

CLARENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: May 2017



School number: 0720

School name: Clarendon Primary School

School Profile:

Clarendon Primary School is a small, picturesque school in the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges situated near the Onkaparinga River, on the edge of the Clarendon Township, an area which was traditionally the country of the Peramangk and Kurna First Nations people. Established in 1885 at the current site, Clarendon has traditionally been a small school with enrolments consistently between 50 to 70 students over the last few decades. Clarendon Primary School is a Category 7 school on the index of disadvantage and services students from 22 different surrounding towns, suburbs, locations and districts. We have less than 10% of students receiving school card assistance and very few students from Non-English speaking backgrounds. In 2016/17 we had no students who identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Approximately 10% of our students have a verified disability and qualify for extra support with their learning. Clarendon Primary School prides itself on being a tolerant, supportive and inclusive community school. Clarendon has had a relatively stable staff over the last several years with minimal turnover, however in the last two years we have had a significant change in staff composition. The school is part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and students participate in weekly gardening and cooking lessons. Nature Play is a core part of our program, as is play more generally. Environmental, moral and virtues education underpin much of the teaching and learning undertaken at Clarendon, in line with the requirements of the Australian Curriculum. Clarendon is a small school but is well regarded for our great school community. Our key strategic directions informed by these values are Higher Standards of Learner Achievement, Improve Health and Wellbeing, Improve and Integrate Child Safety, Engage Children, Families and Community; and Right Service at the Right Service at the Right Time, which align us with Partnership and DECD strategic priorities.

1. General Information

- School Principal name: Mr Josh Anderson
- Year of opening: 1885
- Postal Address: c/o Clarendon Post Office, Clarendon SA 5157
- Location Address: Potter Road, Clarendon SA 5157.
- Local Network: Sea and Vines Cluster / Mount Barker Education Office
- Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km):27
- Telephone number: 08 83836110
- Fax Number: 8383 6453
- School website address: www.clarendonps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.info.0720@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Shared with Kangarilla PS

Student Enrolment Trends:

School enrolment trends have traditionally indicated numbers between 50 and 70 students. However, over the last four years there has been an upward trend in enrolments and the school started 2017 at capacity. Capacity and enrolment demands are managed locally through the use of a locally managed enrolments policy.

- 2017 Feb FTE: 103
- 2016 Feb FTE:95
- 2015 Feb FTE:89
- 2014 Feb FTE:76
- 2013 Feb FTE: 67
- 2012 Feb FTE:67
- 2011 Feb FTE:58
- 2010 Feb FTE:46

• **Staffing Numbers** (as at February census):

- Principal - Band A2 1.0 FTE (teaching 0.2 - 0.4 as required)
- Teachers: 4.6 FTE (6 teaching staff) with four classes
- 5 ancillary staff
- 1 grounds staff
- 1 Pastoral Care Worker (school- and community-funded position)

• **Public transport access**

The Goolwa/Adelaide bus passes through Clarendon twice daily. We are on the route of the Aberfoyle High School bus service, which students access to travel to Kangarilla for OSHC. Taxi services and other public transport options are extremely limited.

• **Special site arrangements:**

Clarendon Primary School is part of the Sea and Vines local school network, in partnership with Clarendon Kindergarten, Madge Sexton Kindergarten (McLaren Vale), Aldinga Kindergarten, Aldinga Beach Children's Centre, Willunga Kindergarten, Kangarilla Primary School, McLaren Flat PS, McLaren Vale PS, Willunga PS, Aldinga Beach B-7 School, Myponga PS and Willunga High School. We are under the jurisdiction of the Mount Barker Education Office.

2. Students (and their Welfare)

• **General characteristics**

Students attend Clarendon Primary from across approximately 22 different suburbs and towns and the vast majority of children commute by car to school. Students are grouped in cross age composite classes, often with family members and siblings. 10% of children access school card support. Many families make Clarendon their school of choice, despite not living in the local area. Currently enrolments are managed through a Priority of Access Policy that supports the sustainable management of capacity.

• **Student well-being programs**

Students are engaged in a range of programs centred on wellbeing including kitchen garden lessons, CPC, virtues lessons, class meetings, What's the Buzz activities and have access to pastoral care worker or DECD social worker if required. Being a small community school, there is significant support for students from within and outside the school.

• **Student support offered**

Intervention services provided by DECD support services.

MultLit, M4LI, Too Smart Maths and Reading Doctor and intervention programs.

SSO support when available for children with Learning disabilities and difficulties.

Barefoot Club co-ordination program for Junior Primary children.

Support from DECD Learning and Behaviour Support Services.

• **Student management**

Our school provides a safe, caring, orderly and stimulating learning environment where the rights of all students to learn and all teachers to teach are supported and protected. Staff, parents and students work together as a cooperative team to develop and promote consistent behavioural expectations and consequences. We believe in a collaborative problem solving method in relation to behaviour management and strive to use principles of restorative justice when resolving behaviour management issues.

Appropriate behaviour is actively encouraged. Appropriate behaviour is achieved through a success-oriented learning environment catering for the needs of all students, in combination with intentional environmental considerations. Students are responsible for their own decisions and behaviour and are taught to accept the natural and logical consequences of their behaviour. We find that logical and natural consequences and restorative practices have a more positive long term outcome for students than punitive and unnatural consequences.

Conflicts are inevitable in all human relationships and we will help to develop non-violent strategies to address and resolve these conflicts using restorative methods.

Particular examples of these rules are determined following consultation with students in each class. If students have difficulty in following these rules they will be asked to have time to themselves to consider their actions. Persistent problems will lead to suspension and referral to other agencies for assistance. Regular

communication between families and teachers will help with combined efforts to maintain and develop excellent behaviour.

For more details on the school's Behaviour Management Policy please contact the school office or refer to the DECD school discipline policy.

- **Special programmes**

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

SAPSASA Sport and Bike Education

Virtues and What's The Buzz Program

Reader's Theatre

Festival of Music Primary Schools Choir

Ukulele Program (yr 5-6-7)

Community Builders' program

3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies**

Our school community has a vision of the school, that as a community of learners, we will all experience success and fulfilment in achieving the skills, knowledge and competencies needed for lifelong learning and adaptability to an uncertain future. Our goal is that all students will achieve at their best through high quality teaching and learning, a focus on engagement and wellbeing. We strive for excellence and enterprise and to use our unique environment and wider community to assist in the development of leadership skills, environmental stewardship and awareness.

The shared values which underpin our work are community, global awareness, teamwork, learning for life and positive relationships.

Our key strategic directions informed by these values are Higher Standards of Learner Achievement, Improve Health and Wellbeing, Improve and Integrate Child Safety, Engage Children, Families and Community; and Right Service at the Right Service at the Right Time. Strategic Plan and actions are reviewed cyclically against predetermined site targets and indicators.

See our school website for up to date information on site improvement and most recent annual report.

- **Recent key outcomes:**

Trends in student achievement data at Clarendon Primary School present some level of complexity in their interpretation due to the small cohorts involved in the data collection and processes involved at each year level.

Thus, while we endeavour to collect, review and monitor data on school wide and year level achievement, we acknowledge that averaging data can skew the figures to some extent. Hence, during 2013 we have implemented a more consistent approach to collecting data on student achievement that allow us to track and monitor individual levels of student achievement and improvement, in line with personal learning goals and Individual Learning Plans / Negotiated Education Plans. At Clarendon Primary School, we are now collecting achievement data using multiple measures, including use of NAPLAN Running Records, ICAS and PAT-R/M/V/GA reading tests, as well as observational, anecdotal recording of student learning. Other factors, such as attendance, behaviour, participation and engagement are also considered when analysing data. 2013-6 has seen the school collect baseline data consistently across the school to provide benchmark levels by which we will be able to measure progress of each student, and importantly, the efficacy of our teaching, curriculum and pedagogy against agreed benchmarks.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:** Australian Curriculum. Kitchen Garden Program. Asian Studies /Indonesian. Some access to private music instruction and senior class is involved with Festival Choir and Ukulele Program.

- **Open Access/Distance Education provision:** nil

- **Special needs:**

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are able to access some levels of learning support through programs such as MultLit, Maths for Learner Intervention, Reading Doctor and Too Smart Maths with ancillary

and volunteer staff. Our collaborative Learner Enrichment Team works to support the needs of all learners through a combination of enrichment and enhancement programs with individuals and small groups.

- **Special curriculum features:**

Kitchen Garden Program / Environmental Education / Sustainability education / Virtues Education. Access to UNSW ICAS assessments / Nature Play Focus.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

Clarendon PS has an open door philosophy in regards to working alongside parents and carers to keep them informed about the progress of their child/ren. Formal assessment and reporting practice include 3-Way conversations to develop and review student learning goals in terms one and three and formal written reports are provided in terms two and four. Children also are involved with NAPLAN testing in Years 3, 5 & 7. We offer the ICAS assessments for children each year from year 4 onwards in areas including science, maths, English, writing and computing. PAT R and PAT M standardised tests are used from Year 2 onwards to provide teachers with diagnostic data about performance in maths and reading comprehension, as well as other targeted areas.

- **Joint programmes:**

2014-5 Clarendon Primary School was involved in a project with Clarendon Kindergarten titled 'Reimagining Childhood – exploring the provocations of Thinker in Residence Carla Rinaldi' facilitated by the Early Childhood Organisation (ECHO). We maintain a close relationship with our local kindergarten.

During 2016-7 and into the future we will continue to work with a cross section of schools from within our Sea and Vines partnership and other local schools. Collaborative moderation, planning and assessment has been a feature of our collaborative work with other small local sites, as well as participation in other partnership wide activities and professional learning.

5. Sporting Activities

Fitness and Health and PE lessons form a normal part of programs at Clarendon Primary School. Within the local community, children are involved with cricket, football, netball and tennis. At school, students from year 5 onwards have the opportunity to get involved in organised SAPSASA sports carnivals and knockout sport. Clarendon has recently been involved in Athletics, Cross Country, Tag Rugby, Rugby League, Soccer, Netball, Australian Rules, T-20 Blast Cricket and Swimming.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Co-Curricular activities include Young Leaders, Safety Ambassadors, Student Action Team, Lunchtime BUZ, some private music tuition, excursions, festival choir, incursions and cultural performances, NRM youth forum. Annual events include Elders Day, Sports Day and Family Fete, School End of Year Concert, Harmony Day, Book Week and Nature Play Days. Class camps are a strong part of the Clarendon School Culture. In the past classes have traditionally been on camps to Illawonga, Adelaide Zoo and Narnu Farm (Junior classes), Naracoorte Caves and the South East and Arbury Park (Whole School). We have also visited Kangaroo Island and Yookamurra Sanctuary in the Mallee.

7. Staff (and their Welfare)

- **Staff profile**

The teaching staff at Clarendon has been in transition over the last five years, moving from a generally very experienced group who have been teaching for several decades to one now comprised predominantly of early career teachers.. The classroom teaching staff at Clarendon brings a wealth of enthusiasm, professionalism and a diversity of knowledge to their roles. The

Classroom teaching staff have also taken on leadership roles across the school in different areas and have taken on the role of Principal as required when the site leader has been away, on leave etc. We have a skilled and capable group of SSO staff who take on a diverse variety of roles across the school, including kitchen garden, ICT, choir, enrichment and intervention, library and classroom support.

- **Leadership structure**

Principal (administration 0.8 / teaching 0.2 but up to 0.4 as required).

- **Staff support systems**

Teachers have 'buddy' systems and work collaboratively on developing programs and planning for school events. Being a small school, the need for close collaboration is inherent and vital for smooth running of the school. Planning for school improvement and development and implementation of strategic plans and actions is expected to be a shared responsibility.

- **Performance management**

Staff have access to performance management meetings and can expect written feedback about their work. AITSL National Professional Standards for Teachers and DECD frameworks for performance development are part of the process. Peer observation and feedback is encouraged.

- **Staff utilisation policies**

Ancillary staff are used in a range of ways across the school – including finance, administration, WHS compliance, coordination programs, young leaders, Garden and Grounds, Kitchen Garden program, Learner intervention, special education support and resource centre management and operation.

- **Access to special staff**

Pastoral Care Worker – through a school and community funded program.

Speech Pathology, Social Work, Behaviour Support, Psychology, Disability support, Guidance, Hearing and Aboriginal Community Workers – if required – through Noarlunga Education office.

Our access to DECD instrumental music teachers was discontinued in 2011, however we have limited access to private instrumental music tuition and run choir and ukulele programs in the upper primary.

8. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

Our school is situated in picturesque grounds on the side of the valley that characterises the Clarendon Township, above the weir and Onkaparinga River. The double MP/UP classroom is solid stone, was built in 1885 and is heritage listed. The original Headmaster's residence (1901) has been converted to an administration building. We have an older style double transportable building (wooden) which houses our junior primary classes. An older transportable classroom has been refurbished and now serves as a kitchen classroom. We have a new resource centre completed in 2012 and transportable toilet buildings on site. We have extensive grounds and play areas, featuring hard play spaces, lawns, a small soccer field, tennis court, orchard, fruit and vegetable garden, wood fired oven, and areas for cubby building, free play and construction including the Village Nature Play Space. We have a recently upgraded our sandpit into a more free-form nature play area that is very popular with students and families.

- **Heating and cooling**

All classrooms and buildings have effective heating and cooling. Clarendon experiences temperatures slightly milder in summer and slightly cooler in winter than metropolitan Adelaide. Mid winters tend to be cold and wet.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

Laptop computers are based in classrooms and the Resource centre for student use, with network and Wi-Fi internet access. Kitchen Garden infrastructure provides specialist garden and cooking learning experiences.

- **Student facilities**

Students have access to resource centre, diverse outdoor play environments, sports equipment, internet and email access. Students can access the resource centre at various times. Filtered drinking water is provided in the yard and there are several covered veranda areas for eating, playing etc.

- **Staff facilities**

Staff have a small kitchen/lounge area in the administration building. The kitchen is a fully equipped facility with fridge, kettle, stove, oven, microwave, sink, coffee machine etc. Teaching Staff have laptops and iPads provided by the school. All staff have internet access and Wi-Fi access. Phones are connected to each building in the school. Car parking for staff is provided onsite. Staff are provided with school laptop and tablet for classroom and professional use within the guidelines of the DECD ICT security and User policies.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

Due to the steep nature of the terrain around the school, access for students and staff with physical disabilities is difficult. There is ramp access to the school from the top car park; however the car park is unsealed. There is limited access to some parts of the school for people with limited mobility.

- **Access to bus transport**

The Goolwa-Adelaide bus service passes through Clarendon twice daily. We are on the route of the Aberfoyle High School bus to Kangarilla. There is very limited access locally to public transport services.

9. School Operations

- **Decision-making structures**

The Principals' Advisory Committee is comprised of members of the teaching and ancillary staff. All staff are consulted on matters of day to day operations, policy development and so on. Staff meet together for Administration Staff Meetings each Tuesday morning before school. Teaching staff meet weekly for professional development and management of pedagogical issues. The school governing council meets twice per term. Governing Council sub committees – including curriculum, grounds, fund raising and finance meet as and when required outside of set GC meeting times. Student Action Team on an ad hoc basis when their needs arise.

- **Regular Publications and Other communication.**

The newsletter is published weekly in hard copy and electronically. There is a parent handbook available for all new parents.

School parent directory is updated and issued annually.

School Web Site – was fully refurbished and upgraded in 2014/15.

Parent / Community Notice Board

Middle/Junior Primary Notice Boards

Classroom newsletters and updates.

Parent Forums in classes each semester.

Parent Education Sessions as required.

Skoolbag online / mobile app for parent and community contact and communication.

SMS communication as required.

Class online blogs in some classrooms

- **School financial position**

The School is in a sound financial position, which is overseen by the Governing Council Finance subcommittee and accounts are audited annually. Please see annual report for profit and loss statement.

- **Special funding**

Limited funding is made available through state and federal governments to support children with disabilities. Federal Better schools funding was minimal in 2015-6.

10. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Clarendon is a small township on the edge of metropolitan Adelaide, characterised by its picturesque location and many historic buildings. Most working parents in the area commute to Adelaide for work.

- **Parent and community involvement**

Parent and community involvement is strong on lots of levels across the school, including informing decision making, providing feedback to the school, supporting education programs, special events and functions. The kitchen garden program is reliant on volunteers to maintain the adult to student supervision ratios required. Parents are also involved in supporting sports teams and often participate during excursions. Parent and Community Volunteers are subject to DECD volunteer and relevant history screening policies. They are also required to undergo site based inductions before volunteering at school.

- **Feeder or destination schools**

Most children transitioning from prior to school settings do some from Clarendon Kindergarten. The local secondary school is Aberfoyle Park High School, while some children choose to attend Brighton, Urbrae, Blackwood and other secondary schools, of which there many in the area.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

OSHC and VAC CARE accessed via Kangarilla PS.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

The township of Clarendon has a general store / post office, bakery and hairdresser, The Royal Oak Hotel and Old Clarendon Inn, along with Silvestri's Reception centre are local hospitality options. There is also an antique/coffee shop. Nearest service station is at Kangarilla.

- **Other local facilities**

Over 50s Club, Uniting and Anglican Churches, Riverbend Park and Oval, Bowling Club, Netball and Tennis Courts and Historic Hall Museum.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Nil.

- **Local Government body**

Onkaparinga City Council. State Government Electorate of Fisher.