SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 16/3/2015

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: Mr. Chris Heading
- 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: dl.0220.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- **February FTE student enrolment:**

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- **Student enrolment trends:**
  After an initial decrease in enrolments, numbers have now remained steady over the last few years. Continued greater numbers in the pre-school should maintain this level for the next two to three years at least.

- **Staffing numbers:**
  The school has funded 4.2 FTE teacher time—an increase of 0.2 over entitlement to provide additional student support in view of 2 classes having 3 year levels each, and a large increase in Reception enrolments expected during the year. The school utilises 44.5 permanent SSO hours/week with an additional 52hrs /week for classroom and individual student 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:**
  Christian Pastoral Support Worker appointed in 2007. Late last year the Governing Council agreed to continue with the Christian Pastoral Support worker program and funding has been approved until end 2015.

- **Student Management:**
  The school has a Student Code of Conduct to which all students adhere. Serious behaviour incidents are rare.
  School Captains and Vice Captains appointed annually through a merit selection process.
  Class SRC reps are elected by class members. Each SRC rep’s term is for a semester.
  Class meetings are held weekly. SRC meetings held fortnightly.

- **Special programmes:**
  Teeth cleaning programme for the whole school (financed by Governing Council)

- **Coordination programme R-4 on a needs basis.**

- **Band - Upper primary students**

- **Students participate in the local Folk Fair in April – sing Advance Australia Fair and are part of the parade.**

- **Student’s participate in the Remembrance Day event with the local community.**

- **Students visit the hospital aged care residents and Senior Citizens during the year.**

- **School Concert at the end of each year**

- **School Magazine produced each year**

3. **Key School Policies**

- **Successful OHS&W Audit (2007)**

- **Behaviour Code and Grievance Procedures (2008)**

- **Site Improvement Plan 2015 (see separate document for details)**

- **DIAF is an integral part of School Operations**

- **School underwent successful Validation Process Term 1, 2013**
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. 23) with teacher and SSO support (R-7)
- Computers, Laptops, iPads and Interactive Whiteboards in all classrooms, and they 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
  - Fortnightly 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).
  - Included in Gladstone High School Sporting Carnivals.
- Café Laura is offered in terms 2 & 3 each year. This provides all students with the opportunity to plan, cook and serve afternoon tea to their extended family members on a roster system.

5. **Sporting Activities**

- Interschool Sports Day
- Intraschool Sports Day
- SAPSASA (North Eastern District)
- 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 in the wider local district.
- Leadership structure
  - Principal
- Performance Management
  - All staff participates in Performance and Development 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 and their PDP.
- Access to Special Staff
  - The school has access to Specialist 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.
  - Three Transportable buildings (all air conditioned)
  - Multi-Purpose Building with kitchen facilities
  - Main hardplay area (synthetic turf)
  - Large oval and two other grassed areas
  - Wide variety of play equipment
  - Outdoor Gym Equipment
  - Beach Volleyball court
  - Disabled toilet and shower facilities
  - Abundance of shaded areas
  - Well equipped computer room.
- 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
  : Assemblies each fortnight

• School financial position
  : The school is in a sound financial position.

• Governing Council
  : meets twice per term

• Sub-committees of Finance, Grounds, Education, Fundraising
  : meet at least once a 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 fortnightly 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 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