

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: April 2026

School number: 0970

NEWBERY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. General information

Part A

School Name:	NEWBERY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
School Number:	0970
Principal:	Ms Leanne Scudds
Postal Address:	Bridges Street, Millicent, 5280
Location Address:	Bridges Street, Millicent, 5280
District:	Limestone Coast
Road distance from GPO:	410kms
Phone No:	(08) 8733 2864
Fax No:	(08) 87 332 377
School e-mail address:	dl.0970_info@schools.sa.edu.au

Part B

Staffing numbers

- 1 Principal
- 4 classroom teachers
- 1 NIT teacher
- 0.2 Autism Inclusion Teacher
- 2 Administration SSOs
- 12 classroom SSOs

Special arrangements: The school hosts the Learning Together program on-site.

Year of opening: 1967

Public transport access: School Government Buses are available for eligible students.

2. Students and their welfare

General characteristics

At Newbery Park Primary School, we uphold our motto of 'Striving for Excellence' through a dedicated approach to learning. Our aim is to cultivate a safe, inclusive, and stimulating environment where students can develop into resilient, creative people, and lifelong learners. Central to our mission is equipping all students with the skills, capabilities, and knowledge necessary to excel as problem solvers in a dynamic society.

We accommodate diverse learning needs, including those requiring additional support or alternative programs due to disabilities. Our school boasts a robust preschool-to-primary transition

program, fostering partnerships with Learning Together, McArthur Park and Millicent North Kindergartens. Additionally, we prioritise a seamless transition for our students to Millicent High School upon completion of their primary education.

Newbery Park Primary School offers specialised programs in Creative Arts and Eco-learning, which are prominently featured on our website. These initiatives represent a significant and distinctive aspect of our school compared to others in the district.

Newbery Park is a member 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 63% students qualifying for the School Card Scheme. 20% of our students identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders and 5% of our enrolments speak a first language other than English. Enrolments are at approximately 64 students.

Strategy for Public Education

Newbery Park Primary is a proud public school. Our work aligns strongly with the Strategy for Public Education, bringing its Areas of Impact to life through intentional, evidence-informed practice and a deep commitment to our community.

Wellbeing sits at the heart of everything we do. Through our Positive Behaviour for Learning approach, underpinned by Berry Street trauma-informed practice and restorative approaches, we have created calm, safe and predictable learning environments. Our morning yard connection, shared breakfasts and strong relationships ensure every child feels known, valued and ready to learn.

Learner Agency is embedded in our culture. Students actively set, monitor and celebrate their learning goals in partnership with teachers and families. Events such as our "Setting Our Sights Together" evenings and daily rituals like the Goal Bell empower students to take ownership of their growth, building confidence, voice and responsibility.

Effective Learners is a key focus of our current work. We explicitly teach students how to learn - developing metacognition, self-regulation, resilience and strategic thinking. Through consistent, high-quality literacy and numeracy practices, alongside structured routines that maximise engagement, students are supported to become capable, independent learners who understand and regulate themselves. Alongside this, there is incredible work underway to nurture creative and curious thinkers - students who wonder, question, investigate and seek meaning, building the habits of mind needed for lifelong learning.

Our commitment to **Equity and Excellence** underpins all of this work. We actively remove barriers to learning through initiatives such as our Breakfast and Lunch Clubs, Community Kitchen and whole-school meals, ensuring every child has access to the conditions they need to succeed. This unwavering focus was recognised in 2025 when Newbery Park was named a finalist in the Public Education Awards 2025 for Excellence and Equity - a reflection of the collective effort of our staff, students and community.

At Newbery Park, these areas of impact are not standalone priorities; they are deeply interconnected. Together, they create a school where every child is supported to belong, to grow and to achieve with pride.

Teaching methodology

The school's architecture is purposefully designed to support both explicit, structured teaching and flexible team-teaching approaches, enabling staff to respond to the diverse needs of our learners. At Newbery Park, teaching is intentional, evidence-informed and highly responsive. Our recent professional learning has centred on strengthening science of learning principles as well as High

Impact Teaching Strategies, with a particular focus on feedback. These practices ensure that learning is visible, targeted and consistently monitored, allowing teachers to adjust instruction and maximise growth for every student.

This work is underpinned by a strong commitment to the Science of Learning, with staff refining consistent, high-quality instructional routines that build fluency, deepen understanding and promote student agency. Our structured approach ensures that classrooms are calm, focused and highly productive environments where all students can succeed.

Alongside this, we recognise the critical role of play in early learning. In our Junior Primary classes, play is thoughtfully and systematically embedded to support language development, social skills, creativity and problem-solving. This balance of explicit teaching and purposeful play ensures our youngest learners build strong foundations while remaining engaged, curious and connected to their learning.

Specialist Programs

- Specialist Creative Arts
- Specialist Science program
- Eco-Learning program (Gardening which encompasses health, environment and natural sciences)
- Instrumental Music
- Primary years camps
- Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP) involvement
- School & district sporting opportunities
- Student Voice (R-6 representation)
- Breakfast club – providing breakfast for all students Monday to Friday prior to school.
- Lunch Club – providing lunch for students Monday to Thursday, as necessary
- Whole-school lunch – shared dining experience each Friday
- Early Intervention & Acceleration programs in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Cross-age tutoring and 'buddy' classes.
- After-school 3-way tutoring for parents and children
- After school family cooking classes for parents and children

Policies and Agreements

At Newbery Park Primary School, our united and highly collaborative staff work together to deliver a clear, strategic approach to both classroom practice and whole-school improvement. Grounded in a strong understanding of our learners, we use quality data to inform our decisions, draw on contemporary research to refine our practice, and engage in robust cycles of review and accountability to ensure impact. Together, we are committed to striving for excellence in:

Literacy

Newbery Park Primary School takes an evidence-based approach to the teaching of literacy skills, based on cognitive science. Key elements that can be seen in our planning and programming include:

- The Big 6 of Reading is explicitly addressed across year levels – Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency and Comprehension
- A Systematic Synthetic Phonics approach (Playberry Laser) is used for all students R-6.
- Decodable Readers are used to support beginning readers, with a transition from these to standard texts.
- Literacy intervention using Playberry Laser Tier 2 resources
- Writing is explicitly taught across text types and genre checklists are used as a form of formative assessment.

Numeracy

Our numeracy practices are outlined in a comprehensive school-wide statement of practice, ensuring that all students experience consistent approaches, strategies, and terminology within a unified numeracy framework. At Newbery Park Primary, we employ the

The school has integrated technological advancements into its educational framework by utilising Essential Assessment to improve mathematical understanding. Essential Assessment and NAPLAN tools, along with PAT-Mathematics, are used to inform teaching practices and support student growth. Each student sets and regularly reviews personalised learning goals.

Technologies

We operate in a 1:1 device environment, where students in Years 2–6 are provided with their own laptop to support learning across the curriculum. Junior Primary students have access to iPads to support the development of their technological capabilities in ways that are appropriate to their age and stage of learning.

Across the school, we use Microsoft Teams as our core digital platform. This enables students to engage actively in their learning, receive timely feedback, and collaborate with peers in purposeful and structured ways. Our approach to technology supports the development of strong problem-solving skills, independence and effective communication.

Daily access to personal devices ensures our students are building the digital capabilities required for life beyond school, where confident, responsible and adaptable use of technology is essential.

We have a 3D printer and a recording studio complete with green room for creating 'Newbery News'.

Students with Special Needs

At Newbery Park, we adopt an Inclusive Education approach to support students with diverse needs, including those with diagnosed or undiagnosed disabilities. We accommodate all students by utilising One Plans and offering a wide array of support programs. Our school implements a focused literacy program designed to ensure that every child receives high-quality, consistent and evidence-based instruction. We have highly structured

Reporting

Reporting to parents or carers aims to convey a student's actual achievement relative to the Australian Curriculum standards. Using these standards as a consistent benchmark ensures uniformity in reporting. Each standard should be viewed comprehensively, reflecting overall development of understanding and skills applicable in practical contexts, rather than as isolated components to be ticked off. Each standard serves as the primary basis for reporting student achievement, graded from A to E or through equivalent descriptors. Assessing student achievement against these standards requires teachers to make balanced, holistic judgements using various learning evidence. Subsequently, teachers assign grades or descriptors (such as Excellent, Working Towards, etc.) based on the extent to which students have met aspects of the standard within the reporting period.

Term 1: Three-way Goal Setting

Goal Setting Night 1 will take place in the middle of Term 1. This time is dedicated to setting clear learning goals for the year, providing a strong starting point for each student's learning journey.

Term 2: Written Report

Written reports will be provided to parents / caregivers on the Thursday of week 10. Term 2 written reports will include grades for every subject, and a General Comment.

Term 3: Three-way Goal Setting

Goal Setting Night 2 will take place in the middle of Term 3. This time is dedicated to setting clear learning goals to continue the year.

Term 4: Written Report

Written reports are to be handed out to parents / caregivers on the Thursday of week 9. Term 4 written reports will include grades on every subject, along with an English, Mathematics and a General Comment.

Goal Setting

The primary purpose of goal setting is to guide students in taking practical steps toward achieving their objectives. When students set goals, they become responsible for each action and decision they make. Goals foster awareness among learners about their actions, efforts, and time management abilities. Ultimately, goal setting is crucial for ensuring the long-term success of every student.

At Newbery Park, students set reading, mathematics and personal development goals in partnership with parents, to:

1. Improve their academic performance.
2. Increase engagement and motivation to achieve at increasingly high levels.
3. Increase student and school pride, and satisfaction in performance.
4. Improve confidence and self-belief.

Students ring the 'Goal Bell' to celebrate the achievement of their goals, with each success recognised and shared through a structured, whole-school celebration.

5. Sporting Activities

We provide various internal sporting opportunities through our Physical Education program and actively participate in regional sporting events. These include hosting our District Athletics Day, participating in District Gala Day and Basketball Carnivals, and offering students the chance to join SAPSASA sports. Our students also engage in local club competitions. Parents play a vital role by maintaining teams, coaching, and transporting children to school sporting events.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

General

Students across all grades are encouraged and guided to enhance their decision-making and problem-solving skills, and to actively participate in school activities. Leadership and personal development opportunities are promoted through our Student Voice. Each year, SRC members attend the GRIP youth leadership conference in Mount Gambier. Additional avenues for involvement and growth include:

- Specialist lunchtime activities
- R-6 Swimming lessons
- Year 5 YELP
- R-6 Eco Learning Program
- Cooking

Key Celebrations

- Regular assemblies

- Book Week
- Science Fair
- Year 6 Graduation Night
- End-of-year Concert
- Classroom celebrations

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

All teachers and School Support Officers at Newbery Park Primary School are deeply connected to the local community, residing within the town and surrounding districts. This shared connection fosters a strong sense of pride, purpose and collective responsibility for the success of the school and its students.

Ours is a cohesive and highly collaborative team, committed to working together to continually strengthen learning outcomes. Staff bring a high level of expertise to the delivery of quality, evidence-informed learning programs, underpinned by a shared belief in excellence for every child. This collective approach ensures consistency, clarity and impact across all classrooms.

Beyond their teaching roles, staff generously contribute significant time to additional responsibilities, enriching the school experience through a wide range of opportunities for students. Their dedication, professionalism and care are evident in every aspect of school life, reflecting a team that is deeply invested in both their students and the ongoing growth of Newbery Park Primary School.

This collective effort has seen Newbery Park recognised as a leader in excellence and equity, reflected in our position as a finalist in the Public Education Awards. This recognition affirms the strength of our team and our unwavering commitment to ensuring every child is supported to thrive, belong and achieve.

Support Systems

Continuous professional development is actively promoted to cultivate a professional learning community among all staff members. They participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and collaborate with teachers from other public schools in our region. Regular in-house professional development opportunities are provided. Staff collaborate both as a whole team and within year-level groups. Additionally, trained staff members are selected to participate in Principal Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings.

Performance Development

The principal regularly meets with individual staff members, at least once per term, to foster and uphold a school culture that embraces and values feedback. The emphasis is on collaborative efforts to foster ongoing improvement and commitment.

Staff Utilisation Policies

Staff members have designated contacts for Occupational Health, Safety, and Welfare matters, as well as for issues related to sexual or racist harassment, union concerns, and other reference needs. Occupational Health, Safety, and Welfare is a robustly developing area within both the school and the district. Our emergency procedures and operational guidelines are effectively implemented.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Complexity Placement Points: 4.5

Isolation Placement Points: Yes

Travel Time: Approximately 4.5 hours from Adelaide

Housing Assistance: Teacher housing available

Cooling for School Buildings: Air conditioned (reverse cycle) – each classroom has a split system air conditioner

Cash in Lieu of Removal Allowance: According to DECD criteria for eligible staff

Medical and Dental Treatment Expenses: Standard DECD Non-Metro conditions

Locality Allowances: According to DECD criteria for eligible staff

Relocation Assistance: According to DECD criteria for eligible staff

9. School Facilities Buildings and grounds

Two-storey building built in the 1960s featuring 10 classrooms and a spacious library. The school grounds include a paved play area, lunch shed, large oval, two playgrounds, and an Indigenous meeting and learning area. Ample parking is available onsite.

Additional facilities include:

- Learning Together building with kitchen, toilets, and open space facilities
- Large gymnasium hall constructed in 2010 under the BER program
- Garden/Greenhouse and recycling centre
- Specialist facilities for Learning Support and small group activities (JP & P)
- Dedicated Music room
- Community Kitchen
- Environmental learning space featuring organic garden, chicken coop, recycling centre, and greenhouse
- Play-based learning room
- Wellbeing space
- Indigenous-themed learning space known as "Budinya Mraatu"

Staff amenities include working spaces in classrooms or access to preparation areas such as the SSO prep room, upstairs conference room, or library office area.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

Wheelchair access to ground floor only, however, there is provision within the Department for wheelchair access to be provided, as necessary.

Access to bus transport

Bus transportation is available for eligible students.

10. School Operations Decision making structures

At Newbery Park Primary School, decision-making is marked by extensive stakeholder input, employing clear processes and striving for consensus among staff whenever feasible. The Governing Council and Parents & Friends play active and supportive roles, offering consultation on significant school operations.

Regular Publications and Communication

Newsletters are sent out three times per term, and Seesaw is used daily for important school updates, classroom-specific information, and community engagement. Assemblies, which include all parents, are held at least twice each term. Reminder emails are sent weekly around important updates, with increased frequency as needed. Regular celebrations are shared through the Newbery Park Primary School Facebook page.

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, a town of approximately 4,800 residents (serving an area with a population of 11,000), is located on the Princes Highway, about 400 kilometres southeast of Adelaide and 50 kilometres from Mount Gambier. It serves as a major rural centre with a strong industrial and agricultural presence, supported by a well-established business sector offering diverse shopping amenities.

The town's primary employer is a large paper mill specialising in tissue products. Other industries include sheep and cattle farming, small seeds agriculture, specialised farming, aquaculture, forestry, and fishing, alongside a variety of service sectors.

Millicent boasts a vibrant community with numerous sporting and recreational organisations, offering ample facilities for popular activities. The town is situated near National Park areas and features safe beachfronts in close proximity. Essential amenities include a well-equipped hospital, a large medical practice with specialist services, an aged care facility, an established dental practice, an art gallery, an excellent library, a fitness and squash centre, and a museum.

Additionally, Millicent hosts a School Dental Clinic at Millicent North Primary School and is home to several active service clubs like Lions and Rotary actively welcoming new members.

Parent and Community Involvement

Parent participation at the school is robust, with highly active involvement in the School Council and various programs supported by parents and community volunteers as needed. Parents are deeply engaged in all facets of school life and are warmly invited and encouraged to participate in classroom activities. Many parents choose to directly support their child's education by assisting teachers in classrooms, on excursions, camps, and during special events. There is a strong expectation among parents for the school and its staff to deliver high-quality education and support.

Kindergartens

Millicent primary schools are not zoned, meaning families have the flexibility to choose the school that best suits their child. As a result, our students come from McArthur Park Kindergarten, Millicent North Kindergarten and the Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre, bringing together children from across the community. This creates a diverse and connected cohort, where students build new friendships and strengthen existing ones as they transition into primary school together.

Other Local Care and Educational Facilities

Most students graduate to Millicent High School. Beyond high school, Uni SA operate a campus out of Mount Gambier and a new technical college recently opened in Mount Gambier.

Commercial/industrial and Shopping Facilities

Millicent offers a well-established and accessible shopping district, featuring a wide range of local businesses. These include supermarkets, specialty retail stores, cafes, banking services and essential services, ensuring the community is well catered for without needing to travel to larger centres. The town's commercial sector plays a key role in supporting both local families and surrounding rural communities.

Sporting and Community Facilities

The town provides extensive recreational opportunities, supporting both wellbeing and strong community connection. Facilities include:

- Squash courts
- A basketball stadium
- Football and netball grounds
- Soccer and baseball facilities
- The popular Lake McIntyre swimming lake
- Gymnasium and fitness facilities

In addition, a wide range of sporting clubs, recreational activities and special interest groups are available, ensuring opportunities for participation across all ages and interests.

Together, these industries, businesses and facilities make Millicent a well-supported regional centre, offering both economic opportunity and a strong, connected community lifestyle.

Local Government Body

Wattle Range Council services over 12 000 constituents including Penola and Beachport. The Council works actively with schools to support the range of learning and lifestyle options.