**SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT**  
Updated: 2012

School number: 0571

School name: BLANCHETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. General information

**Part A**

School name: BLANCHETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL  
School No.: 0571  
Courier: R32/6  
Principal: Mr. Matthew Kerslake  
Postal Address: Godley Street, Blanchetown  
Location Address: Godley Street, Blanchetown  
District: Riverland  
Distance from GPO: 130kms  
Phone No.: 08 85405041  
Fax No.: 08 85405115

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February FTE Enrolment</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<td>Primary</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Year 7</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td><strong>23.0</strong></td>
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School Card percentage: 64%  60%  42%  35%  
NESB Enrolment: 00  00  00  00  
Aboriginal Enrolment: 00  00  01  002
Part B

- Deputy Principal’s name, if applicable
  
  : N/A

- School website address
  
  : www.blanchtnps.sa.edu.au

- School e-mail address
  
  : admin@blanchtnps.sa.edu.au

- Staffing numbers

<table>
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<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>1.0(including 0.1 Library)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSO</td>
<td>36 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSE</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
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- OSHC
  
  : N/A

- Enrolment trends
  
  : decreasing

- Special arrangements
  
  : Blanchetown is a member of the Riverland West Small Schools Network and is committed to further developing cooperative structures with Morgan, Ramco and Cadell to enhance student learning outcomes. This includes: sharing teaching and non teaching expertise, shared Interaction Days and shared staff Training and Development.

- Year of opening
  
  : 1868  *New buildings 1981  *Upgrade of administration area 1997

- Public transport access
  
  : No access for students

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
  
  : Blanchetown has always been a small school with a family atmosphere. Students come from the town and immediate surrounding area. There is no bus travel involved and no Non English Speaking Background students attend the school. There is a large number of School Card students

- (Pastoral) care programs
  
  : Christian Pastoral Support Worker

- Support offered
  
  : N/A
• Student management
  : A Student Behaviour Management Policy has been negotiated between students, parents and teachers. The code emphasises the rights for everyone to feel safe in a supportive environment, be treated with dignity and respect and learn to the best of their ability. Everyone has the responsibility to ensure that the rights of all individuals are observed at all times.

• Student Voice
  : Student committees meet several times each term. The students nominate to be on a variety of committees throughout the year to work on specific projects such as; Fundraising, Planning and Improvement, Environment and Catering. Each group is facilitated by an adult. Students implement ideas and actions as devised by the student body and each student takes on some element of a leadership role in their group.

• Special programmes
  : Students identified as not meeting benchmarks are given priority for intervention support. Data is collected and individual learning plans are written.

3. **Key School Policies**

• Site Learning Plan and other key statements or policies

  **Mission Statement**
  : To provide students with a comprehensive educational program within a supportive and equitable environment, supporting individual needs of the students, their families and the community in a positive success orientated culture whilst upholding the values of our school

  **Site priorities**
  : Literacy – Writing (Non-Fiction)
  : Literacy - Comprehension
  : Numeracy – Reporting and Australian Curriculum

  **Student Values**
  : In 2008, we reviewed our School values. As a whole school community, we devised the following five values which underpin the work that we do at Blanchetown Primary School.
  * Honesty & Trustworthiness
  * Respect
  * Responsibility
  * Confidence
  * Doing Your Best
4. Curriculum

• Subject offerings
  : We strive to provide teaching and learning in a supportive environment. We recognise our responsibility to provide students with skills and knowledge from seven of the eight required area of study: English, The Arts, Health and PE, Mathematics, Science, Society and Environment, Technology

• Open Access
  : Indonesian (years 4-7)

• Special needs
  :

• Special curriculum features
  :

• Teaching methodology
  : Emphasis is placed on small group work and incorporation of IT across the curriculum

• Assessment procedures and reporting
  : Assessment is on-going, based on the Australian Curriculum and SACSA and reported through home folders, two written reports per year and verbal interview reports.

• Joint programmes
  : Blanchetown is part of the Riverland West Small Schools Network with Cadell, Morgan & Ramco Primary schools.

5. Sporting Activities

• : Participation in a variety of sports is encouraged, to supplement the weekend sports of netball, football and tennis. We encourage participation in SAPSASA. Students are also involved in a range of coaching clinics in various sports throughout the year.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

• General
  Bookweek Activities
  Our whole school camp is a highlight each year.

• Special
  :
7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**
  - There is a small staff number with some staff serving over 10 years.

- **Leadership structure**
  - The Principal is the only leadership position within the school.

- **Staff support systems**
  - All staff work together as a team. Often teaching time is shared team teaching. Staff Professional Development and Training & Development is supplied through the Riverland West Small Schools Network. Staff are encouraged to visit other schools in both the neighbouring and outside areas.

- **Performance Management**
  - The policy is developed in line and new DECD Performance Development Guidelines.

- **Staff utilisation policies**
  - The teaching staff work R-3 & 4-7 in the mornings and R-7 in the afternoons, SSO support time is based on specific projects eg special education.

- **Access to special staff**
  - Support agency staff are accessed through the Murray & Mallee Regional Office at Berri.

- **Other**
  - 

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Complexity placement points**
  - 0.00

- **Isolation placement points**
  - 3.0

- **Shorter terms**
  - 

- **Travelling time**
  - 

- **Housing assistance**
  - Government subsidised rent

- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**
  -
- Additional increment allowance
- Designated schools benefits
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
  - There is some travel allowance for medical / dental treatment
- Locality allowances
- Relocation assistance
  - Standard relocation of costs, associated with placement may be claimed.
- Principal’s telephone costs
  - Entitlement of reimbursement of basic rental and official calls.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  - Buildings and Grounds: The school is located on very attractive grounds which include an oval and tennis/netball courts. The main buildings consist of:-
    1. The main solid brick flexible space building that includes two classrooms (with a moveable wall between), a Resource / Library area, a wet area, administration offices and a staff room / kitchen. The office / administration area was upgraded in 1997.
    2. A small weather-board building is used as a Play Centre.
    3. Grounds include an above ground swimming pool, extensive grassed playing areas, playground equipment (Lower Primary and Upper Primary playgrounds were developed in 2002), three tennis courts with markings for two netball courts, a large oval, sports shed and groundsperson’s shed.
    4. A new library / general learning area (with a kitchen) was installed in 2010 as part of the BER project.
- Cooling
  - The school has evaporative cooling through the main building and split system cooling in the transportable classroom.
- Specialist facilities
- Student facilities
  - There is provision to warm up lunches each Friday. Lunch orders are made once a week through the local store.
• Staff facilities
  : A small staff room is available for staff and also serves as a cooking area.
• Access for students and staff with disabilities
  : There is a small step into all buildings.
• Access to bus transport
  :
• Other
  : A Play Centre is adjacent to the school grounds, and runs 1 morning session per week.
  Within 30 minutes travelling from Blanchetown you have the town of Waikerie or the Barossa Valley. Both have commercial / industrial, shopping and recreational facilities.

10. School Operations
• Decision making structures
  : The Governing Council has 2 sub-committees, Finance and Grounds, Assets & Facilities. Staff meetings are held weekly. All committee structures interact.
• Regular publications
  : The school Newsletter is distributed weekly. The Blanchetown Bulletin (a community newsletter) is distributed fortnightly.
• Other communication
  : A term planner is used in the staffroom along with a weekly bulletin.
• School financial position
  : Reserve funds are being accumulated to keep Information Technology current and for other major capital expenditure.
• Special funding
  :

11. Local Community
• General characteristics
  : The Blanchetown School Community is involved in a cross section of employment including grape, citrus and stone fruit growing, grazing and grain farming, tourism and small business. The school population is generally stable, although there are a small number of itinerant children.
• Parent and community involvement
  : The school is seen as a focal point for the community and is very well supported by the parents and wider community. The school grounds are used for sporting events on the weekends.
• Feeder schools
  :None
• Other local care and educational facilities
  :None
• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  :General Store, Post Office, Hotel
• Other local facilities
  :Aged Care & Health Centre – Doctor visits twice per week.
• Availability of staff housing
  :
• Accessibility
  :A Stateliner bus runs to Adelaide twice daily and a Mid Murray Council funded bus runs to Waikerie and Barossa various times in the month.
• Local Government body
  :Mid Murray Council phone 85691600

12. Further Comments

• : The Governing Council is a very active committee who helps oversee the school’s education program, finance, grounds, facilities, sport and fundraising. A strong sense of pride for the school exists in the community. This is something that the staff work hard to maintain.
• Blanchetown is a small community with few facilities. However the community works hard to improve the town and support and improve the local facilities which remain. Families are generally supportive of each other and there is a definite sense of the school being a large family.
• Staff are very supportive of each other and work very hard to improve the learning outcomes of all students. Staff work as a team and share responsibilities. The school is very well resourced. All curriculum computers are networked which means all students have access to the internet. Our current ratio is 1 student per computer.
• There are opportunities to participate in recreational river activities, and district football, netball and lawn bowls competition.