SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 05/2012

SCHOOL NUMBER: 0593

SCHOOL NAME: PADTHAWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

PART A

School Name : PADTHAWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No : 0593  Courier : R30/8
Principal : Tyrone Stapleton
Postal Address : Padthaway 5271
Location Address : Padthaway 5271
District : Limestone Coast
Distance from GPO : 320 km
School Based Preschool attached: YES  Phone No: 08 8765 5028  Fax No: 08 8765 5109

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<td>Reception (avg)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>6</td>
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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.

PART B

- Counsellor
  - None
- School e-mail address:
  - admin@padthac7.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers:
• 2.8 classroom teachers
• 0.5 Preschool teacher
• 1 Principal
• 0.2 NIT Teacher (Indonesian)
• 1 Finance Officer
• 3 Admin / Classroom Support SSO’s
• 1 Groundsman
• 1 CPSW

• **Locally managed:** Local Management from the beginning of 2000
• **OSHC:** Available in Naracoorte 50 kilometres away, in Bordertown 58 kilometres away or in Keith 60 kilometres distant.
• **Enrolment trends:** On current figures enrolment will remain around 50-53 students
• **Year of opening:** 1935
• **Public transport access:** Nil

2. **STUDENTS (AND THEIR WELFARE)**

• **General characteristics:** Padthaway is a small rural school set amidst a vista of Conservation Park, vineyards and farmland. Our school motto, “Preparing for the future... today”, is acted upon through our focus on literacy, numeracy and the development of problem solving and comprehension skills by students in a learning program informed by the ongoing collection of summative data used to direct instruction.

• Positive behaviour is expected and is the norm. We believe that students and staff have the right to work in a safe and supportive environment. To this end students are educated to be responsible for their own actions. Behaviour management is based on the Bill Roger’s model and is used consistently across the school and includes the use of buddy class for thinking time outs and focus on consequences being logical and understood by students as relating to their behaviour.

• The majority of children have their pre-schooling experience at our Preschool and move on to Naracoorte High School for Year 8, after their primary education. Children are encouraged to excel in a range of extra curricula activities that include after school sport and choir.

• Padthaway community demonstrates a wonderful sense of ownership and commitment to the school which is reflected through parent participation in the Governing Council, parent volunteerism and the outstanding level of participation in school improvement projects, fundraising activities and many other aspects of our school’s life.

• **(Pastoral) care programs:** At Padthaway Primary School, great importance is placed on the well-being of the whole child. This is reflected in our school’s values: “SHARE” which emphasises Self-belief, Hope and Purpose, Accountability, Resilience, and Empathy & Respect. 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, to foster self-esteem and self-confidence, to encourage students to respect the rights and views of others, to promote self-discipline and organisational skills, to encourage active citizenship, and to provide individual guidance, counselling and support.
A Christian Pastoral Care Support Worker is employed 2 days per week to assist in a broad range of Pastoral initiatives and activities.

- **Support offered**: To support student learning a number of programs have been implemented including (at a minimum) bi-annual reading level assessment (including both fluency and comprehension). Consistent with PALL (Principal as Literacy Leader) training that the Limestone Coast District has undertaken literacy instruction is broken into Waves of instruction with Wave 2 and 3 instruction targeting short and long term intervention for students at risk in literacy. Padthaway Primary School is committed to the District position of children reading at chronological age. Our current focus is on achieving this by the end of Year 7. Community volunteers add to our literacy programs to work with students who require extra assistance.

- **Student government**: After an application and interview process students nominate and elect their leadership team, the executive from Year 6/7, 2 Reps from Years 3-5 and 1 Rep from Year’s R-2. Nominees deliver speeches followed by ballot box voting from the entire student group. Students are encouraged and trained to be effective, empowered participants in processing student issues and convening activities. Two students from the Student Leaders participate on Governing Council, reporting at meetings and contributing to the management of their school from student’s perspectives. 3. Key School Policies

3. Key School Policies

- **Excellence in Teaching**: Consistent with the SIP & QIP (Site Improvement Plan and Quality Improvement Plan) with a commitment to quality data collection, review & accountability structures teachers & students aim for excellence through:
  - Literacy & Numeracy
  - Assessment and Reporting

- **Priorities from our 2012 Site Learning Plan are**:
  - Data analysis informs reading instruction
  - Chronological Reading Age
  - Develop R to 7 agreed assessment for Literacy Scope & Sequence
  - Implementation of the Australian Curriculum through Maths and Science

4. **Curriculum**

- **Subject offerings**: Padthaway Primary School provides instruction for all students in the seven areas as specified by the SACSA Framework mandated by DECS (LOTE Indonesian) and the National Curriculum.

- **Special needs**: Padthaway Primary School caters for all students by the implementation of Negotiated Education Plans, the provision of a comprehensive range of support programs (eg. Early Intervention and Literacy Waves).

- **Special curriculum features**: The school has an extensive IT infrastructure to support learning throughout the school including wireless internet and Interactive Whiteboards. The school has a strong focus on a whole school approach to Literacy across the curriculum. Stephen Graham training informs teaching of writing. The school offers LOTE (Indonesian) to all students as a NIT subject. Preschool is integrated into the main school grounds. Our Reception and Preschool teachers are involved in an integrated preschool with the early years of school pilot program.

- **Open Access**: Nil
• **Teaching methodology**: Teachers use a range of methodologies determined by the curriculum area and student needs at the time. Emphasis on critical thinking and constructivism processes is evident, as the SACSA Framework is now embedded within programming. Multiple Intelligences, Blooms Taxonomy, Thinker’s Keys and Brain Theory are some of the informing philosophies.

• **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, and standardised tests. 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**: Padthaway Primary School has a combined Sports Day each year with Mundulla Primary School and Frances Primary School. This is a fun day with no points or trophies associated with it. Student free days are held in conjunction with schools of the Naracoorte Hub. As part of the Small Schools group of the Limestone Coast, joint meetings with like year levels are occasionally held.

5. **SPORTING ACTIVITIES**

• **Inter School**: The school combines with Mundulla and Frances Primary schools for an annual Sports Carnival. The students participate in junior cricket, football and netball on Saturday mornings. SAPSASA participation, including Upper South East football, netball and cross country carnivals are a feature of school life. Swimming lessons are usually held at Bordertown each year (varying at times with aquatics camps as the alternative).

  **Special Activities**:
  o Choir: Students participate each year in the SA Primary School Music Festival and Mid SE Music Festival at Millicent.

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. Each year 3 Upper Primary students are selected to travel to Adelaide and attend the Young Leaders Conference accompanied by a staff member. Other opportunities for participation and development include:
  o Primary Camp (Years 3-7)
  o Big Day Out: Preschool, Receptions and Years 1 & 2 trip to Mt Gambier
  o Visiting Specialist activities eg. Dance, CSIRO Science, Visiting Artists
  o 6/7’s Young Writers Festival in Adelaide
  o 6/7’s Youth Environmental Forum

7. **STAFF (AND THEIR WELFARE)**

• **Staff profile**: Teaching and School Support staff either lives in or nearby Padthaway or in the surrounding district. Most are settled and committed to living in the country.
The staff at Padthaway Primary School is 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.

**Leadership Structure:** 1.0 Principal. Shared leadership and commitment by staff to providing curriculum development in one or more areas of education is expected – as evidenced by the staff producing a whole school literacy approach document in 2011.

**Staff support systems:** Staff works together and takes advantage of training and development activities in and around the District.

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

**Staff utilisation policies:** There are contact people identified from the staff to which 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. Emergency procedures and operational guidelines operate effectively.

**Access to special staff:** Through a referral process there is access to a Guidance Officer, Speech Pathologist, Special Ed Support Teacher and Behaviour Management personnel. Some referrals for Guidance are outsourced.

8. **Incentives, Support and Award Conditions for Staff**

- **Isolation placement points:** 4
- **Housing assistance:** Limited Government Housing available in Padthaway and Naracoorte
- **Cooling for school buildings:** Air conditioning and heating in all buildings
- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance:** Yes
- **Medical and dental treatment expenses:** Country Incentives apply
- **Locality allowances:** Yes
- **Relocation assistance:** Yes – some incentives are applicable
- **Principal’s telephone costs:** Country Incentives apply

9. **School Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds:** The main building is open space and houses the administration, Preschool, classrooms, art room, cooking and resource/computer centre. This building was upgraded at the beginning of 2004. There are two prefab buildings, one of which is used as a classroom, and a wooden building. The school benefited from the Commonwealth Government’s School Pride and Building the Education Revolution which allowed refurbishment of the interior of the main building with all new freestanding shelving units / room dividers, new front reception, staffroom and teacher prep area with new carpeting and vinyl throughout.
- **Cooling:** All areas of the school are air-conditioned – the main building and the external buildings are fitted with refrigerated air conditioning. These also act as heaters in the winter.
- **Specialist facilities:** There is an art room in the main building and an oven that is available for cooking activities. This area is also used for Tuck Day once a week. The school has a bank of computers in the main building. All teaching areas have Internet access.
- **Student facilities:** Tuck Day run by parent volunteers operates once a week and students are able to order lunches from the local deli on Thursdays.
Staff facilities: There is a staff room and staff workroom with computer access including access to the Internet.

Access for students and staff with disabilities: There is a ramp to the main building. The other buildings do not have suitable access.

Access to bus transport: Two buses bring children to school each day and are available for school day excursions. A private contractor runs one bus and the Department of Education and Children’s Services.

Preschool: There is a Preschool that integrates children with school students in their early years. The Preschool operates two days a week.

10. SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Decision making structures: The Governing Council of 10 parents, principal, staff representative and two student representatives, governs the school community. Subcommittees of Finance, Sport, Facilities, Bus, Fundraising and Parent Committee provide valuable input and service, with each group being convened by a member of governing council. The student representative president along with sub-committees participate and report in council meetings. The teaching staff participates in PAC to make democratic and informed whole school decisions. Grievance procedure is clearly outlined in the Code of Conduct for the school.

Regular publications: A newsletter is sent home each fortnight.

Other communication: Parent Information Booklet. Assembly at the end of Term 1/2/3 and a school concert / awards presentation & graduation is held at the end of Term 4. Weekly staff meetings. The Annual Report, including reports from sub committees and groups, is published and made available to all.

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: Our School is set on a hill slope surrounded by large Grounds, picturesque countryside, a Conservation Park and Vineyards. Padthaway is a safe, friendly and welcoming farming Community centred on intensive and broad acre agriculture, tourism and sport. This strong spirit is reflected in active and regular parent participation in all aspects of school life along with considerable voluntary support from individuals, business and sporting groups.

Parent and community involvement: Parent Participation in the school is strong with a very active Parent Network 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 and the school welcomes community feedback as a support to continuous improvement.

Other local care and facilities:
- CAYHS, St John Ambulance, and TAFE at Naracoorte.
- A Doctor from Keith consults on some Thursdays in a clinic in Padthaway
- Padthaway Hall
- Padthaway Football and Netball Club – teas served on Thursday and Saturday nights during the season
• Local Government body:
  Tatiara District Council, 43 Woolshed Street, Bordertown. Phone 08 8752 1044. Being on the western extremity of Tatiara District Council area, the school also draws from Kingston District Council and Naracoorte Lucindale Council areas.

12. FURTHER COMMENTS

• Padthaway Primary 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 focused on the best learning outcomes possible for the students in its care. The very nature of Padthaway Primary School provides both challenges and rewards and new learning experiences for staff, students and parents.

• Padthaway Primary School is a small thriving rural community providing facilities for day-to-day living. Extensive business facilities are within half an hour at Naracoorte or Bordertown. The tourist industry is providing increasing interest and historic Padthaway Homestead is well known. A modern bowls/tennis and netball sports complex and well-equipped football club is available. The Bordertown Public Library provides an extension to the school library and community and school borrowers are encouraged. Educational facilities are modern and generously supported by parents and the pre-school CPC. Technology has been a major focus over recent years. An efficient school bus service operates to the school and provides access to Naracoorte High School.

• The original Padthaway Primary School was built in 1935 by voluntary labour using donated stone. The original building was demolished in 1972 when the grounds were extended and the current school building was completed. The grounds were further extended in 1990 when the Education Department purchased land adjacent to the school for car parking facilities. The school celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2010.