support for these assemblies.

**PLAYGROUP:** Over the past two years the playgroup has grown significantly and meets once a week on Thursday mornings in the OSHC room.

**Special:** Teachers meet families at an acquaintance night at the start of the year and an open day during the year. Frequent invitations to parents and caregivers to be involved with the students in classrooms, on excursions or through other avenues are extended. Parents, along with the wider local community are invited to special assemblies in Terms 1, 2 & 3 where students present snapshots of their learning. The school has an annual concert in the community hall, with Governing Council and Parent Club providing a parent item in alternative years. The Governing Council organises fund raising events.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

**Staff profile:** In addition to the principal, the school currently has three permanent teaching staff. The Principal teaches for approximately two days a week. Two SSOs have permanent hours at the school as does one GSE.(5hrs per week)

**Leadership structure:** Teachers volunteer to take on leadership responsibilities for curriculum areas or for aspects of school management.

**Staff support systems:** The majority of teaching staff make up the PAC committee and roles & responsibilities have been allocated apart from this. Decision-making is usually on a consensus model

**Performance Management :** A formal structure supporting DECD guidelines is in use.

**Staff utilisation policies:** While no policy exists staff share their skills across the school and combine for certain activities.

**Access to support staff.** In the past the Yorke and Mid North regional had three offices with the Clare District Office closest to Blyth. We have access to Guidance, Behaviour Management, Speech, Special Education, Hearing Impairment, Aboriginal Education, Early Years and Attendance services through the Clare Mid North Partnership.

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

**Complexity placement points:**0

**Base plus Isolation points:**3.0

**Travelling time:** To Adelaide approx 2 hours.

**Housing assistance:** One teacher house in Blyth, several houses in Clare (15 min).

**Cooling for school buildings :**All buildings are cooled. Installation of split systems in classrooms was completed in 2007.

**Cash in lieu of removal allowance:** Removal paid

**Additional increment allowance:** Nil

**Designated schools benefits:** N/A

**Aboriginal/Anangu schools:** N/A

**Medical and dental treatment expenses:** Travel allowance (part) for services not available in the area.

**Locality allowances:** Nil.

**Relocation assistance:** Removal expenses and moving day available in special circumstances.

## 9. School Facilities

### **Buildings and grounds**

The School consists of a mixture of stone and prefab structures. OSHC and administration use the stone building. A new library was constructed in 2011 through the Building the Education Revolution initiative of the Federal Government. The grounds are spacious and have an interesting variety of play areas. The school has a tennis/basketball court area and a well-stocked sports shed including gymnastics equipment. There are garden beds and a garden shade hut.

### **Specialist facilities**

A computer suite (comprising of 10 networked computers) is adjacent to two of the classrooms. The third classroom and the OSHC area have computers networked to the computer room.

### **Student facilities**

The rooms are spacious and the children have access to regular library lessons and the computer room.

### ***Staff facilities***

The school has a staff room which is centrally located and an adjacent staff car parking area on Wakefield Street.

### ***Access for students and staff with disabilities***

The new toilet block, which arrived in 2005 has wheelchair access, as do classrooms and the library.

### ***Access to bus transport***

One bus services the school.

## **10. School Operations**

### ***Decision making structures***

Collaborative decision making is the preferred model used at Blyth PS, with staff, Governing Council and the Student Representative Council having an opportunity to contribute to decision making. A decision-making policy is in place.

Parents actively support the Governing Council and its committees: Finance, Grounds, Parent Club and OSHC.

The school has representation on the Blyth Progress Association, the Blyth Development Board and the Blyth Hall Committee.

### ***Regular publications***

Newsletters are regularly distributed and have sections for community as well as School news. Newsletters are posted on the school's website and mailed to non-residential parents where no custody orders are in place. The school is a regular contributor to the bi-monthly local Blyth town Newsletter *A Town Like Blyth*.

### ***Other communication***

SMS. The Parent Body has a Facebook page.

***School financial position:*** Sound

## **11. Local Community**

### ***General characteristics***

The Blyth community is a predominantly farming community. Local services in the town include a deli, hotel, agricultural supplier including fuel outlet, post office, party hire, builder, glazier, art gallery and cinema. A water retention scheme has commenced and regular tree planting has led to a healthy environmental programme over the past 15 years. There are new farming interests commencing with export grain and hay as well as an olive industry. 55 housing blocks, which border the school's oval, were released for sale during 2005 and homes are progressively being built.

### ***Parent and community involvement***

The parents are enthusiastic in their involvement with the school. School events and working bees are well attended and the parents of children at the school are very loyal. The school enjoys a close relationship with the local community, including the Blyth Progress and Management Committees and the local churches, being invited to participate in the annual 'Thankful' event.

**Feeder sites** : Clare Valley Children's Centre and Brinkworth Pre-school

**Other local care and educational facilities:** The Clare High School is the nearest Secondary School and it offers Year 7 to Year 12.

**Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

The area is predominantly rural and serving rural needs. Shopping is limited and the nearest larger complex is at Clare.

**Other local facilities**

Sporting facilities include lawn tennis, bowls and croquet, while the oval complex has all weather netball and tennis courts and playground. A local picnic facility is available near the oval. We have an 18 hole winter golf course and a bike track has been developed.

**Availability of staff housing**

One teacher house exists in Blyth; other accommodation is available in Clare.

**Accessibility**

The town is readily accessible by bitumen road from Snowtown, Clare and Balaklava. It is approximately 2 hours from Adelaide. A bus service comes into the town twice per week.

**Local Government body**

The school is in the Wakefield Regional Council area. Phone 8862 0800.

## **12. Further Comments**

The School is within two hours of the beach, the Flinders Ranges, Adelaide, the River Murray and is adjacent to the Clare Valley. The climate is much warmer than in the hills and the small school atmosphere is great to work in.

As a small school, competition for enrolments from private schools within the District can have a significant impact on enrolments and consequently staffing. Governing Council has an on-going management process to counter this by proactively visiting families with children who may be potential clients, and fostering a strong relationship with the local Playgroup, through visits and invitations to school events.

The Governing Council and parent body generally are very proud of their school, and consequently have a high ownership of the Vision for their children at Blyth Primary School.

Whole school events, such as the Wakakirri dance competition, are extremely well received by the Blyth School Community.