

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2017

School Name: Cobdogla Primary School

School Number: 0721

1. General Information

Part A

School name : COBDOGLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No. : 0721 Courier : R44/2
Principal : David Ness
Postal Address : PO Box 3669, Cobdogla 5346
Location Address : Dolan Street, Cobdogla 5346
District : Riverland
Distance from GPO : 221 kms Phone No. : 08 85887131
CPC attached : NO Fax No. : 08 85887154

	2015	2016	2017	2018
February FTE Enrolment				
Primary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
Reception	12	13	9	12
Year 1	18	12	16	9
Year 2	9	17	14	18
Year 3	15	9	20	15
Year 4	9	16	8	16
Year 5	9	8	14	9
Year 6	13	11	12	16
Year 7	9	11	7	13
TOTAL	93	97	100	111
July total FTE Enrolment	93	97	100	111
Male FTE	36	47	50	61
Female FTE	34	50	50	50
School Card Approvals (Persons)	20	23	23	35
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	3	5	9	9

Part B

School e-mail address

- david.ness400@schools.sa.edu.au
- dl.0721.info@schools.sa.edu.au

School web page

- www.cobdoglaps.sa.edu.au
- Facebook page

Staffing numbers

- 6 female teachers and 2 male teachers.
- 6 SSO1s and 1 SSO2 (FT)

- 1 PCW (Pastoral Care Worker)
- 1 AEW(6hrs per week)

Enrolment trends

- Numbers have increased over the last 4 years with 5 classes. R/1, 2, 3/4, 4/5 and a 5/6/7.

Year of opening

- October 8th 1917

Public transport access

- There is no local public transport for students.

2. Students (and their welfare)

The student body

- The student body is comprised of local children and children who travel from surrounding towns.

(Pastoral) Care programs

- Students spend the majority of their day with one teacher and hence pastoral care is undertaken in this setting. The school operates under the KidsMatter framework.

A PCW is employed 12 hrs a week working with students.

Support offered

- In the atmosphere of a small school, support is frequently offered either by the class teacher or by another adult if the child feels more comfortable with someone else. SSO support is available for students and is allocated according to the needs of each student.

Student management

- Cobdogla Primary School operates in accordance with DECD Guidelines using a current "Behaviour Management Policy". It has been fine tuned to the extent that student behaviour is rarely a big issue. Our restorative approach used in dealing with student challenges has been proactive in developing a positive culture within the school. Our school values of Respect, Honesty, Responsibility and Personal Best figure prominently in our school.

'Reward Time' is organised once a term for students who have worked well and have exemplary behaviour. Contact with parents is made when necessary, with parents being very supportive of the school and its management.

Student government

- Our SRC provides an important role in providing students with a good introduction to Democracy whilst enhancing our school based decision making. The senior students have successfully undertaken major projects and handled them very well.

Special programmes

- Every child has extensive learning data collected to track growth and determine achievement against the DECD Standards of Education Achievement(SEA). Students not meeting SEA access tailored differentiated programs to meet the needs of the individual child.
- Some programs/teaching strategies which address students' educational needs; Guided Reading, Reciprocal Reading, Number Fun-nastics, Athletics Minilit and Multilit and Student Mentors. The programs vary from year to year but are characterised by the use of volunteers and SSO support.

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan 2018

Our Site Improvement Plan is available on our website.

2018 Key Priorities

- Raise Reading Achievement and Growth across the whole school by implementing Research Based Approaches.
- Learning Design and Moderation in Maths to improve consistency and teaching pedagogy.
- Visible Learning- Learning intentions, Success Criteria and Feedback.

Recent Key Outcomes

- Continue achieving high benchmarks in Literacy and Numeracy which is our core business.
- Attendance procedures continue being reinforced to achieve the DECD benchmark.
- Client satisfaction – Parent, Staff and Student Surveys: Staff to continue working effectively in maintaining the strong learning partnerships that exist with parents and students at Cobdogla.
- KidsMatter framework continues to provide the key resource in promoting student well-being throughout the school.

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings

- All areas of the curriculum are covered within the classroom.
Cobdogla School has implemented the requirements of the Australian Curriculum in line with DECD policy and timelines, ensuring that minimum time requirements are covered.

Special needs

- Cobdogla has “special needs” students who receive SSO support. All students have Individual Learning Plans. A number of verified students have One Plans which are established and reviewed with support from Student Support Services.

Special curriculum features

- Guided and Reciprocal Reading approach in every classroom.
- Running Records (1-26) monitored and tracked every term to determine impact, growth and next steps.
- PAT R / PAT M testing is utilised with students from Year Two onwards.
- Lexile program is continued after students have achieved level 26.

Assessment procedures and reporting

- The Australian Curriculum forms a significant part of our planning and assessment with Parents being provided with information on student progress four times per year.
- All students have an individual education plan which is negotiated in a partnership between the teacher, parents and students.
- Cobdogla Primary School has a base line data collection policy–SADC-Student Achievement Data Collection and a rigorous assessment procedure.

Joint programmes

- Cobdogla Primary School is part of the Berri/Barmera Partnership.
- Cobdogla Primary School also works closely with the neighbouring schools of Moorook and Kingston on Murray to provide opportunities for students to participate in Special Events and Sports days.
- A Learning to Lead camp is attended by all Year 7 students within the cluster during Term 1.
- An annual Sports Day and Splash Day is held with small schools within the local cluster.

5. Sporting Activities

- Cobdogla Primary School is actively involved in many aspects of SAPSASA. Students are encouraged to try out for SASPASA events.
- The community offers other sporting opportunities. The school receives visits and coaching from most of the major sports.
- Cobdogla is renowned for its strong sporting profile.
- A key focus for 2018 is the Hot Shots tennis program.
- The school is involved in the Sporting Schools program

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

General

- A variety of special activities are held from time to time including Choir.
- Playgroup meets each Friday from 9:00 in the Multi-Purpose Room. This caters for ages 0-5.

Special

- Cobdogla Primary School is an integral part of the Riverland Schools Music Festival that has grown to be an annual event. It includes most Riverland Schools. The festival uses the Chaffey Theatre in Renmark to showcase this activity.

Other

- A Pastoral Care Worker is employed for 12 hours per week at Cobdogla Primary School with the purpose to:
 - support the school in its aim to create a safe and supportive environment.
 - link families to community resources and services.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

- Staff profile has been consistent over the last five years, although individual teachers have varied the fractions of time that they work.

Leadership structure

- The current structure is a Principal based at Cobdogla.

Staff support systems

- Cobdogla staff work closely as a very cooperative team. Staff meetings are held on a weekly basis with these meetings alternating between general business and training and development on a fortnightly basis.
- Staff members continue to support each other with ICT curriculum development.

Performance Development

- Performance Development meetings are held on a regular basis and are closely linked to goals within the SIP, Teacher Professional Standards and Career paths and aspirations. The Principal is the line manager for all staff. Feedback is provided both orally and in written form. Peer observations and formal observations form an integral part of the improvement cycle at Cobdogla Primary School.

Staff utilisation policies

- Staff utilisation varies from year to year. These are determined in consultation with the PAC.

Access to special staff

- Students travel to other schools for music instruction.
- Our school has excellent access to support staff such as Guidance, Speech and Disability Services, and Interagency Support.

Other

- The staff is a strong social group who support each other both inside and outside of school hours.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Complexity placement points

- Nil.

Isolation placement points

- 2

Shorter terms

- No.

Travelling time

- 2.5 hrs from Adelaide by car.

Housing assistance

- Limited.

Cooling for school buildings

- Air conditioning in all rooms (Split System).

Cash in lieu of removal allowance

- Nil

Additional increment allowance

- Nil

Designated schools benefits

- Nil

Aboriginal/Anangu schools

- N/A

Medical and dental treatment expenses

- Not covered

Locality allowances

- Nil

Relocation assistance

- As per policy

9. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds

- Cobdogla School buildings are a mixture of the original stone building and a range of portable wooden rooms. Attractive and well-maintained grounds surround them. A recently completed Gym is well utilised by students and community sporting groups.
- Cobdogla School has a swimming pool.

Cooling

- All rooms have air conditioners.

Specialist facilities

- The school is well equipped with modern computer networks of Microsoft PC's, Microsoft Laptops, Apple Laptops and iPads, with an excellent Resource Centre to support learning.
- All teaching and learning areas are equipped with IWB's.
- The school Gym is used for assemblies, concerts, and activities.

Student facilities

- All rooms at Cobdogla are equipped with access ramps. Children have fridges to store lunches and lockers for personal possessions. There are adequate playing areas, including a COLA.

Staff facilities

- Workspaces are at a premium with staff having access to computers. Phones are located in the Photocopy/Store room, Resource Centre, Art Room, all classroom blocks and main administration. We access email. There are 30 terminals on the current network.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

- A variety of ramps are installed throughout the school for wheelchair access.

Access to bus transport

- There is some local transport available. Hiring companies are available within the Riverland.
- We have access to Education Department buses from neighbouring schools.
- Buses are hired locally for excursions and camps.
- We rely on school staff to drive buses if they have an appropriate licence.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

- Decision making occurs through Staff meetings.
- PAC oversees major issues that are then presented to staff.
- Governing Council membership is 13.
- Governing Council meets twice a term where reports are provided from the Principal and other committees.
- At Governing Council meetings the agenda is based on Site Learning Plan strategic directions by reporting, reviewing and monitoring progress.
- Agenda is also based on DECD priorities.
- School has Finance, Grounds and Special Project Committees.
- All committees meet at least twice a term.

Regular publications

- We have a newsletter, which is sent out fortnightly with students or emailed when requested.
- Classroom teachers also provide individual class newsletters when needed.
- A parent and student information pack is provided for new parents on enrolment.

Other communication

- A white board in the staff room is a focus each morning and is used to share the day's events and other news. All staff contribute freely to this. Information required to be stored is entered on to a wall planner which summarises the term. Longer-term planners are also used for the school year.
- Each term parents are provided with a term calendar of school events.
- Principal provides regular "weekly bulletin" handout to staff.

School financial position

- Cobdogla School has a Finance Officer.
- Cobdogla Primary School is allocated CAP funding and the Index of Rural Disadvantage money has added a great deal to our flexibility and helps reduce the effects of isolation.

Cobdogla Primary School is a Category 4 school.

11. Local Community

General characteristics

- Cobdogla School serves a diverse community.
- There are a number of school card families.
- The town is surrounded by fruit properties.
- Main language spoken is English with a small number of students from Greek background.
- The town has a caravan park, Community Club, post office, playground, tennis courts, oval, boat ramp with access to the river and the wetlands and canoe trails.
- Cobdogla is situated in the Riverland with major towns: Baramba, Berri, Loxton, Renmark and Waikerie nearby.
- All students are expected to wear the school uniform: royal blue and yellow.

Parent and community involvement

- Parents are involved in the Governance of the school.
- Parents form a strong Governing Council group and are always willing to be part of school life.
- Parents are actively involved in many areas of their child's schooling eg; Governing Council, gardening, cooking, fundraising, helping in classrooms, working with students, reading, RAP, SAPSASA, electives and helping with transport.

- The condition of the school grounds shows the enthusiasm of parents to support their school eg community garden

Feeder schools

- Children from Cobdogla Primary School usually attend Glossop High.
- A transition program occurs each year for year 7 students.
- These children travel by bus as Glossop is about 15kms away.
- Our feeder kindy is in Barmera. A transition program occurs with the following year's intake.

Other local care and educational facilities

- Childcare is usually organised with local families, as there is no nearby facility. Our closest pre-school is at Barmera, which is about a five-minute drive along the main highway.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

- There are adequate shopping facilities in the Riverland District.

Other local facilities

- Medical/library/sporting/community facilities exist in most towns.
- Renmark has the Chaffey Theatre.

Availability of staff housing

- There are a reasonable number of private rental properties in Barmera.

Local Government body

- The local Governments have amalgamated to the Berri Barmera District Council, which has its main office in Kay Avenue Berri.

12. Further Comments

Teachers who come to the Riverland often find themselves staying a lifetime. This is largely because there are plenty of sporting opportunities, interesting clubs and associations, the bush, the river and a fantastic climate. There is plenty of interchange of a professional nature and opportunities for advancement or other career aspirations.