SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0220

School name: LAURA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Laura Primary School

“Country Education & Care”

Laura Primary School is a small rural school in the mid north of South Australia. Located on the banks of the Rocky River near the southern slopes of the Flinders Ranges, Laura is a service town for the surrounding rural area but cottage crafts and tourism play an important role in the local community.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Mrs Kathy Arthur
- Year of opening: 1875
- Postal Address: East Terrace, Laura  5480
- Location Address: East Terrace, Laura SA
- DECS Region: Yorke/Mid North
- Geographical location – 213 kms north of Adelaide
- Telephone number: 86632543/86632230
- Fax Number: 86632233
- School website address: www.lauraps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: admin@lauraps.sa.edu.au
• February FTE student enrolment:

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• Student enrolment trends:
  While enrolments have decreased over the last few years, greater numbers in the pre-school should lead to an increase in the near future.

• Staffing numbers:
  D.E.C.S. allocation is 4.2 Teaching Staff and 51 hours/wk S.S.O. support. Currently, the school funds an extra 0.6 Teacher and 18 hours/week SSO support.

• Public transport access:
  Stateliner bus daily from Crystal Brook, (22 kms away) to Adelaide

• Special site arrangements:
  2 school buses transport students from nearby farming areas.
2. **Students (and their welfare)**

- **General characteristics:**
  Currently 35% School Card
  Students are well adjusted typical country students who come from a variety of backgrounds.

- **Student well-being programs:**

- **Student Management:**
  The school has a code of conduct which all students adhere to although behaviour issues are rare.
  School Captains and Vice Captains appointed annually.
  Class meeting are held regularly.
  A very active SRC which meets fortnightly.

- **Special programmes:**
  Teeth cleaning programme R -7
  Coordination programme R-2
  LAP available on a needs basis

3. **Key School Policies**

- Successful OHS&W Audit (2007)
- Site Improvement Plan 2010-2012
- DIAF is an integral part of School Operations
- School underwent successful Validation Process (2009)
4. **Curriculum**

- Subject offerings: 8 areas of learning including LOTE (Italian)
- Special needs: groups of students, identified annually for extra support. This is provided through the purchase of additional teaching staff and SSO support.
- Camps and Excursions are held on a regular basis
- Daily Fitness Programme
- Primary Connections – Science through Literacy (R-7)
- Small classes (max. 18) with teacher and SSO support (R-7)
- Literacy and Numeracy blocks across the school
- Computers and Interactive Whiteboards in all classrooms, which are an integral part of classroom practice.
- Specialist IT Room
- An abundance of Teaching Resources and concrete materials
- Student assessment procedures and reporting:
  - NAPLAN Tests
  - Internal testing regime
  - University of NSW Competitions available to all Yr. 3 students and above
  - Parent /Teacher Interviews (Term 1 and 3)
  - Written Reports (Terms 2 and 4) supported by evidence in student profile books
  - Student profile books used throughout the year
  - Weekly assembly
  - Informal interviews available on request from parents/Teachers
- Joint programmes
  - Cross-age tutoring
  - Whole school activities (eg Science Week)
  - Whole school/individual class activities with other schools in the Rocky River cluster (eg JP Activities Day, Mastermind)
  - Visiting performances for Rocky River cluster (Wirrabara PS, Gladstone PS, Georgetown PS, St Josephs Gladstone).

5. **Sporting Activities**

- Interschool Sports Day
- Intraschool Sports Day
- SAPSASA (North Eastern District)
- Little Athletics
- A variety of sports is available across the District for both students and adults.
6. **Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile**
  Staffing is stable with all staff living locally.
- **Leadership structure**
  - Principal
  - Regional Office – Clare and Port Pirie
- **Performance Management**
  All staff participates in Performance Management processes including the establishment of a Personal Development Plan.
- **Staff have a strong commitment to hosting Student Teachers and Work Experience students.**
- **All staff are actively encouraged and supported to engage in Training and Development activities in line with the priorities in the School Improvement Plan.**
- **Access to Special Staff**
  - The school has access to Regional Office Staff in the areas of Guidance, Special Education, Hearing Impaired and Speech.
  - The school has links to CAMHS, Family SA and the Southern Flinders Health Service.

7. **School Facilities**

- The school comprises:
  - Main Stone Building housing Administration, Computer Room, well-equipped Staff Room, Kitchen and Library.
  - 3 Transportable buildings (all air conditioned)
  - Multi-purpose Room
  - Main hardplay area (synthetic turf)
  - Large oval and other grassed areas
  - Wide variety of play equipment
  - Outdoor Gym Equipment
  - Beach Volleyball court
  - Disabled toilet and shower facilities
  - Abundance of shaded areas
- **Class Garden Plots**

8. **School Operations**

- Decision making structures:
  - Student Class meetings
  - SRC Meetings
  - Staff Meetings
  - Governing Council
- **Regular publications**
  - Newsletter published weekly with community access.
School handbook available
Magazine (prepared annually)
Term overviews (provided by all class teachers).

- Other communication
  - Class newsletters (produced by individual teachers)
  - Acquaintance Night (early term 1 to promote the school and welcome families)
  - Student Diaries (daily communication)
  - End of year presentation/Concert night

- School financial position
  - The school is in a sound financial position.

- Governing Council
  - Sub-committees of Finance, Grounds, Education, Fundraising
    - Meets twice per term
    - Very active and supportive of school

11. Local Community

- Parent and community involvement
  - Strong and active support is given. All sections of the community are represented in school affairs including Senior Citizens, RSL, local sporting bodies.
  - Good numbers of parents attend weekly assemblies
  - Regular voluntary support in classrooms and at working bees.
  - Laura Folk Fair is a major event on the local calendar attracting up to 10,000 visitors annually. The Governing Council runs the BBQ over the weekend which is the school’s major fundraiser.

- Feeder schools
  - A pre-school is situated adjacent to the school. School facilities are shared and a strong transition programme is in place. The school’s CPS worker regularly visits the pre-school’s sessions as part of the programme.
  - Laura is a feeder school to Gladstone High School 10 kms away. 2 school buses travel through Laura daily to the High School. GHS also has a Trade Training Centre as well as running agriculture and viticulture programmes.
  - A TAFE facility is located at Port Pirie 44 kms away.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  - Golden North Ice-cream is the main employer in Laura
  - Most shopping facilities are available and Laura is centrally located to larger shopping precincts.

- Other local facilities
  - A hospital is located in the town with 2 resident doctors and regular visiting specialists.
  - Dental facilities are available in Gladstone, Jamestown and Port Pirie.
  - Local Chemist
The town has good facilities for sport such as football, netball, cricket, tennis, bowls and golf.

- Availability of staff housing
  - One government house in the town.
- Local Government body
  - Northern Areas Council

12. **Further Comments**