

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2015

School number: 0970

School name: NEWBERY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. General information

Part A

School Name: NEWBERY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
School Number: 0970 Courier: n/a
Principal: Mr Stuart Miller
Postal Address: Bridges Street, Millicent, 5280
Location Address: Bridges Street, Millicent, 5280
District: Limestone Coast
Road distance from GPO: 410kms Phone No: (08) 87 332 864
CPC attached: No (08) 87 334 142
Fax No: (08) 87 332 377

February FTE Enrolment	2012	2013	2014	2015
Primary				
Reception	12	20	17	18
Year 1	20	13	18	17
Year 2	11	19	16	18
Year 3	17	11	20	16
Year 4	17	18	10	20
Year 5	14	17	19	10
Year 6	11	14	20	19
Year 7	18	12	15	22
Total	120	124	135	140
Male FTE	60	61		
Female FTE	60	63		
July total FTE Enrolment	121	124		
School Card Approvals (Persons)	32	37		
NESB Total (Persons)	2	2		
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	3	2		

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.

- **Enrolment trends**

Newbery Park Primary School enrolment trends are generally stable, however, in recent times due to strong value added, specialist curriculum programs and confidence in educational programs, enrolments are slowly increasing. The school is surrounded by diverse housing styles with families from rural and suburban locations. Employment in the town is primarily government agencies, retail and factory. Population rates within the town have remained steady over recent years.

Part B

- **Counsellor**

: None.

- **School e-mail address**

: dl.0970_info@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Staffing numbers**

: 1 Principal

: 1 Learning Together Manager

: 6 classroom teachers

: 1 NIT teacher

: .2 Numeracy / Literacy Improvement Teacher

: 2 Administration SSOs

: 9 classroom SSOs

: 1 CPSW

: 1 Handyman

: Contracted Grounds person

- **Partnerships 21 status**

: Yes

- **OSHC**

: No

- **Enrolment trends**

: Currently 141 (term 4 2014) 143 (2015)

- **Special arrangements**

: The school hosts the Learning Together program in its school buildings

- **Year of opening**

: 1967

- **Public transport access**

: School Government Buses are available for eligible students and we have a number of children who use this service.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

The School motto is 'A Learning Community'. It prides itself on its strong community links and partnerships with a focus on exceptional teaching and learning. Our school embraces the core values of Integrity, Pride, Resilience and are embedded into daily schooling life and educational programs. The African derived proverb, "It takes a child to raise a village" is central to our 'Learning Community' success.

We cater for a range of learning needs, including those who require additional support or alternate programs because of a disability.

Our priority is to ensure that all students have the skills, capacities and knowledge to be excellent problem solvers in a demanding society which requires us to be actively engaged as lifelong learners.

Local students who enrol at Newbery Park Primary School at the beginning of reception have attended either McArthur Park Kindergarten or Millicent North Pre-school. However, some students have attended other pre-schools from other communities. Our year 7 students once graduating at the end of the schooling year transition to Millicent High School.

Newbery Park Primary School has an exceptional pre-school to school transition program with partnerships with Learning Together, McArthur Park Kindergarten and Millicent North Pre-school.

Children are encouraged to excel in a range of specialist programs. We have a specific focus on the Arts (Music and Visual), Health and Physical Education and our environmental programs.

Newbery Park Primary School is a part of the South East Coast and Vines Partnership where school leaders collaborate to manage and lead educational provisions, programs and best practice to support student learning.

We are a category 4 site within the Index of Disadvantage scales, having recently been re-categorised from a 2. Our student enrolments are made up of 43% of students qualifying for the School Card Scheme, with 10% of students diagnosed with disabilities and 4% are students identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. Enrolments are at approximately 140 students, having grown from 125 at the end of 2013. Evidence of confidence in teaching and learning programs, school leadership and school reputation within the community provides a rationale. However, there is a small percentage of our school community which is transient.

(Pastoral) care programs

At Newbery Park, great importance is placed on the well-being of the whole child. We aim to develop in our students a sense of being an important individual in one's own right, but also of belonging to a cohesive and stable community of learners. The school aims to develop in students a positive attitude to school, to:

- develop interpersonal and communication skills,
- foster self-esteem and self confidence,
- encourage students to respect the rights and views of others,
- promote self discipline and organisational skills,
- encourage active citizenship,

We believe that students and staff have the right to work in a safe and supportive environment. These characteristics are developed and supported through consistent modelling and through classroom activities and pro-active Restorative Conferences.

A Pastoral Care Support Worker is employed 2 days per week to assist in a broad range of Pastoral initiatives and activities.

Student Management & Support

(See Policies and Agreements for further information)

Our school Behaviour Management and Anti-Bullying policies and Student Code of Conduct are based on the expectations of positive relationships amongst all members of the school community. All students are expected to behave responsibly and are supported by all staff to make positive choices for their actions and negotiate logical consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Class programs support and develop skills for students to take personal responsibility and ownership of their behaviour.

We expect our children to follow three behavioural expectations:

- Safe – Safety to yourself and others
- Respect – Respect for yourself and others
- Responsibility – for you own learning, behaviour and for the welfare of others

Our students are encouraged to be responsible for their own actions and are supported by our schools behaviour and anti-bully policy which has a focus on restorative practices, using the CLEAER counselling model and supported by the underpinning philosophies of the Circle of Courage which is derived from the 'Lakota' people of North America.

Every class participates in weekly circle time, with our junior school students participating in the social skills program "What's the Buzz".

Student Government

An active Student Voice operates within the school R-7 and responds to class initiatives.

All classes have two representatives on the Student Representative Council. Classes are expected to contribute to student decision making and student voice through regular class meetings.

Special Programs (in no particular order)

- Numeracy intervention program to support students who are falling behind or who have plateaued with their learning. Strategies are derived from the 'Natural Maths' research and philosophies.
- Literacy intervention program to support students who are falling behind or who have plateaued with their learning. We use the multi-lit program.
- Specialist music program
- Eco Learning program (Gardening which encompasses – health, environment and the sciences).
- Forestry Program (A partnership with Forestry SA rehabilitating bio-diversity corridors).
- Voices program – A music and singing program for all year levels.
- Specialist arts program
- Specialist Health & Physical Education program
- Whole School Concert
- Whole school art exhibition every second year
- Instrumental Music. Years 4-7

- Upper Primary Camp – Yr6/7 Aquatics Camp combined with another camp every other year.
- School & district sport opportunities
- Student representative council (R-7 representation)
- Rocket Reading Program
- Breakfast club – providing breakfast for all students. Monday to Friday prior to school.
- Learning Together Program. Birth to year 4 program supporting families in the Millicent district to help build positive links between schools, support agencies and families. Recognising the importance for strong relationship and parenting skills to build the foundation for positive learning dispositions.

Support offered

Newbery Park provides a safe learning environment in which all students can be actively engaged in their learning. Students with special learning needs and/or wellbeing are supported by:

- ICAN counselling
- School Service Officers
- Intervention services provided through DECD support agencies.
- Pastoral Support Worker
- Early Intervention & Acceleration programs in Literacy and Numeracy.
- The encouragement of cross-age tutoring and the establishment of 'buddy' classes.
- ICAN/FLO to students in years 6 & 7 to assist with High School transition and school retention

3. Key School Policies

- **The Site Improvement Plan focuses on the following priorities:**

School Priority 1

"Improved student outcomes through a focus on whole school agreements, pedagogy, transversal skills and wave intervention within literacy and numeracy"

SECAV priority 3:

Improved student outcomes through a focus on improved pedagogy and learning dispositions.

DECD Strategic Plan Priority 1:

Higher standards of learning achievement

Our Strategies:

- Use research as a basis to develop and improve literacy and numeracy.
- Use performance development as a vehicle to support staff and develop learning dispositions through data.
- Target professional learning and staff collaboration to build teacher capability, raise standards of achievement and reduce the gap between our highest and lowest achievers.

School Priority 2

"Developmental outcomes for children and young people will improve through provision of universal and targeted education, health and family services that consider the 'whole child'"

Links:

SECAV priority 1:

We improve learner wellbeing and engagement in curriculum

DECD Strategic Plan Priority 2: Improve Health and Wellbeing

Strategies:

- Student behaviours are addressed through research based whole site agreements and approaches.
- A tri-level response exists between school, family and health services to support students with complex needs.
- Policies and plans exist to improve student attendance, students with a disability and students who are or have disengaged from schooling.

School Priority 3

“Children and young people, families and the wider community will be included in our planning and decision making processes”

Links:

SECAV priority 2:

Parents, students and the community are engaged as partners in AC delivery and building learner capacity through a focus on learner dispositions and 21st century transversal skills.

DECD Strategic Plan Priority 4:

Engage children, families and communities

Our Strategies:

- Improve communication services for students, families and our community.
- Engage governing council, volunteers and families as partners in understanding what best practice and curriculum delivering looks like.
- Utilise skills, knowledge, services and businesses within our community to support curriculum delivery (as part of an ongoing partnership and as once offs).

Policies and Agreements.

Newbery Park Primary School has a united staff team which implements a strategic approach to classroom practice and school improvement. Strong business models support our financial and resource deployment and implementation. Through quality data collection, latest research, review & accountability structures teachers aim for excellence through:

- Numeracy

Our numeracy practices encompasses a whole school agreement that ensures every child has access to the same approaches, strategies and languages within an agreed numeracy block. At Newbery Park Primary we use a combination of Ann Baker's 'Natural' Maths strategies. Students are encouraged to use a range of strategies and formulas with an emphasis placed on, 'there is no wrong way'. The school has embraced technological advancements within the educational setting and society and are using PAT-M as an assessment tool and IXL to support mathematical understanding and confidence with technology. Multiple 'Booker' assessment tools are used combined with PAT-M to inform practice and student improvement.

- Literacy (to look at)

The literacy learning at Newbery Park Primary encompasses learning and best practice derived a number of programs and latest research. These include:

PM benchmarks

Home readers

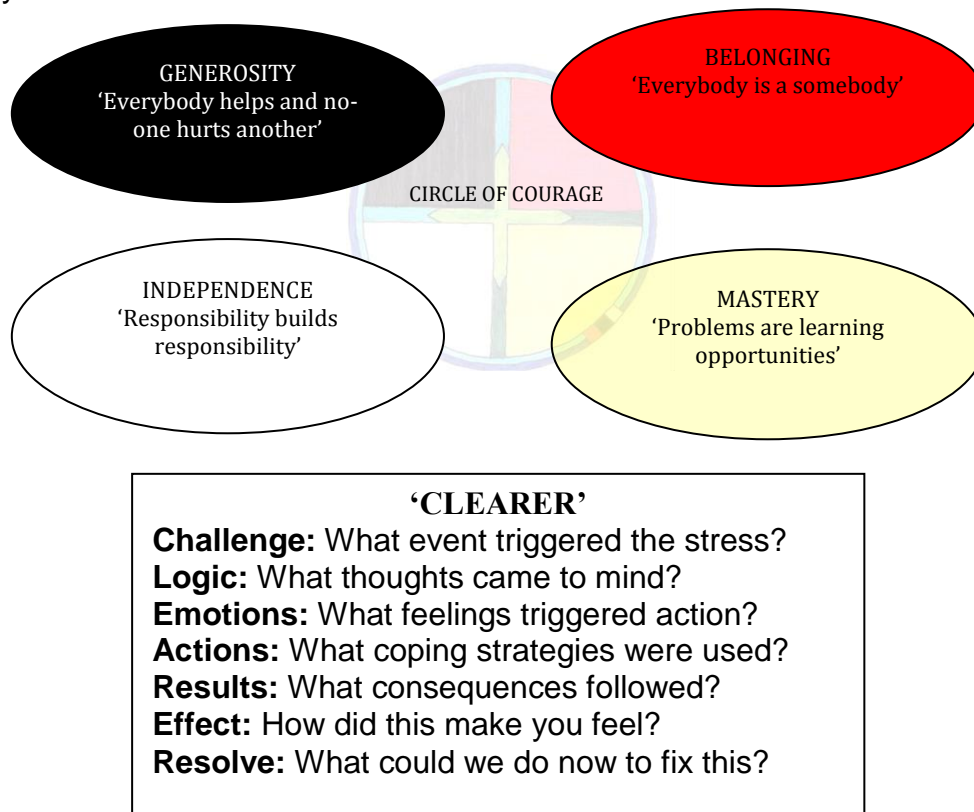
Jolly Phonics

Rocket Reading

Multi-Lit

- Wellbeing

At Newbery Park, we have committed to the principles of restorative practices. It is important to note that restorative practices are much more than a set of ways of dealing with students when things go wrong. Restorative practices are an approach where those in authority (adults) whenever possible aim to resolve, reconnect and restore the connections that children have. Application and an understanding of the 'Circle of Courage' supports the implementation of restorative process 'CLEARER', to better understand the student, find a root cause and better resolve the issue. Restorative conversations can be used at any stage when dealing, managing, resolving and supporting student behaviour at Newbery Park Primary School.



Student wellbeing is also supported by our:

- Anti Bullying and Harassment policy
- 'What's the buzz' social skills program
- Class circle time program
- National Safe Schools Framework
- Student Voice (SRC)
- Child Protection Curriculum and
- Staff Well Being initiatives
- Breakfast Club program
- Attendance and Retention policy and
- Cyber Safety education

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

Newbery Park provides instruction for all students in line with the federally mandated Australian Curriculum for all schools and the Child protection curriculum

- **Open Access**

Available upon request pending extended absences or special needs

- **Special needs**

Newbery Park caters for all students by the implementation of Negotiated Education Plans, the provision of a comprehensive range of support programs. We have a strategic and targeted literacy and numeracy intervention program, which supports those students falling behind or who are stagnating in their learning.

- **Special curriculum features**

The school has an extensive IT infrastructure to support learning throughout the school including wireless internet, ipods/ipads & Interactive Whiteboards with associated learning technology in each learning area.

The school has a strong focus on Literacy/Numeracy across the curriculum.

- **Teaching methodology**

The architecture of the school allows for both traditional and team-teaching approaches.

Our teachers integrate executive functions derived from the learning from Professor Martin Westwell's research. A number of classrooms do not have traditional classroom layouts and have implemented the work of Lisa Burman and Reggio Emilia.

Constructivist teaching methods are part of the school culture promoting authentic learning for students.

The importance of play to student learning is also recognised and is embedded in our reception class.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

All students are extensively assessed in a range of literacy & numeracy key learning areas.

A wide range of assessment methods are utilised to suit individual needs. They include peer, formative, anecdotal notes, self, observations, standardised tests and experiments. Student achievement and progress is reported to parents on a regular basis.

Opportunities for parent interviews are scheduled throughout the year, during which time parents are able to view workbooks. Written reports go home in Terms 2 and 4.

- **Joint programmes**

: We are proud of the transition programmes that operate between McArthur Park Kindergarten, Millicent North Kindergarten and Newbery Park Primary School and from Newbery Park Primary School to Millicent High School.

Learning Together is a program for families with children aged birth to four, and supports families to be involved in their children's learning, growth and development. This program also supports the relationships between new families and is a great way to make connection within the community.

5. Sporting Activities

Saturday morning football, Little Athletics, District Gala Day with sporting emphasis, Basketball and Golf clinics, SAPSASA participation.

Children also play in local club competitions. Parents are actively involved in maintaining teams, coaching and transporting children to school sporting events.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- **General**

Students throughout the school are encouraged and supported to develop skills in decision making and problem solving and to be actively involved in the life of the school. Leadership and self-development opportunities are fostered through the Student Representative Council. Our SRC members travel to Mount Gambier every year and engage in the GRIP youth leadership conference. Other opportunities for participation and development include:

- Yr 6/7 Aquatics Camp and alternative years camp.
- Specialist lunchtime activities supported and developed by our pastoral support worker.
- R-5 Swimming

- **Key Celebrations**

- Year 7 Graduation Night
- Christmas Concert
- Pre-school graduation
- On-going classroom celebrations of learning

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

: All teaching and School Support staff live in the town or surrounding district. Most are settled and committed to living in the country.

The staff at Newbery Park Primary School are united and proud of their achievements and their school. They work together as a team, are keen to maintain their continued search for improved learning outcomes and must be supported in these endeavours.

Staff commit large amounts of time at Newbery Park Primary School to extra duties thus ensuring a broad range of activities offered to children.

The staff are hard working and committed to the school and their students. There are high levels of expertise in the delivery of quality learning programs.

- **Leadership structure**

:1.0 Principal, 1 Literacy Improvement Teacher, 1 Numeracy Improvement Teacher.

Shared leadership and commitment by staff to providing leadership in one or more areas of education is supported.

- **Staff support systems**

- Ongoing professional development for all staff members is encouraged to foster a professional learning community. In house professional development opportunities are offered on a regular basis.
- Staff work collaboratively as a whole and in year level teams.
- Selected staff are involved in PAC meetings with the Principal.

- **Performance Development**

:The Principal meets with individual staff to encourage, develop and maintain a school culture which welcomes and values performance on feedback at least once a term. The focus is on working collaboratively to develop and commit to continual improvement.

- **Staff utilisation policies**

: There are contact people identified from the staff to whom staff can refer in the areas of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare, for matters relating to sexual or racist harassment, for union matters and for various other reference areas. Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare is an area of strong development in the school and the district. Emergency procedures and operational guidelines operate effectively.

- **Access to special staff**

:Staff are supported by specialist support staff from the Limestone Coast District Education Office.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Complexity placement points**

:4.5

- **Isolation placement points**

:

- **Travelling time**

:Approximately 4 hours from Adelaide

- **Housing assistance**

:Teacher housing available

- **Cooling for school buildings**

:Air conditioned (reverse cycle) – each class has a split system air conditioner

- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**

:As per DECD criteria for eligible staff

- **Medical and dental treatment expenses**

:Standard DECD Non-Metro conditions

- **Locality allowances**

:As per DECD criteria for eligible staff

- **Relocation assistance**

:As per DECD criteria for eligible staff

School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

- Double story building circa 1960's with 11 teaching spaces and large library and 3 computer hubs.
- The yard has a hard play area, a lunch shed, large oval, two recently established playground areas and tennis courts.
- There is limited car parking available.
- Learning Together building includes kitchen, toilets and open space facilities
- Large gymnasium hall built 2010 under BER program
- Garden/Greenhouse & recycling centre

- **Specialist facilities**

- JP Learning Support/small group area
- Dedicated Music room
- Environmental learning space inc. organic garden, chicken coup, recycling centre, green house

- **Staff facilities**

:Staff work in their classroom or utilise preparation areas including SSO prep room, upstairs conference room or library office area.

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

:Wheelchair access to ground floor only

- **Access to bus transport**

:Bus transportation is available for eligible students.

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

: Decision making at Newbery Park Primary School is characterised by an extremely high level of input from stake holders with clear processes and an emphasis on consensus amongst staff where possible.

Active and supportive Governing Council and Parent Friends are both involved in a consultative role in most decisions which are significant in the running of the school.

- **Regular publications and communication**

: Fortnightly newsletter, Community News / activities encouraged. Staff handbook, Online weekly staff bulletin, Assessment Folders, Parent Information Book. Parent Information Booklet. Assemblies held twice each term. Weekly staff meetings.

- **School financial position**

:The school has a well managed and publicised budget. The school is in a sound financial position.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

: Millicent is a town of approximately 4500 people (although it serves an area containing 11000 people) and is situated on the Princes Highway, approximately 400 kms south east of Adelaide and 50 kms from Mount Gambier.

Millicent is a large rural town with an industrial and agricultural base and has a well recognised business sector that provides a range of shopping facilities. A

main employer is a large paper mill, producing tissue products. Other industries include farming (sheep, cattle, small seeds), specialised farming and fishing aquaculture, forestry, fishing and a wide range of service industries.

The town and district supports a large variety of sporting and community organisations and offers good facilities and opportunities for most popular pastimes. Millicent is close to National Park areas and has safe beach areas close by. It has a well appointed hospital, a large Medical Practice including specialist services, an aged care facility, an established dental practice, art gallery, excellent library, Community Club, fitness/squash centre and museum. A School Dental Clinic is located at the Millicent North Primary School.

Many service clubs are active in the town and encourage new members to join (Lions, Rotary, Soroptimists).

- **Parent and community involvement**

: Parent Participation in the school is strong with a very active parental involvement and School Council in operation. A range of programmes are supported by parents and interested community helpers as the need arises.

Parents are very involved in all aspects of school life and are actively encouraged to support classroom activities. Many parents opt for more direct involvement in their child's classroom program and will spend time assisting teachers in classrooms, on excursions and camps, and during special activities.

Parents have high expectations of the school and its staff.

- **Feeder schools**

:McArthur Park Kindergarten

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

:The majority of students graduate to the Millicent High School and TAFE

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

:Kimberly Clark Paper Mill, newly developing Wind Farms, timber, general farming, fishing.

Wide range of businesses within the shopping district.

- **Other local facilities**

:Squash courts, Basketball stadium, Football/Netball, swimming lake, gymnasium and associated activities, general sporting and special interest groups are catered for.

- **Availability of teacher staff housing**

:Limited. Most teaching staff elect to live in Mount Gambier and travel to Millicent

- **Accessibility**

:

- **Local Government body**

: Wattle Range Council serves 12 000 constituents and including Penola and Beachport. The Council works actively with schools to support the range of learning and life style options for families.

12. Further Comments

- :The school has a positive reputation in the local community, no doubt due to the focus of the school as being a family orientated community school. The very nature of Newbery Park Primary School provides both challenges and rewards and new learning experiences for staff, students and parents.