



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 07/2020

School number: 0678

School name: Loxton North School

School Profile:

At Loxton North School we welcome everyone. Strengths are nurtured, minds are challenged and growth areas are developed. We enjoy each other's talents and share our experiences for the benefit of everyone. From Playgroup to Occasional Care, Preschool to Year 7, we enjoy a range of learning spaces including: Nature Play, refurbished classrooms, modern library, new technologies, mud kitchen and school swimming pool. We currently have 73 students enrolled from preschool to year seven, three classes and a site based preschool.

Loxton North School offers individualised learning plans for our students, we cater for all learning styles and needs; stretching students with their learning is a priority. We specialise in the Language of AUSLAN (sign language for the hearing impaired) and STEM, these are taught to students throughout the school. Our Preschool is a play based inquiry learning and adopts the Reggio Emilia philosophy. Students input into learning programs is valued and sought after while planning using the Early Years Learning Framework - Being, Belonging and Becoming.

Literacy and numeracy is a priority at our site. Literacy entails reading, spelling, writing, handwriting, and oral language. These elements of literacy are taught using research based approaches which are proven to progress students learning. We use synthetic phonics approach as the basis and activities occur daily developing student's rigour and deepen understanding of the English language. Students' progress is tracked and monitored regularly.

Numeracy involves students learning skills and concepts of: number & algebra, measurement & geometry and statistics & probability. These skills are taught specifically and then applied to real life problems so application can occur of the skill and further deepening of knowledge. Literacy and Numeracy is intertwined with all other curriculum areas; Science, Technology, The Arts and HASS (History & Geography).

Deepening students understanding of themselves as a learner occurs through our work on a growth mindset and learner dispositions. A growth mindset is modeled and taught to students from preschool onwards, they learn how their brain works, pathways that are created when learning, learning mistakes are part of this process and how we move through struggle in learning. The learner dispositions of seek, think, persist, communicate and self-regulate give students the skills to do this.

Reflection and sharing of this with others is crucial in understanding the stages of learning and once we master something we then have new learning and the process repeats again.

The school has excellent facilities, with each classroom having a double room space, court yard for further play explorations, STEM Centre that connects facilities so students can access what they need i.e. kitchen, computers, woodwork, garden, science, construction, media tools. Also have a recently developed Orchard Grove with a range of fruit trees that are cared and maintained by all students. A magnificent Preschool and Occasional Care space both indoor and outdoor which fosters curiosity of learning through play.

At Loxton North School we believe a smooth transition from Preschool to school creates happier students and active learning. Loxton North School is a feeder school to Loxton High School. Year seven students undergo an extensive transition program with High School staff and students.

Loxton North School is a member of the Loxton Renmark Partnership.

Highlights for the year:

- Staff training in STEM 500 Technology, Maths in residence with Mark Traynor, LDAM with the partnership,
- Preschool training in Reggio Emilia and a field trip visiting other site based preschools with the Early Years Director
- Facilities upgraded seeing the completion of cabinetry, upgrade of library office and the completion of the preschool space; inside and outside, upgrade of the swimming pool to include solar heating and shade structure, tree audit seeing the removal and trimming of many trees on site, irrigation system replaced, Aboriginal murals by local artist and a major working bee attended by many families.
- Promotion of the school seeing events throughout the year; Harvest Festival, Mardi Gras, Riverland Expo in the Preschool, Pedal Prix, weekly Facebook posts, Loxton Bingo, Presentation Night, Loxton News- featuring regularly throughout the term, Aboriginal Culture Day, Christmas tree display, Loxton Show display and new signage installed on main roads.
- Students learning being tracked and monitored closely with tailored intervention programs where required.
- SRC holding fundraisers, involved in learner dispositions, development of a lunch games shed.
- permanency achieved for SSO's and 2 teachers which will assist greatly with consistency and continuity for students and the school with the directions and key learning.

The school reflects the passion and dedication of staff, families and students.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Vanessa Wainwright
- Year of opening: 1952
- Postal Address: c/- Post Office, Loxton North, 5333
- Location Address: 379 Balfour-Ogilvy Rd, Loxton North, 5333
- DECD Region: Murray & Mallee
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 256km
- Telephone number: 08 85841369
- Fax Number: 08 85841336
- School website address: Inorthschool.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0678_info@schools.sa.edu.au

- February FTE student enrolment:

Primary	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pre-School			7	11	12	11	16
Reception	5	5	8	7	8	8	4
Year 1	4	6	4	8	6	10	7
Year 2	12	6	4	6	9	6	9
Year 3	6	14	5	5	7	12	6
Year 4	8	3	15	6	5	5	12
Year 5	4	7	3	7	6	9	5
Year 6	3	6	7	2	9	6	8
Year 7	8	2	7	7	6	7	6
TOTAL	50	49	60	69	68	74	73
School Card	29	26	26	19	19	34	25
NESB	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Aboriginal FTE	4	6	2	6	11	16	10

- Student enrolment trends: increasing
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

Principal A-2	1.0
Teachers	3.9 FTE
SSO 2 - Finance	21 hrs

SSO2 – Admin	21 hrs
SSO2 - Occasional Care	8.5 hrs
SSO 1 – Classroom Support	89 hrs
PCW	6 hrs
ACEO	8 hrs
GSE	15 hrs

- Public transport access: no
- Special site arrangements: Student have access to free transport to Loxton in the afternoons.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
 - School population profile consists of the following
 - NESB 0%
 - School Card 43%
 - Aboriginal 13% (10 students)
 - IESP 9% (4- Cat 1, 1-Cat2, 1-Cat 3, 1-Cat6, 1-Cat7)
- Student well-being programs
 - Kimochis, Growth Mindset – You Cubed, Interoception Techniques
- Student support offered
 - Student intervention programs occur for literacy and numeracy, these are overseen by teaching staff and implemented 80% by SSO's.
 - If a student has allocation of IESP funding SSO program may be implemented and or SSO support general cohort whilst teacher supports students with needs further.
- Student Behaviour Education
 - A Whole School Behaviour Education Policy is in place. It has operated successfully for a number of years.
 - Attendance is closely monitored, SMS are sent at 9:15am, 3 days absent teacher follows up if no contact made to school and medical certificate required after 3 days. Students who's attendance forms a pattern have an attendance plan developed and monitored through Learnlink.
- Student Representative Council
 - 2 School Leaders (a boy and girl) are elected to serve for the year. They represent the school when appropriate (eg Dawn Service, Service club Meetings). Each class has 3 SRC representatives, who serve for the year, they meet fortnightly. SRC participates in fundraising at the Harvest Festival and during the term, have an input into the general day to day running of the school and discuss issues that have been brought up through class meetings. They are encouraged to be a voice for the students.

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and Preschool Quality Improvement Plan have been developed with staff based on data and best practice. The priorities are for 3 years.

- * Reading
- * Writing
- * Numeracy

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings:

- Australian Curriculum – English, Mathematics, HASS, Technology, AUSLAN, The Arts and Health & Physical Education.

- Special curriculum features:

The Upper primary students have been involved in Pedal Prix for the past 14 years. This includes a 6 hour race in Loxton.

- Teaching methodology:

A variety of teaching methodology is encouraged and adopted. This caters for the individual learning needs of the students. Classes combine for Peer teaching and in different programs.

Assessment and reporting is an integral part of our core business.

Reporting on student learning occurs via formal reports twice per year, 3 way interviews in term1 and optional interviews in term 3.

Sporting Activities

Students participate in a variety of sporting activities including SAPSASA, Inter School Sport, School Sports days and instruction time in a variety of sports. The students and community have an active involvement in sporting activities. Parents actively support the students in Sports Day Activities etc. Special days are celebrated with other schools with shared visits.

5. Other Co-Curricular Activities

The school participates in the Riverland Schools Choir for middle and upper primary students. Students have the opportunity to have instrumental music lessons through the DECD Instrumental Music providers. There is an annual Harvest Festival, which is the major fundraiser for the community.

Whole school assemblies are held 3 times per term.

6. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile – 4 classroom teachers, 4 curriculum SSO's, 1 Occasional Care SSO, 2 Front Office SSO's, 2 GSE's, 1PCW, 1 ACEO converted to SSO hrs.
- Leadership structure
 - Principal (A-2) and Reading Coach
- Staff support systems
 - 1 staff member is on Step 9. They provide leadership and support to the Principal. They deputise in the absence of the Principal.
- Performance Development

The Performance Development Programme is based on the (AITSL) Australian Institute for Teaching and Leadership Framework and (TfEL) Teaching for Effective Learning. Goals are based on SIP and PQIP with 6 month and 12month review

- Staff utilisation
We currently operate 3 full time classes, 1 Preschool class, 1 Occasional Care and Playgroup. Teacher NIT is taught through STEM, AUSLAN and Principal.
- Access to special staff
Student in Year 5,6 and 7 are invited to attend DECD Instrumental Music lessons offered by the Instrumental Music Service. Lessons are usually held at Loxton Primary . Parents are expected to provide transport foir their children.

Choir occurs at Loxton Primary School with their Choir Teacher.

7. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
4.0
- Isolation placement points
No
- Shorter terms
No
- Travelling time
No
- Housing assistance
No
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
No
- Locality allowances
Yes
- Relocation assistance
For permanent teachers relocating

8. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Amalgamation funds enabled a number of improvements to the school. This includes all classrooms having new cabinetry, tables and desks and interactive TV's. The Preschool internally was guttered and new flooring, cabinetry and learning equipment purchased. Occasional Care room was created seeing a new kitchen and glass divider and door connecting to the preschool. The Grounds are immaculate.
- Heating and cooling

All classrooms and teaching areas have reverse cycling heating and cooling

- Specialist facilities and equipment
The school has a newly renovated Library, STEM Room, class set of ipads and laptops to use in classrooms as well as a computer lab. We have a range of digital technology including a 3D printer, lego wedo and bee bots. Our swimming pool is utilised in terms 1 and 4 when the temperature is over 28 degrees
- Staff facilities
All classrooms are spacious, with 2 teaching areas. Multipurpose room for drama and music lessons
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
The school has access to all areas with ramp access to elevated areas.
- Access to bus transport
Students from outlying areas may access the DECD bus services, provided they live more than 5km from the school.
A bus service provides free transport to Loxton at the end of each day.

9. School Operations

- Decision making structures
The Governing Council comprises parents, a staff representative and Principal. They meet twice per term.
- Regular publications
The School Newsletter is published 3 times per term.
- Other communication
Parents are contacted using the SMS network for attendance. Skoolbag app has notices, classroom tab, calendar and newsletter tabs. We have a Facebook page which promotes school learning and events.
- School financial position
The School receives funding through the Education Department. The Finance Committee oversees the budget processes. They meet just before the Governing Council Meeting each month.
- Special funding
On occasions funding is provided to support children with attending camps or excursions. A special subsidy for Canberra Camp.

10. Local Community

- General characteristics
The Loxton North Community is traditionally very strong and supportive. The Loxton North Sporting Club including the football and netball clubs are located adjacent to the school
- Parent and community involvement
Parents are encouraged to be part of the school community. A large fundraiser, the Harvest Festival is held on a Friday towards the end of harvest. This involves all families including the preschool. Food and

refreshments are sold, a grape stomp is held (for both adults and children) and amusements operate on the night.

- Feeder or destination schools
Many of the children enrolled at the Pre-School move into school. A very well planned and supportive Transition Programme is provided for the children while at Pre-School.
Year 7 students move to Loxton High School. Again, a well planned and structured, supportive Transition Programme supports the children as they move from Primary to High School.
- Other local care and educational facilities exist in Loxton; St Alberts Catholic School, Loxton Lutheran, Loxton Primary School, Loxton Preschool, Woodleigh Childcare Centre and Happy Haven OSHC.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Loxton is 10km from the school. Berri is approximately 15km from the School. Both towns have extensive shopping areas and medical and regional services.
- Availability of staff housing
Limited Government housing is located in Loxton and Berri.
- Accessibility
Bus services are available to Adelaide from both Loxton and Berri
- Local Government body
Loxton-Waikerie District Council