

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2019

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	2016	2017	2018	2019
Primary				
Reception	20	9	13	19
Year 1	12	18	9	11
Year 2	13	13	18	5
Year 3	19	9	15	17
Year 4	17	18	13	13
Year 5	19	15	14	11
Year 6	13	14	15	14
Year 7	17	13	19	15
Total	130	109	116	105
Male FTE	64	54	60	64
Female FTE	66	55	56	48
July total FTE Enrolment				112
School Card Approvals (Persons)	59	59	69	73
NESB Total (Persons)	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	8	8	10	7

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, there is a level of transience which does impact on enrolment fluctuations. The transience is due to employment commitments and family related matters. 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

: .4 Co-ordinator teaching and learning

: 1 Learning Together Manager

: 5 classroom teachers

: .9 NIT teacher

: 2 Administration SSOs

: 10 classroom SSOs

: 1 CPSW

: 1 Handyman

: Contracted Grounds person

- **Partnerships 21 status**

: Yes

- **OSHC**

: No

- **Enrolment trends**

: Currently 112 (term 2 2019) compared to 105 (Term 1 2019)

- **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 2 site within the Index of Disadvantage scales. Our student enrolments are made up of 65% of students qualifying for the School Card Scheme, with 12% of students diagnosed with disabilities and 6% are students identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. Enrolments are at approximately 112 students.

(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 are a White Ribbon School and expect that all students 'respect' both genders.

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).
- 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:

- School Service Officers
- Intervention services provided through DfE 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.

3. Key School Policies

Refer to the schools strategic plan on the website.

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 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 Essential Assessment to support mathematical understanding and confidence with technology. Essential Assessment and NAPLAN assessment tools are used combined with PAT-M to inform practice and student improvement. All students set learning goals which are reviewed at portfolio performance review meetings.

- Literacy

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

The big six of reading

SMART spelling

PM benchmarks

Home readers

Jolly Phonics

Rocket Reading

Multi-Lit

Writing (currently under review)

Like numeracy all students set learning goals in literacy which are reviewed at portfolio performance review meetings.

- Google

We are a Google school. Every child from year 1 through to year 7 have their own chrome device supplied by the school for at home and school use. Students normally don't start taking their device home until year 3. Google applications are used to engage learners, provide live time feedback about learning and provide opportunities for students to work in a collaborative learning space to become proficient problem solvers. Daily access to their own device prepares learners for the real world where professional and appropriate use of technology such as computer and the internet is a requirement of employers. It is also preparing students for the rigours online platforms which educational environments now require students to be able to navigate.

- STEM

During the National Science Week Newbery Park Primary School holds an annual STEM day which embraces STEM learning and dispositions. There are two components to this celebration of learning:

- 1.) The Science Fair
- 2.) Maths Trail

The science fair project provides an opportunity for students to investigate something about the natural world. It might have something to do with biology, geology, chemistry, physics, psychology, technology or any other branch of science within the Australian Curriculum.

The project assesses student learning in the area of science and aims to not only to engage, but, develop the student's dispositions across the 4c's Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity from year 3 to 7. Students from Reception to year 2 who participate in the science fair as an interactive audience have the opportunity to interact with the experiments in the endeavour of developing inquisitive minds in the area of science.

The maths trail component, like the science fair element promotes community engagement, by inviting parents / families into our classrooms to share in their child's learning.

The learning begins in the classrooms; with parents joining in on their child's learning activities around mathematics. This may include parents going through some of their child's mathematics learning, playing mathematics based games in the classroom, having conversations about the language used in mathematics and investigating problem solving activities.

The learning then moves into the school yard, where students are involved in a 'Maths Trail' in small groups. This learning provides opportunities for students to explore their mathematical understandings in the wider environment and encourages students to apply maths skills and strategies beyond the classroom through using mathematical thinking and problem solving.

- Student Goal Setting and reporting

Setting goals is a fundamental component to long-term success. The basic reason for this is that you can't get where you are trying to go until you clearly define where that is. Research studies show a direct link between goals and enhanced performance in education. Goals help students to focus and allocate their time and resources efficiently. It helps to keep them motivated and engaged.

Goals guide students to stay aware of what is expected from them and leaves little room for them to hide behind the curtain of unspecified expectations. Furthermore, setting and achieving goals translates to feelings of success, which in turn spurs greater productivity and confidence.

Learning goals are viewed at termly portfolio performance reviews involving the teacher, student and parents / caregivers.

Goal Setting Aims:

1. Improve student academic performance
2. Increase student engagement and motivation to achieve
3. Increase student and school pride and satisfaction in performance
4. Improve student self-confidence
 - Reporting and assessment portfolios

Reporting to parents/carers will provide information about a student’s actual achievement against the Australian Curriculum achievement standards. The use of achievement standards as a common reference point for reporting to parents/carers contributes to consistency in reporting.

Each achievement standard should be treated holistically, i.e. as representing broad development of understandings and skills to be used in applying knowledge, rather than as discrete elements to be achieved.

Each achievement standard provides the key reference point for reporting on student achievement using A–E grades or word equivalents.

Reporting on student achievement against Australian Curriculum achievement standards requires teachers to make a holistic on-balance judgement using a range of learning evidence. Teachers then assign an A–E grade or word equivalent (eg. Excellent, working towards etc), based on the aspects of the achievement standard addressed in the learning program to that point in the reporting cycle.

Reporting Actions	Purpose
Goal Setting and Classroom Curriculum Familiarization (replacing acquaintance evening)	Parents and students will attend a ‘Goal Setting and Classroom Curriculum Familiarization’ meeting with the classroom teacher once a term. At this meeting teachers and students will share key learning goals which are aligned to student achievement and assessment results. The teacher, parent and student will discuss and agree to learning strategies to be implemented at school and home.
A-E report performance reviews	A-E grades will be provided to parents and the student at a formal ‘Reporting Performance Review Meeting’ twice a year (terms 2&4) At this meeting descriptive information about the students’ progress, aligned to A-E grades will be shared and clarified orally with support from student learning samples provided in the student learning and reporting portfolio. From these meetings the parent and student will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a clear picture of progress made to date ▪ an understanding of their strengths and areas for improvement ▪ discuss and agree to learning strategies to be implemented at school and home.

- Student Wellbeing

Refer to behaviour and bullying policies on our school website.

Student wellbeing is also supported by our:

- 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 One Child One Plans (OCOPCs), 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.

- **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.

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 integrated in our reception class.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

Refer to goal setting and reporting

- **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

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 Curriculum co-ordinator.

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 ample 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
- Dedicated STEM space
- 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.