SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 04/2013

School number: 0114

School name: CURRAMULKA PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. General information

- School e-mail address: info@curryps.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers: Teaching 3.2 FTE – 4 female, 0 male
  : Ancillary 49 hours/week - 4 female
- Principal: Ms. Kaye Fitton
- Locally Managed School
- OSHC: None provided locally
- Enrolment

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>TOTALS</td>
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- Special arrangements
  : Curramulka Primary School works in the SYP Alliance of schools with Minlaton District School and Minlaton Early Learning Centre, Port Vincent Primary School, Stansbury Primary School, Edithburgh Primary School, Yorketown Area School, Yorketown and District Kindy, Warooka Primary School.
  SYP Alliance schools share common PD opportunities for staff.
  Transition programme is operational for all Year 7 students to ensure smooth entry into Yr 8 at Minlaton District School. Year 7 Interaction Days occur, inclusive of the students from each of the “feeder” primary schools plus those students from Minlaton District School.
- Year of opening
  : 1880
- Public transport access
  : The Yorke Peninsula Coach service operates daily to & from Adelaide leaving from Minlaton or Port Vincent on alternate days.
2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
  - The school serves 20 families, some of which live in or close to the town. Other families travel to school on buses. There is a low level of transience in the present school population.

- Student management
  - In our school we aim to:
    - Provide a safe, caring, orderly and productive environment in which people and property are respected.
    - Provide all students with opportunities and support to experience success.
    - Promote positive and responsible behaviour.

  Student leadership is a significant aspect of the school culture.

  Students contribute to school decision making through Student Voice and Student Representative Council.

3. Vision for Curramulka Primary School

"Curramulka Primary School aims to promote innovative thinking and positive partnerships."

Contextual Influences

GEOGRAPHICAL

- Cluster arrangements with Port Vincent and Stansbury Primary Schools
- Feeder school to Minlaton District School
- Somewhat isolated feeling among the community, even though relatively close to Adelaide

SOCIAL FACTORS

- Economic diversity amongst school population
- Low ethnic diversity

STUDENT NUMBERS

- Small school population, therefore we have a high level of student leadership
- Multilevel classes exist: LOWER PRIMARY: R/1/2/3/4 & UPPER PRIMARY: 5/6/7
Core Business / Mission

Curramulka Primary School is committed to:

- Providing all students with a broad and balanced education
- High quality teaching & learning
- Continuous improvement for staff through an effective Performance Development Process
- High levels of collaboration within our school, school community and cluster
- Innovative thinking
- Mutual respect among staff, students, parents and the community
- Provide a range of opportunities for parents and community members involvement
- Open channels of communication between parents and staff
- Recognition and celebration of growth & success
- High expectations from our staff and students
- Catering for individual needs
- R-7 school ethos
- Participatory decision making
- Collaborative planning & review for success

Values and Principles

We are committed to:

- Constant focus on quality standards, continuous improvement and performance
- Access for all
- Developing resilience and self esteem
- Accountability
- Positive Partnerships
- Listening to and valuing all voices

Our agreed school values are: **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and TRUST**

Our school motto is: “**Small School, Strong Team**”
4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
  All prescribed areas of the curriculum are offered and the school is currently implementing Australian Curriculum requirements. Music, Art, Drama and Technology form part of the school’s learning program. Literacy, Student Well-being and Numeracy remain strong foci.

Teaching pedagogy
  SA Tfel Framework principals underpin teaching and learning.
  The school participated in the Principals as Literacy Leaders (PALL) program in 2011-12
  The school is divided into two classes – Lower Primary (R/1/2/3/4) and Upper Primary (5/6/7) with programs developed to meet individual student learning needs.
  Class sizes are 20 and 17 students respectively.
  All classes have additional SSO support.
  An extensive Literacy Intervention Programme has been established and continues to operate supporting classroom teaching programmes.

- Assessment procedures and reporting
  Acquaintance Night or Open Day is usually held early in Term 1
  Interim reports are sent home at the end of Term 1, followed by detailed reports at the end of Term 2. Interviews are held formally in early Term 3 following the distribution of Term 2 reports.
  A detailed Summative Report is sent home in Term 4.

- Joint programmes
  : Working with SYP Alliance schools e.g. Sports Days, Excursions/Incursions

5. Sporting Activities

- The local community is strongly committed to sport and student representation in SAPSASA teams is high. The school competes very strongly and successfully, despite small numbers, in the Southern Yorke Peninsula Interschool sports.
  Junior Tennis, Basketball, Netball, Softball and Football (a combined team with Minlaton & Stansbury) are offered locally. Hockey, Cricket and Polocrosse are available at Minlaton. All of these sports are available for adults as well as Golf and Lawn Bowls.
  Sport at Curramulka, as with all other Yorke Peninsula towns, requires extensive travel.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
  : Music and Drama play an important role in the school and opportunities exists for instruction in a Musical Instrument.
  A celebration of the years’ achievements occurs at the end of each year with the Annual School Concert. This is extremely well supported by the wider community.
  Students have the opportunity to be involved in tennis, golf and lawn bowls programmes run by local community members.
  Students participate in a wide range of Environmental Education programs with an ongoing “Curramulka Parklands” project the focus of this program.
7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**
  - There exists a very strong commitment to teamwork, mutual help and support is a feature of staff operation. There is no tier 2 salary. Ancillary staff provide direct and valuable assistance in learning programmes, via class support and intervention programmes.

- **Leadership structure**
  - The Principal is responsible for the day to day running of the school and all staff members are on the PAC.

- **Staff support systems**
  - All teachers plan closely together to ensure continuity in programming, specifically in numeracy and literacy.
  - Staff have access to appropriate training and professional development.
  - IT support is provided by an SSO.

- **Performance Development**
  - Curramulka Primary School has a Performance Development system in place, which involves all staff members having an individual Personal Performance Plan, which provides an on-going record of development throughout the year.
  - Staff receive feedback on their performance as well as recognition of achievements through staff meetings, the school newsletter, the local press and at Governing Council.

- **Staff Utilisation**
  - SSO support staff is used to support teachers in their curriculum delivery.
  - SSO staff support the Intervention programme and work with individual students.

- **Access to special staff**
  - Instrumental Music, Hearing Services, Psychologist, Speech Pathologist, Disability Support, Interagency Behaviour Support personnel are available through Regional resources.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Isolation placement points**
  - 2.0

- **Housing assistance**
  - There are no government houses in Curramulka (private rental is very occasionally available in Curramulka and in neighbouring Minlaton). Govt. employee housing is very limited. Rental availability is a problem for teachers appointed to the school / district.

- **Cooling for school buildings**
  - All classrooms/ workspaces have reverse cycle air-conditioning.

- **Medical and dental treatment expenses**
  - Employees are eligible for reimbursement of certain travel and accommodation expenses incurred when obtaining appropriate medical or dental assistance. Time is also allowed for necessary absence from duty.

- **Relocation assistance**
  - Forms of assistance provided are - reimbursement of travel, overnight accommodation and appropriate meals, payment of removal costs (or storage for remote schools), provision of insurance cover for furniture and effects while in transit, allowances for packing and accelerated depreciation of furniture.
9. **School Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds**
  - An old stone building with additions, accommodates the Library, Principal’s Office, Front Office office, Staff room and Art/craft teaching spaces. A new Activity Hall has been built on the school oval in 2011 and is used for a variety of purposes. There are three transportable classrooms, UP, MP and JP classrooms.
  - There is a colourbond shed, which is used as a “hands on / making” technology space. There is a grassed oval across the road from the main block. The toilet block has ramp access and is fitted with hand driers and a shower.

- **Specialist Facilities**
  - There are adequate material resources at Curramulka PS. A well stocked library with a good range of fiction/non fiction reading material. There are 20 curriculum computers and 3 administration machines. Each classroom is fitted with an Interactive Whiteboard linked to a dedicated laptop. IPads are shared between the classes.

- **Student Facilities**
  - Students can order lunches through the local shop.

- **Staff facilities**
  - All staff have a DECD email address and access to the Internet via the use of 3 administration machines as well as class computers.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
  - There is disabled access to toilets. Disabled access is available to one of the transportable classrooms.

10. **School Operations**

- **Decision making structures**
  - All staff are involved in decision making which is by consensus. Being a small school, there are ample opportunities for staff interaction so decision-making is not confined to weekly staff meetings.

- **Regular publications**
  - A parent handbook is kept up to date and made available to all parents.
  - A School Newsletter is produced fortnightly.
  - Student Newsletter, “Curry Kids”, is published occasionally by students
  - Term overviews from teachers are distributed early each term to outline curriculum plans and expectations for the term.
  - The student behaviour policy, anti-bullying policy and grievance procedures are reviewed annually.

- **Other communication**
  - School news items are placed on public display at the local shop and contain community notices as well as school news. Items of interest are sent to the local paper, ‘The Country Times’ and “School Scoops” are included in the local “Warbler”.

- **School financial position**
  - The school is in a sound financial position with no major commitments.

11. **Local Community**

- **General characteristics**
  - Within the town there is a hotel, general store and a rural supplies store. There is a blue stone quarry near the township.
  - The town has a small population but is supported by the surrounding farming community.

- **Parent and community involvement**
  - We currently have 7 Governing Council members with voting rights.
Some parents are involved in working in classrooms and with individual students. Community support for the school remains strong and the school is visited by a wide cross section of the community. Local residents are happy to be involved in special activities. Local people have access to a wide range of sporting activities but all require participants to travel for some fixtures.

- **Feeder schools**
  - The school is a feeder for Minlaton District School and enters into Transition activities with Port Vincent and Stansbury Primary Schools.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**
  - Pre-school facilities are available at Minlaton 14 km away.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  - Minlaton has a wide range of stores and businesses to satisfy most needs.

- **Other local facilities**
  - Medical facilities are available in Minlaton but the nearest hospitals are at Yorketown, Ardrossan or Maitland.
  - Limestone caves adjacent to the town are used for Star Force Training. Curramulka lies central to Spencer Gulf and St Vincent’s Gulf. Beautiful beaches are only a 15-minute drive away on sealed roads in either direction. Also only a 50-minute drive to the magnificent Innes National Park.

- **Availability of staff housing**
  - Only very occasionally are there local houses available for rent. Rent in neighbouring towns is available occasionally.

- **Accessibility**
  - Curramulka is 194 km from the GPO. Approximately 2 hours of good quality roads by car. There is a regular bus service that operates to Adelaide daily.

- **Local Government body**
  - The District Council of Yorke Peninsula has an office in Minlaton.

**12. Further Comments**

- The school has a caring family atmosphere and is strongly supported by parents. There are few behaviour problems or issues allowing the focus to remain upon the core business, teaching and learning.

Many of the residents of the district attended the school and so have a sense of belonging and interest in the school and its activities.