SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 19/06/2017

School number: 0752

School name: Brinkworth Primary School

- Brinkworth Primary School is a small country school where lifelong learning is encouraged. It is an integral part of the local community. Valuing and developing the whole person and recognising the important link between academic achievement and a student's wellbeing are central to achieving our goal of developing powerful learners.

- Our Values are Care and Compassion, Doing Your Best, Fair Go, Freedom, Honesty and Trustworthiness, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility and Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion. We use the keys to success- persistence, getting along, confidence, resilience and organisation to help us set goals.

- Our Site Learning Plan for 2017 is focussing on developing oral language skills for all students and improving writing skills.

- We are preparing our students for future success in line with our motto 'Striving to Achieve'. Our staff provides students with opportunities for success by treating students as individuals, teaching, supporting and assessing against their individual learning goals.

- Family engagement in our school is central to high quality education and we embrace families as 'partners in learning'.

- We offer a wide range of curriculum themes and programs including Premier’s Reading Challenge, CWA Country study, Woodwork, Pastoral Care, Student Voice, Sporting Schools activities, swimming, fitness, cross country, school bicycle rides, Nature Play in the pine forest and environmental activities. Students are given leadership roles in SRC and Youth Environmental forums run by the Natural Resource Management group.

- Communication with students, staff, parents and the community keeps the direction of learning on course and provides a positive atmosphere where each student feels an important part of our team.

General information

- School Principal: Mrs Heather Grace

- Year of opening: Original School 1895. The current Primary School began in 1974 and was officially opened in 1975. However the school was also an Area School which opened in 1944, providing R-12 education until 1973.

- Postal Address: PO Box 91, Brinkworth SA 5464

- Location Address: Main Street, Brinkworth SA 5464

- DECD Partnership: Mid North
- Geographical location – 158 kms from the GPO
- Telephone number: 08 88462132
- Fax Number: 08 88462021
- School website address: http://www.brinkwthps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0752.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: Kindy on school site
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Not available
- February FTE student enrolment: 23

**Current teaching staff** 2.9 consisting of:
- Principal – teaching 0.4 (1 day UP class, Fitness NIT for whole school, NIT for JP class and covering teachers for Professional Development as required)
- Upper Primary Teacher – 0.8
- Junior Primary Teacher – 1.0
- LOTE German Teacher - 0.1
- Finance/Admin SSO 2 – 28 hours per week temporary
- Groundsman – 8 hours per week permanent
- Student support, WHS & Library SSO 1 – 28.5 hours per week casual.
- Student support SSO 1 – 2.0 hours per week casual.
- IT Support SSO 2 – 6 hours per week
- Woodwork SSO 1 – 1.5 hours per week
- Pastoral Support Worker – 5.5 hours per week

- Governing Council has been very supportive in approving extra funding to support two classes.

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Public transport access: None at present.

Special site arrangements:
- Brinkworth Primary School gets together with nearby schools to support Staff and students. The physical distance and costs involved in transporting the children means that there are less opportunities available than there has been in the past.
- Swimming Lessons are conducted in January vacation each year in the swimming pool and Koolunga PS join us for the first week of the year for DECD swimming lessons.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics
- Students come from a mixture of farming and self-employed families. All are from English speaking backgrounds. School Card students make up about 30% of the school population. The availability of cheaper housing provides opportunities for families to purchase a home or rent in our area.

Student well-being programmes
- Currently we have Pastoral Support Worker employed for 5 hours per week and her role is to support student, staff and family wellbeing. We also offer one day workshops eg; ‘Growing with Gratitude’ which provide lessons to follow up with.
- The Mid North Partnership has also been involved with the Resilience Project and is following up with workshops in 2017.

Student support offered
- SSO time is allocated from our budget to support students who are identified with learning difficulties.

Student management
- The Student Behaviour Management policy has been developed as part of our Relationship Policy in consultation with staff, students and parents and is reviewed every two years. Class expectations, yard expectations, grievance procedures and consequences are in place with a strong commitment by all staff and parents.
- The "Program Achieve" series of lessons for all year levels was introduced in 2002 and has been embedded within our school language with ongoing positive impacts on behaviour.

Student Government:
- SRC meets weekly and is a valued part of the whole school decision making. The children raise money for charities and contribute to school equipment that they feel is important.

Transition
- Close liason with the Kindergarten staff, Junior Primary Staff and Principal is actively promoted to ensure a smooth transition for children entering school from Kindy. Ideas, Policies, Annual Reports and Goals are collaboratively discussed.
Key School Policies

SIP 2017 priorities

- Priority 1: is to improve learning outcomes in Literacy for all students by developing Oral Language skills from basic speech to complex vocabulary using a whole school/home/community approach
- Priority 2: is to improve learning outcomes specifically in writing by providing explicit feedback gained from the writing moderation tool in the ‘Brightpath Trial’ and identified skills from the ‘7 Steps Writing program’.

Curriculum

Subject offerings:

- In 2017 teachers are teaching and reporting against the Australian Curriculum in all areas. LOTE provided to all students is German and we offer specialist instructors for sessions in Art and Music during the year.

Special needs:

- Students who access NDIS funding are supported by private providers being welcomed to work in our learning space.
- Support is provided for NEP students and students with learning difficulties by allocating SSO hours and encouraging specialists to visit and support our programming.

Special curriculum features:

- Woodwork is a special project at Brinkworth Primary School for the students allowing the transfer of academic skills into hands on practise.
- Small classes.
- Individual music lessons are provided by private music instructors. We currently have 4 students learning drums and 2 learning keyboard.
- In 2016 we joined Blyth Primary School for Wakakirri – a story based dance experience.
- Camps are held every 2 years. 2016 camp was for 5 days at Arbury Park.
- In 2017 the school is supporting our Year 7 student to attend the Canberra Camp.
- In 2017 the year 2-7 students are fundraising to enable them all to attend the musical ‘Matilda’ at the Festival Theatre in Adelaide.
- Meet the Writers Festival is an annual experience for a few of the upper primary students.
- Youth Environmental Forum is an integral part of the environmental activities.

Teaching methodology:

- There are 2 classes – Junior Primary for Reception to Year 2 students and Upper Primary for Year 3 to Year 7 students.
Student assessment procedures and reporting

- Teachers meet families early in Term 1 at an information evening.
- 3 Way Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews are held in Term 1 and Term 3.
- Written reports are sent home in Term 2 and Term 4.
- Progressive Achievement Tests in Reading and Maths are another tool used for indicating learning growth over 12 months.
- Running Records are an important measurement tool used until students reach an independent reading level of 30.

Joint programmes:

- Brinkworth Primary Schools joins with Blyth, Koolunga, Booborowie and Spalding Primary schools for an annual Sports Day traditionally in Term 3. There are also occasional activity days where these schools get together for a performance or special day such as a Book Week performance. There are also joint activities fortnightly with the Kindy and weekly play sessions.

Sporting Activities

- Highlight of Brinkworth Sporting activities is the availability of the swimming pool allowing local lessons and plenty of opportunity to learn to swim as part of our PE programme. A swimming Carnival is held after swimming lessons and Koolunga Primary School join with us for swimming lessons and the Carnival. Parents and friends support the children and enjoy seeing their progress.
- Sporting Schools activities involve physical activity sessions on Tuesday afternoons each term and have been run voluntarily by the principal over the last five years with support from parents, staff and Sporting Schools coaches.
- Brinkworth Primary School has an amazing amount of space for physical activity – large oval, large playground and large hard surface area, plus tennis courts.
- SAPSASA – the children are encouraged to participate throughout the year.

Other Co-Curricular Activities

- The students organise special event days within the SRC meetings.
- Assemblies are held once or twice a term with the SRC hosting the assemblies.
- The end of the year is celebrated with a Concert/Presentation evening under our covered area combined with the Kindy. The Kindy has children from Blyth and Koolunga so we have a large audience to recognise the student’s achievements for the year.

Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

- The staff is a highly committed group of caring and qualified professionals. There is weekly Staff Meetings.
Leadership structure

- The Principal plays a major role in creating a supportive environment and leads by example. The Principal is an essential part of the teaching team. The Principal deals with staff and student wellbeing concerns and assists in creating a healthier organisation. The Principal makes every effort to be in regular contact with all families.

Staff support systems

- Personal Development Plans are in place for teaching staff; regular performance meetings with the Principal; induction procedures; agreed and published grievance procedures; funded staff Professional Development budgets; annual opportunities for providing and receiving written feedback to and from the Principal. The Principal makes every effort to meet the needs of staff members through negotiation and consultation.

Performance Management

- Staff meet with the Principal to discuss work programs, Personal Development Plans and any other workplace issue.
- There are Professional Network Learning Groups within the partnership to support staff in curriculum related issues.

Staff utilisation policies:

- Staff roles and class structures are reviewed annually in planning meetings to best suit the needs of our students.

Access to special staff

- Support Staff are accessed for students with learning needs and those requiring assessment or modification to their programmes. We are in regular contact with Speech Pathologists, a Disability Co-ordinator, Psychologist and Attendance Counsellor.
School Facilities

Buildings and grounds
- School is on generous landscaped grounds with large oval, large hard surface play areas and a shaded playground.

Heating and cooling
- The school is airconditioned and heated with split systems units.

Specialist facilities and equipment
- The Community Pool is on site and is used during Term 1 and 4 by teachers for PE lessons and for Sporting School sessions.
- A Community Library with a wide selection of modern reading is located in the main building and is open for borrowing when school is open. It is manned on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4-5 pm. (it is an annexe of the library located at Snowtown)
- An IT suite of 12 computers is established in the main building with 6 in the Junior Primary class area.

Student facilities
- Covered playground area, Oval, Netball/Basketball Court and Swimming Pool on extensive landscaped grounds.

Staff facilities
- Access to IT: NBN installed which has improved internet speed, Staff preparation area, Administration area and Principal's office.

Access for students and staff with disabilities
- Ramp into Main Building and into Transportable Classrooms.

Access to bus transport
- Hire of Blyth Community Bus and other local providers by arrangement for excursions.
- No school bus operating. High school bus departs for Clare HS with a stop located in from of the school.

Kindergarten
- On site with a combined Playgroup organised each term and Occasional Care every Wednesday.
School Operations

Decision making structures
- Governing Council with sub-committees of Finance, Kindy, Grounds and Swimming Pool Committee.
- Staff Meetings & Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC)
- For students: SRC and whole school meetings.

Regular publications
- Newsletters once per fortnight, Black and White Rag (local town publication features school items), Notes in Day book for staff. Term Planner at the start of each term, Calendar on whiteboard in Staff kitchen area.

Other communication
- Whole school Assemblies once per term.
- Articles are published in local papers.

School financial position
- Sound position.

Special funding
- All funding is provided through a Global Budget.

Local Community
- Brinkworth is a farming community with a group of self-employed families. A Police Station, Café, Garage, Freight Business, Post Office and overnight accommodation at the camping ground or B&B are located in the town.
- English is the only language spoken at home.
- Parent and community involvement is encouraged and we have an energetic and committed group of parents who are willing to assist in the school activities.

Feeder or destination schools
- Most students attend Clare High School for their secondary education. A bus run which leaves Brinkworth in the morning and returns each afternoon services Clare High School.

Other local care and educational facilities
- Brinkworth Kindergarten while a separate facility is co-located on the same grounds as the school with a boundary fence between the two. We join fortnightly for activities and weekly for a Recess playtime.
- The Swimming Pool is open to the Public from November through to the end of March.
- The Community Library is on site and run from Snowtown.
Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
- Local Café, Post Office, Service Station/Garage with RAA facility, Local Builders and Trades People, Silos and Mill's Freightliners.

Other local facilities
- Churches, Local History Museum, Community and Sporting Groups. Local CFS, Netball/Tennis courts and Bowling Green, grassed oval with cricket pitch, golf at nearby Yacka.
- Caravan Park facility for overnight camping with a camp kitchen and playground.
- A variety of Clubs exists in the town for example, Red Cross, CWA, Progress Association, Football, Cricket, Netball Clubs, SGAP etc.

Accessibility
- Clare township and wine region is a 20 minute drive away and is the closest major town with a wide range of facilities.
- Port Pirie and Kadina is the closest centre for shopping and services – approximately 80 km.
- Wallaroo provides our nearest beach and is one hour drive to the East.
- To the North the Flinders Ranges can be reached in two hours by car.
- Adelaide is approximately 2 hours drive to the south.

Local Government body
- District Council of Wakefield Plains with the main office in Balaklava.
- There is also a local Management Committee which plays an important role in coordinating and managing grants with the cooperation of the various groups in the town.

Further Comments
- Brinkworth Primary School is a great place to work. Staff are very supportive of one another and work collaboratively to ensure we achieve our goals. It is a place where each staff member knows all our students and teach within a caring, family atmosphere.
- Many families’ connections with the school go back to its early days and our parents are very supportive.
- Our expectations are high and we work to achieve a strong work ethic and feeling of success in our students. A positive attitude by all ensures positive outcomes for all.

I certify that this is a true and accurate statement.
Heather Grace, Principal
June 2017