



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated:02/17

School number: 0145

School name: Geranium Primary School

Geranium Primary School is situated in a rural area and services a small community whose families are mainly employed in agriculture. The school and its facilities are the hub of the town. We have an active Governing Council and enjoy outstanding parent and community support.

We provide quality teaching and learning in a supportive environment, facilitating the best outcomes and care for all students. We believe that Learning is for All, Learning is for Life, and we strongly promote the school's values of teamwork, respect, responsibility, persistence and honesty. From Kindergarten to Year 7, our learning toolbox helps students achieve our priorities by being curious, creative, gutsy, getting along and going for it.

The school is well resourced, with students having ready access to computers and other digital technologies. Classes are multi-age, with programs tailored to individual students' needs. Curriculum priorities are literacy and numeracy, and learner wellbeing is an ongoing focus. German is taught as a second language.

Interaction with students from neighbouring schools is encouraged to widen the children's social networks and prepare them for their secondary schooling. There is a strong sporting culture in the community and participation is encouraged at all levels, including involvement in SAPSASA.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Ruth Clothier
- Year of opening: Area School 1967 – 1989, Primary School 1990
- Postal Address: C/o Post Office, Geranium, 5301
- Location Address: 1-3 Geranium Terrace, Geranium, 5301
- DECD Region: Coorong Mallee Partnership
- Geographical location –168 kms from GPO
- Telephone number: 08 85772277
- Fax Number: 08 85772204
- School website address: www.geraniumps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0145.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- February 2017 FTE student enrolment: 34 students
School Card percentage:23.5%
Non-English Speaking Background enrolment: 0
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) student enrolment: 0

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Reception	5	4	4	4	8	3
Year 1	7	5	5	3	4	8
Year 2	3	7	6	5	3	3
Year 3	3	3	7	5	5	2
Year 4	4	2	3	7	5	5
Year 5	2	4	2	2	7	5
Year 6	3	0	5	1	2	6
Year 7	2	3	0	0	2	2
TOTAL	29	28	32	27	36	34

- Student enrolment trends:
 Enrolment has remained steady in recent years and is expected to continue at the same level.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

<i>Principal</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>(0.5 admin, 0.5 teaching)</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>(Junior Primary, Middle and Upper Primary)</i>
<i>Ancillary</i>	<i>24.30 hrs</i>	<i>SSO1 (Special Ed., Clerical Support)</i>
	<i>31 hrs</i>	<i>SSO2 (Clerical, Financial Officer)</i>
	<i>10.0 hrs</i>	<i>GSE (Grounds and Maintenance)</i>
<i>PCW</i>	<i>8.0 hrs</i>	

- Public transport access: LinkSA service to (morning) and from (afternoon) Murray Bridge each week day.

- Special site arrangements:

The Coorong Mallee Partnership comprises Geranium Primary School, Lameroo Regional Community School, Karoonda Area School, East Murray Area School, Pinnaroo Primary School, Coomandook Area School, Coonalpyn Primary School, Tintinnarra Area School, Meningie Area School, Raukken Aboriginal School. Students and staff collaborate across sites in a number of shared events such as annual athletics and swimming carnivals, visiting performances, camps and excursions. Leaders from each site meet regularly to co-ordinate various initiatives and events.

Geranium Primary School has a close relationship with Geranium Kindergarten, which is onsite, and works in partnership to implement a collaborative transition programme for students in the Early Years.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Geranium is a small school with a family atmosphere and strong parental and community support. The school receives funding for rurality and is a Category 6 school on the Educational Disadvantage Index. Most of the students come from families who are associated with primary production: cropping and grazing.

Due to the school's rural isolation and small size, the emotional and social well being of students remains a priority. Over time, the numbers of students in the community has declined, although the current numbers remain fairly stable.

- Well-being programs

A PCW works at the school for 8 hours each week, providing both incidental and planned support for students.

Students participate in programs such as 'Seasons for Growth' and 'What's the Buzz', as appropriate, facilitated by the PCW.

- Learning support

The school has allocated resources in its annual budget for additional SSO hours, to provide literacy and numeracy support for students needing additional learning support, and also to provide assistance for the successful management of vertically grouped classes. This enables the effective delivery of differentiated curriculum that is appropriate to the needs of all students.

- Behaviour Management Policy

Staff and parents have worked together to develop a Behaviour Management Policy. Clear expectations and consequences are set for class, yard and bus behaviour. Parents are supportive of the Student Behaviour Management Policy.

- Student voice

Regular class meetings provide opportunities for student voice and participation in decision making. Students regularly plan, organise and manage special days and fundraising events. Two school captains are elected by the student body each year and meet regularly with the Principal to discuss school issues and events.

- Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) programme

It is anticipated that our Pastoral Support Worker will be available to support students and staff for 8 hours a week. This support is provided by Schools Ministries Group and the school budget.

- Student Transport

The school is served by 2 DECD buses. The routes radiate out over 40kms, and link in with a Lameroo Regional Community School bus for High School students.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan

Vision: Learning for Life, Learning for All

Values: Respect, Persistence, Teamwork, Honesty, Responsibility

Priorities:

- literacy and numeracy
- student and staff wellbeing
- ICT
- isolation and distance
- life long learners

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings:

Australian Curriculum: All learning areas

- Specialist Teaching Areas

German, History, Geography, Physical Education

- Special needs:

Students with learning needs recognised by DECD are supported through the development and implementation of a 'One Plan', collaboratively developed between the teacher, relevant support services staff and the child's family. This involves curriculum accommodations and support, both within the classroom and individually.

Students who are considered at risk in literacy and numeracy are identified by staff and supported through the development of a site based Individual Learning Plan (ILP), often with the support of SSO's on a 1:1 basis.

- Special curriculum features:

Sporting Schools funding provides access to alternative Sport Programs to increase participation and access for all students, twice a year.

Opportunities are sought to enable students to participate in practical school and community improvement and involvement projects such as the vegetable garden and visiting the local retirement home. These activities involve all students, staff and community members working together, taking pride in and making a contribution to our school and community.

- **Teaching methodology:**
Teaching and learning at Geranium Primary School occurs within the context of multiple-year level classes: Literacy and Numeracy R-2, 3-5 and 6-7, all other learning areas R-3 and 3-7. Assessment is used to inform teaching and learning, ensuring all students receive curriculum and instruction that is appropriate to their needs. Teachers organise learning through the use of whole class, small group and individual instruction methods, utilising a range of strategies, depending on circumstances and need. All teaching and learning is organised around the TFEL (Teaching for Effective Learning) framework, and adheres to the Australian Curriculum learning outcomes, providing the consistency of a whole school approach.
- **Assessment procedures and reporting**
Assessment is integral to the pedagogical approach undertaken at this site and underpins successful teaching and learning in multiple-year level classes. Relevant assessment data such as Running Records, PAT R comprehension, PAT Maths, Waddingtons Spelling and NAPLAN are used in conjunction with teachers' professional judgement to plan appropriate curriculum goals as well as identify key priorities for the site.
Student achievement is reported to parents in a variety of ways: written reports in term 2 and 4, parent/teacher interviews in term 1 and 3, and PAT and NAPLAN test results.
- **Joint programmes:**
Our students participate in various interschool activities within the Coorong Mallee Partnership. We join with Lameroo Regional Community School for joint swimming and athletics carnivals. Training and development for staff and volunteers is provided jointly within the Coorong Mallee Partnership, and between neighbouring schools. The R-2 class participate in a Shared Learning session with Geranium Kindergarten on a weekly basis with a Literacy & Numeracy focus.

5. Sporting Activities

- Students in Years 5-7 have the opportunity to try out for and participate in SAPSASA: swimming, tennis, cricket, softball, golf, football, cross-country running and netball. Our students are involved in various local sporting clubs such as: cricket, football, netball, tennis and basketball.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**
Our enthusiastic staff are very supportive of each other. Teachers are a mix of contract and permanent. School Services Officers and Ground Services Employees are also a mix of permanent and part time. Staff live in the area and contribute to and interact with the community. As in all small schools the load and responsibility on staff members is high. In recent times, the staff team has been largely made up of early career teachers, and this is likely to continue into the future. Consequently, supporting teacher's effectiveness and professional

development is a priority at Geranium Primary School, where sustainability, collegiality and collaboration are vital.

- Leadership structure

The Principal tenure is usually 3 years, with 0.5 Administration time and 0.5 teaching contribution. Teachers are encouraged to take leadership in decision making.

- Staff support systems

The Coorong Mallee Partnership provides a large peer group for sharing and professional development, and mentoring of new teachers within the partnership is encouraged.

- Performance Management

As a staff team we learn collaboratively, with a focus on improving learning outcomes for students. Staff members are expected to develop a plan for the growth of their knowledge, performance and skills in collaboration with and supported by the principal. Education and achievement are our priority and there is an expectation of high outcomes from quality educational opportunities.

- Staff utilisation policies

The Global Budget has provided extra support for Early Intervention and Early Years and Literacy/Numeracy Support, through additional SSO hours. It also provides funding required to resource 2 full-time classroom teachers.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points: refer to Enterprise Agreement schedule 2.1
- Isolation placement points: refer to Enterprise Agreement schedule 2.
- Housing assistance: Government Housing is available to teachers in Geranium
- Medical and dental treatment expenses: Within the Teachers (DECD) Award Clause 5.9 Travel and Accommodation Expenses – Medical and Dental Treatment, teachers, their spouses and children are entitled to claim mileage/airfares/bus travel and accommodation relating to medical consultations that are not available in their appointed location. (Form is an ED185)
- Locality allowances: refer Enterprise Agreement A
- Relocation assistance:
<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/hrstaff/pages/employmentconditions/>

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and Grounds

The school has spacious grounds and buildings, as it was originally an Area School. The buildings are of solid construction with well maintained grounds and large grassed areas and gardens. The school has a large playground, outdoor fitness equipment for older students, oval, cricket pitch, vegetable garden and

school/community pool and BBQ area. All classrooms and areas used by students and staff have split-system air-conditioning.

- Specialist facilities

The School hosts the Community Library which offers a wide range of materials for loan through the State and Public Libraries One Card service. Telecentre facilities are also available during library opening hours.

The Home Economics room can be used for community and school activities, and is used by the Parent's and Friends group to prepare special lunches for the students.

A Community Gym also functions within the school, and access is available both in and out of school time, for a small fee.

The swimming pool and BBQ area is available for community use during the summer season in out of school hours. A seasonal fee is paid by families, and trained supervisors are present, on a volunteer roster. Vacswim lessons are conducted at the pool during summer.

The Geranium Kindergarten is located on site, and a strong, ongoing transition process occurs between both the school and kindergarten to ensure a smooth transition for students and families between kindergarten and school.

- Student facilities

Facilities for students include a large playground consisting of both man-made equipment and a natural bush area. There are large sheltered areas for wet or hot weather. The school also has an activity room for whole school events, a well-stocked library and a computer room with both desktop and laptop machines assigned to individual students. The swimming pool is utilised during school hours in summer for swimming lessons and recreation. An extensive range of sports equipment is available for student use during recess and lunch times, and for PE lessons.

In addition to the computer room, students have access to a bank of Ipads for use during class time.

- Staff facilities

The staff have access to a comfortable staff room and a well stocked library of staff resource materials. Staff have access to internet and e-mail, and photocopying, laminating and binding are available. There are excellent facilities for meetings and preparation space. The school is well-stocked with student resources in literacy, numeracy and other learning areas, and the school/community library is an excellent resource.

- Access for students, staff and parents with disabilities

The school has good access with ramps and doors, and has a disabled toilet facility.

- Access to bus transport

The students primarily travel to school on DECD buses and the school has access to a shared CAP bus and van for camps and excursions.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

Democratic decision making is practised through the Governing Council, the Personnel Advisory Committee and class meetings. Policy has been formulated to guide decision making for all groups within the school, staff, parents and students. Sub-committees of Governing Council are School Development, Finance, Grounds and Facilities, Swimming Pool Management and the Bus Committee. The Parents and Friends group is affiliated with the Governing Council.

- Regular publications

A newsletter is distributed fortnightly. A Parent Information pack is provided to new families at enrolment, along with relevant policy documents. Staff Meeting minutes are available to all staff and Governing Council minutes are reported regularly to Governing Councillors. All new and amended policies are sent to families, once ratified by the Governing Council.

- Staff Induction information is provided at the commencement of the school year and TRT information folders containing relevant information and policies are available in each classroom. A weekly bulletin is provided to all staff, outlining the coming week's events, and staff daily notices are placed in the daybook, located in the staff room.

the school's web site also provides a valuable medium for facilitating communication and information sharing.

- Other communication

Staff communicate regularly with parents and keep them informed with an Acquaintance Night at the beginning of the year, term outline letters, newsletter articles, shop notices and local media. Each student keeps a diary and the communication envelope is used to improve school/home communication.

Parents are encouraged to use the Tiqbiz smartphone app, an immediate means of communicating not only whole school news, but individual information such as absence forms.

- School financial position

Geranium Primary School is a P21 school with Global Budget. It is in a sound financial position with no debts.

Sporting Schools funding supports specialist Physical Education Programs.

The Pastoral Care Worker will be available over 2 days a week to support students and staff.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

The school is based in an agricultural area and serves the small communities of Peake, Jabuk, Geranium and Parrakie. Employment is usually agriculturally or service based. English is generally the first language.

- Parent and community involvement

Parents are interested in their child's education, have high expectations and are committed to the school through the Parents and Friends Club, fundraising and assisting on camps, excursions and other classroom activities, the Governing Council and its various committees. The community has a strong sense of pride in its school and various members of the community are involved as volunteers.

- Feeder or destination schools

Geranium Kindergarten

Geranium Primary School students attend Lameroo Regional Community School, Karoonda Area School and Coomandook Area School for their secondary education

- Other local care and educational facilities

Qualified Child Care available: family day care and /or childcare on the go(COGs).

Geranium Kindergarten: on-site – provides 4 sessions over 2 days, playgroup and occasional care.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Post office. Lameroo is a larger centre only 35km away. Approximately 100kms away is the local regional centre of Murray Bridge.

- Other local facilities

Many sporting clubs and facilities are available in the local area.

Health services: a doctor and hospital are located in Lameroo and in Taillem Bend. Dental services are available in Murray Bridge.

There are several local Churches: Uniting at Geranium, Anglican, Lutheran & Catholic at Lameroo, and Baptist at Peake.

The Geranium Country Fire Service station is in the township.

- Availability of staff housing

Two Government Housing houses are available. Some private housing is also available.

- Accessibility

Geranium is situated 186 km from Adelaide on the Mallee Highway.

- Local Government body

Southern Mallee District Council Phone: 8577 8002 or 8576 3002.

12. Further Comments

Geranium is a small school, which enjoys a positive reputation amongst the parents and local community. Its size demands a high level of teacher involvement and commitment to programs in order to maintain the impetus of direction. Teachers who reflect this are highly valued and respected by the community. Teachers enjoy working at Geranium because of the positive attitude of students and parents towards education. We value our school's uniqueness.