

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2021

School number: 0204

School name: Kersbrook Primary School

## 1. General information

### Part A

School Name : KERSBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL  
School No. : 0204  
Principal : Ms Jill Gurner  
Postal Address : Bowden Street, Kersbrook 5231  
Location Address : Bowden Street, Kersbrook 5231  
District : Torrens Valley Partnership  
Distance from GPO : 43 kms  
Phone No. : 08 83893068  
CPC attached : NO  
Web address : www.kersbrookps.sa.edu.au  
Fax No. : 08 83893346

#### February FTE Enrolment

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reception	3	10	11	14	5	8
Year 1	13	6	13	13	11	5
Year 2	6	13	7	7	10	11
Year 3	9	4	6	6	6	11
Year 4	7	19	10	10	4	5
Year 5	6	7	8	8	5	4
Year 6	4	10	14	14	4	4
Year 7	10	12	5	5	8	4
TOTAL	58	81	64	76	53	52
July FTE	66	81	62	66	54	
Male	33	38	32	33	27	
Female	33	43	30	33	27	
School Card	12	16	10			
NESB						
Aboriginal	2	2	2	2	1	0

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-si

## Part B

Staffing numbers:

Principal 1.0

3.4 teaching staff

Approximately 80 hours ancillary time

Total Staff: 10 plus PCW

School's email address:

[dl.0204.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0204.admin@schools.sa.edu.au)

OSHC:

OSHC was established as an independent service in 2005.

In 2018 Term 3 OSHC was outsourced to Happy Haven and is now housed in the Old School Building.

Enrolment trends:

The school enrolment had fluctuated between 50 and 81 students over the past 20 years.

Year of opening:

1868

Public transport access:

Nil

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics:

Kersbrook Primary School is a vibrant public school that is open to all students. We are situated in the heart of the Adelaide Hills' apple and cherry growing region. As a small school our staff pursue the highest quality education for all of our students.

Kersbrook Primary School is founded on the philosophy of inclusion and community. We aim to equip students with abilities both academic and social, for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our students are inspired to the highest standards, encouraged to think critically and creatively, to work collaboratively, to act ethically and develop a commitment to contribute to their community.

Educating students since 1850, Kersbrook Primary is in an attractive setting, surrounded by grazing land in one of the most biologically diverse areas of South Australia. We take pride in our grounds with shady trees, a large oval and play areas. We have a large library where we encourage reading for learning and leisure.

Our families and community are engaged with our school in many different ways. We enjoy being an integral part of the township of Kersbrook and the support we receive ensures that we are always well resourced and have the ability to bring the best to our children's education. We are not zoned and invite you to come and visit our school to meet the people who work here educating children to be confident, caring and articulate learners of the future. Please feel free to visit our website: <http://www.kersbrookps.sa.edu.au> for more information.

Care programs and support offered:

The wellbeing of students is at the centre of everything we do at Kersbrook Primary School. Our staff use up to date methods of pedagogy to assist children to do their individual best and to shine in their own unique way. The Pastoral Care Worker assists with student wellbeing. We have purchased programs such as Growing with Gratitude and the Crows AFL have been to our school to present the program.

Student management:

The school's Behaviour Management Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy was reviewed and updated in 2020. The school enjoys a student body that demonstrates collegiate support from R-7.

Student governance:

Class meetings and the Student Representative Council are vital parts of the decision making structure. The SRC is engaged in aspects of decision making as one of the three major decision making bodies in the school.

Special programs:

Special programs are run to cater for individual needs. These programs include Early Intervention and Special Education.

School assemblies:

There are 3 assemblies held per term normally in Weeks 3, 6 and 9. Each class has a turn presenting the assembly every term. In Term 1 2021, assemblies are held on Wednesdays at 9am.

### **3. Key School Policies**

Site Improvement

Our school improvement planning enables us to continuously monitor the impact of teaching on desired student learning outcomes, and teachers rigorously interrogate data with a particular focus on Maths and English. This enables differentiation of the curriculum to best support individual student growth.

Kersbrook Primary School's Site Improvement Plan (SIP) outlines our long term objectives for literacy and numeracy. Our SIP includes goals, targets and challenges of practice. Our SIP for 2021 has a strong focus on Maths. Our goal is to increase student achievement and fluency in Mathematics with a particular focus on using and applying efficient number strategies to problem solving and reasoning in R-7. Please refer to:

<https://www.kersbrookps.sa.edu.au/about-us/policies-and-reports/>

### **4. Curriculum**

Subjects:

We report against the Australian Curriculum achievement standards for all 8 learning areas. We currently teach Japanese as our language other than English.

The Learning Areas are:

**English** (Language, Literature, Literacy)

**Mathematics** (Statistics & probability, Measurement & Geometry, Number and Algebra, Fluency, Problem Solving, Reasoning)

**Science** (Science understanding – Earth & space sciences; Physical sciences – Biological sciences: Science as a human endeavor; Science inquiry skills.

**Humanities and Social Sciences**

Civics and Citizenship (Years 3-8) Economics and Business (Years 5-8) Geography, History.

**The Arts** (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts)

**Technologies** (Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies)

**Japanese** – Open Access College

**Health and Physical Education** Health and Physical Education includes the strands: Personal, Social and Community Health; Movement and Physical Activity

Special needs:

Students with special needs are supported through careful planning, appropriate resourcing and continued review. Staff work one on one or with a small group as needed.

Special curriculum features:

The school has interactive digital panel in each of the classrooms and access to Wi-Fi throughout the school. Classes have a combination of iPads, Laptops and desktop computers that are used as an increasingly important part of our curriculum delivery. We have Spheros which are programmable robots. We have a 3D Printer and technology is continually updated. In 2021 the school was connected to SWiFT. Quick Smart Math is being introduced this year.

Teaching methodology:

We currently have three multi-year level classes with student numbers in each class less than the Department for Education guidelines. SSOs support learning in each class for an uninterrupted literacy block. SSOs also provide targeted and small group support.

Assessment procedures and reporting:

Parent Teacher Interviews occur in Term 1. A comprehensive written report is issued in Terms 2 & 4. Optional interviews are offered in Term 3. Teachers or parents may request an interview at any other time.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Each term we apply for Sporting Schools funding and are usually successful. In term 1 of 2021 SANFL ran football coaching with professional coaches.

Interschool Sports Day will take place in 2021 with Paracombe and Gumeracha schools competing with us.

Students attend Elizabeth Aquadome for water safety lessons in week 1 of term 4. During that week Year 6 and 7 students attend a day of sailing, surfing and canoeing at West Lakes Aquatics.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

2021 will see our whole school attend a three day and two night camp at Finnis. Our Year 6 and Year 7 students are looking forward to going to Canberra later in the year as part of their Civics and Citizenship learning and transition to High School.

Playgroup meet each Wednesday morning at school. We currently fund all registration cost from fundraising activities.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

The teaching staff consists of experienced teachers who bring a wide range of knowledge and skills to the school. We have two full time permanent teachers, one contract teacher and a teacher for Health and PE who works 0.4 at our school.

Leadership structure:

We have a full-time Principal and no other leadership.

Staff support systems:

We do not have any AST teachers or coordinators. Personnel Advisory Committee supports the Principal decision making regarding staffing and other matters. Our staff works with others from within our Torrens Valley Partnership for things such as PLCs and Moderation.

Performance Management:

The Performance and Development Plans have provided an opportunity to better manage staff performance and improve outcomes for students. All teachers set goals for their PD plans that are linked to our SIP.

Staff utilisation policies:

A 0.4 Teacher is employed for Health, PE to provide NIT for Class Teachers. LOTE makes up the remainder of teacher's NIT.

Access to special staff:

Open Access College supports Japanese language instruction with their specialist bi-lingual teachers via interactive video link.

Incentives:

Celebrations of achievement, recognition via the newsletter and other publications, acknowledgment at meetings (performance management and other), special 'celebration staff meetings' at the end of each term, Birthday celebrations for all staff and special lunches celebrating World teachers Day and SSO Week.

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

N/A

## **9. School Facilities**

Buildings and grounds:

Currently our Reception and Year 1 class occupies what was previously the schoolhouse. This has been converted to facilitate teaching and learning. This building upgrade was completed in March 2003. In 2018 the exterior of the Old School Building was repaired and repainted in preparation for our 150 Year Sesquicentenary Celebrations in November. The OSB is shared now by Playgroup on Wednesday morning and Happy Haven OSHC.

The main school building was built in 1980 and original office upgrades were completed in 1998. Administration and staff facilities, toilets, a canteen, resource areas and a wet area share this space with our Upper Primary class. This area was upgraded in 2011 with new stove, storage cupboards, sink, range hood and new tiling. The staffroom area was again upgraded in January 2007 with new kitchen facilities and tiled areas to cope with growing numbers and need for more practical working space.

In 2010 construction of our new library building began and was completed at the end of 2011.

During school holidays of 2020/21 the main building ceiling was completely replaced due to safety concerns and to enabling more ambient heating and cooling. In 2020 a nature play area was constructed in the front of the school house (Room 1) and a native garden established. This has proved to be another enhancement of our school grounds and provides an interesting and engaging learning environment.

Currently the Junior Primary (R/1) is housed in the School House; the Middle Primary (Years 2/3) are located in the Transportable; and the Upper Primary class (Years 4/5/6/7) are in the Main Building.

Staff facilities:

Self-contained staff room including kitchen and photocopying facilities, one single cubicle for shared staff toilet and a shower.

Access to bus transport: none

All students travel to school using parent transport, cycle or walk. There is no school bus.

## 10. School Operations

Decision making structures:

The following groups are active in school decision-making:

Staff, Students (via class meetings and SRC), Governing Council and sub-committees.

The Principal and staff constantly check and review decision making. The school aims to ensure that all members of the school community have their views valued and included.

The contributions of the various groups are acknowledged where possible in the newsletter.

Regular publications:

Our Sway newsletter is produced fortnightly and is available on our web site. This new format is cloud based and is designed to be easily accessed on a variety of devices. Parents can click on links and view many photos and images with ease.

Other communication:

There is a policy booklet for parents and a school brochure. Regular formal and informal communication occurs between class teachers and parents. School and teachers now use Class Dojo to communicate with families. We have a new website which is continually updated with calendar, news and information.

An enrolment pack and booklet is available for prospective families to find out about the school as well as the opportunity to have an tour of our school with the Principal and meet the teachers.

School financial position:

The school is in a healthy financial position.

## 11. Local Community

General characteristics:

Kersbrook Primary School is part of the Torrens Valley Partnership and is 43kms from the Adelaide GPO. Although Kersbrook is an orchard and grazing area, subdivision has redeveloped the area into a small township surrounded by many hobby farms. The parents mainly commute out of the district to work. Most children continue with secondary education at Birdwood High School.

#### Parent and community involvement:

At Kersbrook Primary School we recognise that education is one of the major vehicles for the development of capabilities for active participation in civic life.

We have created structures and processes that give an authentic voice to all in the school community. Students are encouraged to have a say in their learning and parents are provided with opportunities to participate in their child's education and to play a role in the life of the school.

We encourage parental engagement as partners in their child or children's learning. Open and friendly communication between home and school ensures we are all working together to help students excel and attain their personal best.

In term 1 of 2020, a global pandemic COVID 19, meant disruption to some of our normal activities and limited our ability to have people on site. We were able to continue with our Sport's Day and some other events such as End of Year Celebration and Graduation.

Due to COVID 19 our Governing Council sub committees were unable to meet or undertake fundraising events. Governing Council members were able to meet for seven of their scheduled eight meetings with appropriate social distancing.

#### Feeder schools:

We receive new students from Torrens Valley Child Care, Gumeracha Kindergarten, Williamstown CPC and the One Tree Hill Kindergarten.

There are also several students enrolled who reside in the northern suburbs and choose to commute to our school.

#### Other local care and educational facilities:

Kersbrook Playgroup – currently in operation once per week (each Wednesday morning) providing a fruitful opportunity for non-school community members to become familiar and comfortable with the school environment.

#### Commercial / industrial and shopping facilities:

These facilities include a general store and petrol station, post office, equestrian centre, chemist, tavern, winery cellar door sales and a hardware and cold storage co-op.

#### Other local facilities:

Community facilities include a Kersbrook Soldiers Memorial Park with a large oval, bar and dining facilities, tennis courts pony club, men's sheds and playground. There is one active Church of Christ; Kersbrook Hall with regular craft, yoga and dance classes; an Op Shop; Post Office, chemist; General Store and petrol station; Medical practitioner clinic and a CFS station.

Availability of staff housing: Rental housing is difficult to obtain.

Local Government body: Adelaide Hills Council

## 12. Further Comments

The Kersbrook School Community is busy, energetic and focused on quality educational outcomes. The development of excellent facilities and resources and the implementation of exciting school initiated curricula have resulted from a high level of collaboration, planning, enthusiasm, engagement and professionalism. As we continue to be more data driven we work with students to reflect, set goals and targets for improvement and celebrate success.

Many improvements to school facilities have been undertaken in the past few years including upgrading the parent car park by Adelaide Hills Council, school crossing with flashing lights, maintenance and painting of the Old School Building and various signs and aesthetic improvements to the school grounds. Our school undertook a lengthy consultation process to identify and agree on our school values. They are now proudly displayed on our front fence and are reflected in our day to day interactions and certificates at assembly.

Fundraising so far in 2021 includes People's Choice Community Lottery (\$470 raised) and Entertainment Memberships. Year 6 and 7 students will collect donations at the Mt Pleasant Farmers Market gates in May to raise funds for their Canberra trip later in the year. Governing Council will set fundraising agendas after a very quiet year in 2020 due to restricted activities during COVID19 pandemic.