



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0470

School name: **Watervale Primary School**

School Profile:

Watervale Primary School is a high performing school that prepares students for future challenges by focusing on educational excellence in a happy, vibrant learning environment. We believe in fostering children's engagement in lifelong learning from the early years and sustaining this throughout their schooling through authentic learning experiences that provide challenge and rigor. We believe in an innovative learning environment and are developing our indoor and outdoor learning spaces to reflect our principles. Our students achieve and maintain excellent results and we are committed to providing a balanced quality curriculum in a caring environment, where differences in people are valued and respected. We have a strong support staff ratio and pastoral care program that helps maintain the balance between students' academic success and their wellbeing. Leadership skills are developed and the input from the SRC and our various student leadership groups is valued by the principal, staff and governing council. The small school environment creates a family atmosphere where children are encouraged to nurture relationships with others. At the centre of our school is our community who are actively engaged with the school, its students and their collective achievements with enthusiasm, energy and commitment. The school creates links and focuses on building partnerships between staff, students, families and community, to develop a positive learning environment and values-based education. We aim to work with families to ensure our students develop into learners who are resilient, curious, collaborative and creative. Our core values of respect, honesty, excellence and joyfulness are embedded in the positive decisions and actions of the school community.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Beth Purdy-Dart
- Year of opening: 1861– Celebrated 150th Birthday October 2011
- Address: 27 Main North Road Watervale, 5452
- DECD Region: Gawler 2/Mid North
- Geographical location : 113km
- Telephone number: 88450186
- Fax Number: 88430014
- School website address: <http://www.watervalps.sa.edu.au/index.htm>
- School e-mail address: dl.0470.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes

February FTE student enrolment: 2015 2016 2017 2018

Primary Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.

Reception	12.0	10.0	8.0	12.0
Year 1	12.0	11.0	8.0	8.0
Year 2		10.0	13.0	9.0
Year 3		5.0	11.0	14.0
Year 4		8.0	5.0	11.0
Year 5		9.0	8.0	5.0
Year 6		7.0	9.0	10.0
Year 7		0	0	2.0
TOTAL		63.0	67.0	67.0

July total FTE Enrolment	65.0	65.0	67.0	63.0
Male FTE	33.0	32.0	31.0	28.0
Female FTE	32.0	33.0	36.0	35.0
School Card Approvals (Persons)	4	2	3	2
NESB Total (Persons)		0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	2	2	2	1

Enrolment trends

Steady increase of enrolments over several years, leading to three firm classes and a new classroom building in 2014. We are having a slight decline in enrolments due to current early years patterns across the Clare Valley. Middle schooling available in Clare enables the majority of students to choose to leave Watervale for Year 7.

Staffing numbers

There are 6 teachers employed who facilitate a Senior, Middle or Junior classroom. Art, Science and Technology are offered by specialist teachers. 9 School Services Officers manage finance, IT, classroom support, special needs curriculum support and library
Groundsperson [15 hours]
Pastoral Care Worker [9 hours]

OSHC

Watervale OSHC was established in 2014 as a single Director service. We are proud to be servicing this need for our families. Care may be offered during pupil free days. Morning OSHC began later in 2015 and is run by a second qualified employee.

Public transport access:

We have access to an afternoon bus service which we currently have a student utilising.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

Enrolments are drawn from both the local and wider community. One third of students travel to Watervale from outside the immediate township. The student cohort is predominantly Caucasian.

Student well-being programs

We offer student wellbeing through our involvement with the resilience project as part of our Partnerships Resilience work focus. Our school has joined the Be You wellbeing program in 2019. We are also a Better Buddies school that is run in conjunction with student leaders. The school has a focus on building strong partnerships between staff, students, parents and the community, to develop a positive learning environment and values-based education program. We have access to a Pastoral Care Worker for 9 hours per week who provides wellbeing support to staff, students and families. All staff have undertaken SMART trauma training, Interception and MAPA training. One of our SSO's is currently undertaking the Berry Street training.

Student support offered

Our small school generates a family atmosphere and while staff accept responsibility for providing pastoral care to students in their multi-aged home groups 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. We employ a number of support staff for our students in order to facilitate small group work and individual needs of students more effectively.

Student management

As a school we have a focus on using a positive approach to behaviour management. We have a documented behaviour code policy based around our whole school values of Respect, Excellence, Kindness and Joyfulness. The Lighthouse Award is presented each term to a student who has striven to demonstrate the school values in every aspect of school life. Visitors have commented on the students' enthusiasm, high energy levels, commitment and obvious comfort level when discussing the school values and their impact on learning and behaviour. The students present articulately and honestly. Students are explicitly taught that they have a responsibility to their classmates to actively contribute to the development of an emotionally and physically safe learning environment. The emphasis throughout the school is on promoting positive, responsible and caring members of the school community. Positive actions are regularly recognised, as well as the presentation of Student of the Week for each class at whole school assembly. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour, acknowledge the impact and to accept the consequences of inappropriate actions.

Student government

Students at all levels of schooling are provided with opportunities that encourage the development of leadership attitudes and skills. The school has two student school leaders elected by their peers and teachers, following the presentation of a prepared speech at a whole school assembly. The school leaders provide leadership to the student body, represent the school at functions, and chair the SRC. Each class holds formal class meetings and elected representation from each year level take suggestions to the Student Representative Council. SRC meets fortnightly with the Principal. Their input is valued and actively sought by the Principal, Staff and Governing Council. Similarly, four senior students are chosen to represent the school as Youth Environment Leaders. Involvement in this district program is ongoing. Three students are elected as Better Buddy Leaders to support positive relationships and play. We also have 3 students elected as house captains and 3 as deputy captains who assist with sporting events and with monitoring our sports shed.

Special programmes

Watervale Primary School is a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden School. All teachers are trained in this approach and we hold weekly whole school gardening sessions and twice termly whole school cooking days. We are also involved in the Makers Empire 3D printing program and are fortunate to have access to multiple 3d printers throughout the school. Each year our students participate in the Primary Maths Association challenge, the Max Fatchen Literary award and the Premiers reading challenge.

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Watervale Primary Schools vision statement is central to how we operate as a school.

Watervale Primary School prepares students for future challenges by focusing on educational excellence in a happy, vibrant learning environment. We are committed to working with the school community and outside agencies to provide a balanced quality curriculum in a caring environment, where differences in people are valued and respected.

Watervale Primary School's Site improvement plan has 3 key focus areas:

1. Writing
2. Numeracy
3. Critical and Creative Thinking

Recent key outcomes:

In 2018, all staff received training in Big Ideas in number. Successful Maths partnerships built between school and home through series of workshops offered, resource packs of information and practical manipulatives Small group intervention groups were set up using Big ideas in number materials, Multilit and Reading DR. We began to use visible learning ladders to enable students to own their own data. All staff also received training in Sheena Camerons strategies and the Big 6 in literacy Purchasing and incorporation of a targeted synthetic phonics program Purchasing and incorporation of decodable texts and Hi Lo Decodable reader. We came 1st in a 3d Printing design competition and a student came 2nd in a worldwide 3d printing design competition.

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings:

We offer specialist teaching in Science, technology and Art. We also have Japanese through open access college once per week. We offer our upper primary students the opportunity to be involved with the Primary Schools Festival of Music.

Special needs:

We have extensive SSO support provided to our students with special needs. Each student has a one plan that has been developed with families and regularly reviewed. Students are supported through the provision of individual or group tutoring programs in:

- Literacy and numeracy programs supported by SSO
- Reading Dr and Multilit. Specialist Speech and Language support, PMP program (R-2), Early Literacy Foundations program, Big Ideas in Number small groups.

Special curriculum features:

A whole school literacy and numeracy agreement was developed and implemented during 2019. Our students participate in many extra curricular programs such as Max Fatchen literacy awards and Primary Maths association. All teachers have attended inquiry learning by Kath Murdoch and we have a focus on using inquiry as a teaching methodology.

Teaching methodology:

We have a focus on using an inquiry method to guide student learning. We offer explicit literacy and numeracy lessons. We have access to SSO support to enhance small group and individual learning.

Student assessment procedures and reporting

Class teachers assess student progress through a variety of methods, including anecdotal, observation, formal testing and informal assessment of work (including peer assessment and goal setting by students). The reporting program includes parent/teacher interviews, three way interviews with students, and written reports. High levels of incidental and informal interactions between staff and parents support the reporting

5. Sporting Activities

Bi-annually, the school partakes in a 5 week dance program. Annual swimming lessons culminate in a Swimming Carnival. Sports Day is combined with Auburn and Blyth schools and is held at the end of Term 3 each year. We actively apply for the sporting schools grants each year which enable our students' access to specialists in areas such as softball last year and soccer this year. There is strong support for community teams in netball, football, hockey, basketball, tennis, Little Athletics, cricket, gymnastics, dance and horse riding. Many senior students participate successfully in SAPSASA activities. Local sporting club personnel provide opportunities to participate in organised sporting and skills activities including cricket, hockey, football and netball.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Each term the SRC chooses a charity to support. They plan and present fundraising events, relying on the support of the student body and wider school community. Students organise and present whole school assemblies that are held each week. Classes present an aspect of their learning or a performance on these occasions. Student achievements are also celebrated. Parents are invited to attend. Each year the students participate in a highly anticipated whole school variety concert that is performed for parents and friends, and that showcases the year particularly through drama, song and dance. The senior class partakes in the Festival of Music repertoire, with the whole class performing at the Festival Theatre. School camps are a highlight each year. Bi-annually class camps are run. Yr 6 students are able to join district students on a trip to Canberra as of 2019.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

We have almost a new teaching staff in 2019 with the exception of one casual teacher. 2 of our teaching staff are permanent. We have other contract and support staff work part time.

Leadership structure

Principal (0.4 teaching). All staff are provided with opportunities to accept responsibility and are actively encouraged to develop leadership at a range of levels within the work of the school

Staff support systems

All staff are encouraged to participate in training and development opportunities. Those opportunities that directly relate to the achievement of the School Improvement Plan are paid for from the Global Budget and release time is negotiated. Other opportunities that have been developed through Performance Management are subsidised. Regular staff meetings are held with agendas dedicated to teaching and learning as well as administrative issues. Watervale Primary is actively involved in the Mid North Partnership.

Performance Management

All staff participate in performance management processes conducted twice yearly.

Access to special staff

Local Departmental staff are available depending on caseload. Other Departmental staff (Disability, Performance Management, Attendance, etc) visit as invited or as part of a rota. Families are supported to access other agencies as required, particularly through the NDIS scheme.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
:NIL
- Isolation placement points
:NIL
- Housing assistance
:YES
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
:NIL
- Additional increment allowance
:NIL
- Designated schools benefits
:NIL
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:NIL
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:in Clare township
- Locality allowances
:NIL

9. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds

The original school house and classroom is a solid heritage building that presently houses the administration, staff and kitchen areas as well as the Junior Primary classroom. This building was re-furbished with grant funding in 2008. A weatherboard double building accommodates the Resource Centre which is in the process of redevelopment in 2019. This area was re-furbished with grant funding in 2013. The open space is well utilised for music and drama instruction, and weekly assemblies. The middle primary classroom is a double unit comprising a classroom and multipurpose space, provided through 2010 Federal funding. The Senior classroom is a new one-and-a-half unit attached to the Junior building, comprising a classroom and withdrawal space. The senior students moved into this space for Term 4 2014. Further outdoor development included a sandpit shelter, recycled plastic playground edging, landscaped steps and upgraded asphalt; native garden and tanks; large outdoor shelter over the void left from the removal of the old classroom; and expanded vegetable garden. A reed bed filtration system, fed with grey water, effectively waters the school oval. The school was successful in attaining Solar School and energy conservation funding, which has been applied across the wholesite. The students and families are very proud of their grounds and support its development and maintenance. Cottage style and native gardens, and trees complement the well-known front rose garden.

Heating and cooling

All rooms are air conditioned.

Specialist facilities and equipment

Students have access to a library/resource centre. We also have a large kitchen space. We recently installed 3 new large interactive whiteboards in the classroom teaching spaces.

Staff facilities

Staff have their own staff room incorporating a work space, with a separate kitchen area. There is IT access via computer banks in each room as well as in the staff room. Each class space has access to an interactive whiteboard and a set of tablets. All staff have their own laptop and e-mail addresses and receive regular staff

bulletins by way of this media.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

All rooms are wheelchair accessible. Disabled change and toilet facilities are provided, including a shower. A sick-bay and first aid alcove is situated at one end of the staff room.

Access to bus transport

Local buses are utilised to support student involvement in excursions, performances etc. The cost of bus transport is paid from the Global Budget. Private transport requests are kept to a minimum, but are usually generously offered. After school bus transport is offered but generally only minimally utilised due to OSHC being available.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

A variety of decision making committees work within the school. These include:

- Governing Council
- Sub Committees – Finance/Asset; Parent Body (PAWS), OSHC
- PAC
- Staff meetings
- SRC, Better Buddies
- Class Meetings

Consultation is important and in addition to formal surveys, informal consultation and the seeking of feedback features strongly in the day to day processes of the school.

Regular publications

School Newsletter fortnightly. Electronic communication tools eg. FlexiBuzz, Facebook, Seesaw and Dojo.

School financial position

Watervale has a Governing Council endorsed school budget. Through careful and regularly monitored budget processes we are able to roll over and save money into our SASIF account for future planning.

Special funding:

CAP funding for rural schools is currently paid. This is used for students to access special programs or activities such as performances, and Footsteps dance programs.

11. Local Community

General characteristics

Viticulture and tourism form the basis of the surrounding district. Light industry is strong in support of the land based industries. A range of housing from newer town buildings to older farm housing.

Parent and community involvement

There is an articulated pride by both parents and the wider community in the school, its students and their collective achievements. There are many opportunities to strengthen the mutual commitment between school and community. The Watervale Governing Council has an elected membership base of parents, along with the appointment of a community representative and Principal and staff representatives. There continues to be many opportunities for members of the school community to be involved in governance arrangements. The opportunities for involvement are membership of the Governing Council, and subcommittees including Finance/Asset, Parent Body, and OSHC.

Feeder or destination schools

Students usually move to middle school at Clare High School at the end of year 6 or 7.

Other local care and educational facilities

Clare offers public child care, Preschool, Primary, and Secondary education. Private child care, and Catholic and Lutheran primary schools are located in Clare. Towns nearby each have a Primary school (Auburn, Blyth). Playcentres operate out of Auburn Primary school and Clare playgroup.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

General Store, Hotel and Garage in Watervale itself.
Full range of facilities (including hospital, ambulance, banks, etc) at Clare.

Availability of staff housing

Unlikely in Watervale. Private rental housing in the whole Clare Valley is tightly held. Departmental housing may be available in Clare.

Local Government body

Clare and Gilbert Valley Council