



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 15/05/2013

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 link between academic achievement and a student's wellbeing.

Our Values are Care and Compassion, Doing Your Best, Fair Go, Freedom, Honesty and Trustworthiness, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility and Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion.

Our Site Learning Plan for 2014 is focussing on reading improvements for all students.

We are preparing our students for future success in line with our motto 'Striving to Achieve'. Our staff strives to provide students with opportunities for success by treating students as individuals, teaching 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 electives, Premier's Reading Challenge, CWA Country Project, Woodwork, Pastoral Care, Student Voice, swimming, fitness, cross country, school bicycle rides and tree propagation/planting.

Communication with students, staff 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.

1. 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 Region: Yorke and 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: 30

Year Level	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014
Year Level	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Reception	7.0	1.0	8.0	5.0	1.0	6.0	3.0	0	3.0	3.0	1.0	4.0
Year 1	2.0	3.0	5.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	0	0
Year 2	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	4.0
Year 3	4.0	2.0	6.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0
Year 4	3.0	1.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	2.0	0	2.0	1.0	3.0	4.0
Year 5	4.0	3.0	7.0	2.0	0	2.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	2.0	0	2.0
Year 6	1.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	1.0	0	1.0	4.0	3.0	7.0
Year 7	0	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	1.0	0	1.0	0	0	0
Total	22.0	14.0	36.0	20.0	13.0	33.0	19.0	11.0	30.0	19.0	11.0	30.0

Current teaching staff is 3.1 consisting of:

- Principal – teaching 0.4 (1 day JP class, Fitness, Reading, Electives and covering teachers for Professional Development or NIT as required)
- Upper Primary Teacher – 0.6
- Upper Primary Teacher – 0.6
- Junior Primary Teacher – 0.8
- LOTE German Teacher - 0.1
- Finance/Admin SSO 2 – 15 hours per week temporary
- Admin SSO1 – 15 hours per week temporary
- Groundsman – 8 hours per week permanent
- Student support & Library SSO 1 – 18 hours per week on contract
- Student support SSO 1 – 6 hours per week on contract
- IT Support SSO 2 – source from Clare High School
- Woodwork SSO 1 – 1.5 hours per week Term 1 and 4
- Christian Pastoral Support Worker – 15 hours per week
- **Public transport access:** None at present.
- **Special site arrangements:**
Brinkworth Primary School gets together with nearby schools in a loose cluster arrangement 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 each year in the swimming pool.

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 in our area.

- **Student well-being programmes**

Currently we have Christain Pastoral Support Worker employed for 15 hours per week and her role is to support student, staff and family wellbeing. There are regular lunch time activities run for the children. They also support families in need and make contact with the wider community.

- **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 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 ongoing positive impacts on behaviour.

Student Government:

SRC meets fortnightly and is a valued part of the whole school decision making. The children raise money for charities and also for contributions to school equipment that they feel is important.

- **Special programmes**

Electives provide students with a choice of hands on sessions including; Music and Movement, Floral Art, Mosaics, Cooking, Woodwork, Leadlighting and Orienteering.

Woodwork also runs on Monday afternoons for small groups in Term 1 and 4.

Close liason with the Kindergarten staff and the 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.

3. Key School Policies



Brinkworth Primary School Improvement Plan 2014

2014 Priority: Improve comprehension of texts (reading, viewing and listening, thereby improving learning outcomes in all curriculum areas.

Vision: Engage, challenge and inspire.

Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

Please Note: This remains a working document and will undergo ongoing updates and review.

Targets	Strategies	Evaluation Measures
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Comprehension</u></p> <p><u>Early Years</u> By the end of the school year, students are reading with phrasing and fluency</p> <p>Reception Text level 6 Year 1 Text level 15 Year 2 Text level 21</p> <p><u>Primary Years</u> Primary students are in Stanine 4 or above in their appropriate PATR assessment. Students on NEPs have met their reading comprehension goals. Student NAPLAN scores at or above National average in Reading.</p> <p><u>Learning Areas</u> All students reach the Achievement Standard 'C' or above in Australian Curriculum Learning Areas and SACSA subjects studied. Students on NEPs have met their Learning goals.</p> <p><u>Well Being - Social Capability</u> Playground disputes requiring adult intervention will decrease in intensity and frequency to a maximum of 5 each week.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Training in the explicit teaching of comprehension skills and reading strategies in all Curriculum areas (Sheena Cameron, Jolly Grammar, The Big Six, Questioning Strategies, TfEL) • Explicit Feedback (self evaluation, peer, adult) to assist in development of comprehension skills and strategies. • Increase student reading mileage, fluency and phrasing through the Premier's Reading Challenge, more reading at home, reading workshops and use of ICT. • Early years staff use Running Records to determine why students are making errors and adjust their teaching programmes appropriately. • Primary teachers use PATR, reading conferences, student reflection and other measures to determine the teaching programme. • Scaffolds for students readily available (posters, self help systems, buddies) • Maintain, monitor and reflect on the Intervention programmes- Speech/Multi-Lit. • Review Data and formulate Whole School Agreement for assessment of English skills (oral language, speaking, reading, spelling, comprehension) • Successful Practice (Staff and Student) is acknowledged and celebrated (Staff meetings, assemblies, class meetings, newsletters, Kids Communication, Black and White Rag articles). • Partnership with Parents further developed to assist children in their reading and comprehension of texts. • Staff Training and collaboration in the Wilson McCaskill programme with time given to develop implementation strategies and roles all staff will undertake. • Students will be taught explicit language to support the development of their social problem solving skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress of students in meeting their Learning Goals and evidence of them taking an active role in negotiating their Goals (Learning journals, reviews, interviews). • Anecdotal comments (staff, Parents, students) • Library Borrowing • Staff use of TfEL framework in planning lessons. • Running Records of student reading. • Reading Conferences with Students. • Students articulating their understanding. • Performance meetings with Staff. • Staff attendance at workshops and training (including observation of peers on site and other sites). • Staff and Student use of ICT. • Focused classroom observations. • All students will demonstrate the ability to solve issues in the playground and classroom using words. • Incidents will be recorded in the Staff Day Book.

- Recent key outcomes:
 - Jolly Phonics training extended.
 - Multilit training for all staff and implementation.
 - Literacy Professional Development opportunities taken up.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:** LOTE provided to all students is German
- **Special needs:**
Support is provided for NEP students and students with learning difficulties by allocating SSO hours.
- **Special curriculum features:**
Woodwork is a special project at Brinkworth Primary School for the Upper Primary students.
Electives offering a range of hands on activities.
- **Teaching methodology:**
There are 2 classes – Junior Primary for Reception to Year 3 students and Upper Primary for Year 3 to Year 7 students.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

Parent Interviews are held in Term 1 and Term 3.

Reports are sent home in Term 2 and Term 4.

- **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. There are also joint activities fortnightly with the Kindy and weekly play sessions.

5. 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.
- Active After School Care involve seven physical activity sessions on Tuesday afternoons each term.
- 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.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Electives programme are held every Thursday afternoon to allow children to work in small groups with an adult (either a staff member, parent or community member)
- The students organise special event days within the SRC meetings.
- Assemblies are held twice a term with the SRC hosting the assemblies and the parents always showing great support.
- The end of the year is celebrated with a Concert under our covered area combines with the Kindy also putting on an item. The Kindy has children from Blyth and Koolunga so we have a large audience to recognise the student's achievements for the year.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

The staff are highly committed, caring, quality professionals. We have enjoyed stable Junior Primary, Upper Primary and SSO staff in past years.

There is weekly Staff Meeting on an agreed afternoon.

- **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 Learning Communities within the region 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 via our Regional teams for students with learning needs and those requiring assessment or modification to their programmes. We are in regular contact with Speech Pathologists, Disability Co-ordinator, Psychologist and Attendance Counsellor.

8. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

School is on generous landscaped grounds with large oval and large hard surface play areas.

- **Heating and cooling**

The school is airconditioned and heated with split systems.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

The Community Pool is on site and is used during Term 1 by teachers for PE lessons.

An extensive Community Library with a wide selection of modern reading material and a computer with Internet access is housed in the transportable building. An IT suite of 18 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:24 Internet Terminals. 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 from the Main Street.
- **Kindergarten** on site with an active Playgroup and Occasional Care.
- **Tree Propagation** and a Sensory Garden.

9. 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.
- **Other communication**
Whole school Assemblies are held twice per term.
Articles are published in local papers.
- **School financial position**
Sound position.
- **Special funding**
All funding is provided through a Global Budget.

10. Local Community

Brinkworth is a farming community with a group of self-employed families. A Police Station, Café, Garage, Freight Business, Post Office, Hotel and overnight accommodation at the camping ground 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, Local Hotel.
- **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- 20 minutes drive away, is the closest major town with a wide range of facilities.
Port Pirie is the closest large centre for shopping and services – approximately 50 km.
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 Mangement Committee which plays an important role in coordinating and managing grants with the cooperation of the various groups in the town.

11. 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 students and teachers 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
May 2013