



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 11/2/2021

**School number:** 0721

**School name:** Cobdogla Primary School

**School Profile:** Cobdogla Primary School is a vibrant family orientated school in South Australia's Riverland and is part of the Berri-Barmera Partnership. The School was established in 1917 and continues to be the central hub for the community. Our Core values of Respect, Responsibility, Personal Best and Honesty are central to our improvement cycle and guide our plans and actions. Our current student enrolment is 129, enabling closer relationships amongst students and staff as well as more individualised programs. The School provides quality teaching and learning, as we set high standards and expectations in all aspects of the curriculum. Our dedicated professional staff engage students in research-based approaches to increase growth and raise achievement levels for our students in Literacy and Numeracy.

As a 'Be You' School, we recognise the importance of good mental health and wellbeing and the impact this has on learning and relationships. We have created a safe, supportive and challenging learning environment where all students are encouraged to reach their personal best.

We provide extra opportunities for student learning through specialist programs such as:

- Environmental/Science Education (Oliphant Science Awards, YEL, Garden)
- Student Leadership (SRC, Year 6/7 Leaders, Leadership Camp, Halogen)
- Wellbeing (Wellbeing Leader, Pastoral Care Worker, 'Be You')
- The Arts (Choir, Instrumental Music)
- Sport (SAPSASA, Premier's Be Active Challenge, Sporting Schools)
- LOTE (Specialist Japanese Teacher)
- Literacy (Initial Lit Program, Literacy Block, Premier's Reading Challenge)

The School offers stunning grounds and facilities, including shaded play areas, a gym, swimming pool, large oval, playgrounds, and an extensive library. We are well equipped with resources, with the school connected to the NBN, and every student having access to laptops and iPads.

The school recently established a new Out of School Hours Care Service (OSHC). Happy Haven OSHC provides the service, and they offers great experiences for children such as arts & crafts, cooking and structured play.

# 1. General information

- School Principal name: David Ness
- Year of opening: 1917
- Postal Address: PO Box 3669, Cobdogla 5346
- Location Address: Dolan Street, Cobdogla 5346
- DfE Region: Riverland
- Geographical location –road distance from GPO (km): 223
- Telephone number: (08) 85887131 Fax Number: : (08) 85887131
- School website address: <https://www.cobdoglaps.sa.edu.au/>
- School e-mail address: [dl.0721.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0721.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Happy Haven OSHC Cobdogla

Happy Haven OSHC Cobdogla is a 5 day per week after school and vacation care service and is located in the new Multipurpose Room.

<https://www.happyhaven.com.au/cobdoglahomepage/>

- February FTE student enrolment:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reception	9	12	16	12	22
Year 1	16	9	13	16	14
Year 2	14	18	8	15	17
Year 3	20	15	19	11	13
Year 4	8	16	15	19	11
Year 5	14	9	19	15	20
Year 6	12	16	10	19	12
Year 7	7	13	14	9	20
TOTAL	100	111	114	116	129

- February FTE student enrolment

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Male	50	61	66	69	72
Female	50	50	48	47	57
School Card	23	35	41	42	47
EAL/D	15	15	17	16	18
Aboriginal	9	9	13	12	12

- Student enrolment trends: Increasing
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):
  - 10 teaching staff
  - 8 SSO1 and 3 SSO2
  - 1 PCW
  - 1 AEW

	Male	Female	Total
Principal	1		1
Teaching Staff	1	9	10
School Counsellor	1		1
Classroom SSO1	3	5	8
Classroom/Admin SSO2		3	3
Pastoral Care Worker	1		1
AEW		1	1

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **Student well-being programs**

An active Wellbeing Leader, Pastoral Care Worker and ACEO Worker support students and families under the 'Be You' framework. We recognise the importance of good mental health and wellbeing and the impact this has on learning and relationships. The school has created a safe, supportive and challenging learning environment.
- **Student support offered**

The School provides quality teaching and learning, as we set high standards and expectations in all aspects of the curriculum. Our dedicated professional support staff engage students in research-based approaches to ensure every child achieves with a high level of growth each year. IniitaLit, MultiLit and Quicksmart Maths are some intervention programs that can be accessed by students to raise achievement.
- **Student management**

Cobdogla Primary School operates in accordance with DfE 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**

The Student Representative Council (SRC) plays a vital role in decision making at the school. The group comprises of students from every class and is co-ordinated by the Principal and SSO. The SRC meets to discuss and implement whole school ideas. It is broken into sub committees, with a focus on the environment, sport, student wellbeing and fundraising.
- **Special programmes**

: Cobdogla Primary School provides a comprehensive tennis program that includes the involvement of professional coaches. This has resulted in the school being awarded the Tennis SA '2020 Most Outstanding School Finalist', and winning the Tennis Hotshots State Championship three years in a row.

### 3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Providing a high quality learning environment that is focussed on high achievement and growth for every child.

The 2021 School Improvement Plan has 3 specific goals with actions to achieve them. The goals are:

- If we design a whole school approach to build effective writing instruction and continue to embed our systematic approach to teaching phonics then students reading and writing achievement will continue to increase
- If we foster critical and meta-cognitive awareness in reading for the construction of knowledge, we will increase the % of students that are maintained in the higher bands
- If we teach number sense sequentially using the big ideas in number, we will maintain 100% of current year 6 students meeting SEA in Maths

Recent key outcomes:

- Cobdogla Primary School has continued to outperform like schools in all aspects of the NAPLAN test. This high achievement was recognised, with the school selected for an independent research case study, which focused on the key characteristics of high performing and successful schools (the only one in South Australia). From the case study it was noted that the school's high achievement can be attributed to six key factors;
  1. Positive School Culture, which is based on high expectations and a clear set of consistently applied classroom rules.
  2. Direct and Explicit Instruction. New content is explicitly taught in sequenced and structured lessons, which includes clear lesson objectives, immediate feedback and review of previous lesson.
  3. Experienced and autonomous school leadership
  4. Data-informed practice. Data is used to improve teaching, track student progress, and facilitate intervention for students that require support.
  5. Teacher collaboration and professional learning learning. Collaboration occurs among teachers and specialist support staff to cater for the needs of every student.
  6. Comprehensive early reading instruction. The school's focus on the Big 6 of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, oral language and comprehension) is embedded in every classroom.
- Our Running Record data has identified that the school is performing well above the standard of expected achievement in this area. Significant growth has occurred during the 2019/2020 year with 90% of our year 1 and 2 students achieving above Running Record targets.

## 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings: The Australian Curriculum is implemented and reported on in English, Mathematics, Science, The Arts, Health and PE, Digital Technologies and Design, Humanities and Social Science (HASS) and Languages (Japanese).
- Special needs: Cobdogla Primary has “special needs students” who receive SSO and in class teacher support. All students have Individual Learning Plans. A number of verified students have One Plan’s which are established and reviewed with support from Student Support Services.
- Special curriculum features:
  - The Initial Lit phonics program is implemented in the Reception classroom
  - Guided Reading and Reciprocal Reading instruction occurs 4 days a week in every classroom. This approach has contributed to our high achievement and growth in the area of reading across every year level.
  - Running Records (1-26) monitored and tracked every 5 weeks to determine impact, growth and next learning steps for every child
  - PAT R / PAT M testing is utilised with students from Year Two onwards. The test is analysed to determine next steps in learning for each cohort.
  - Lexile program is used to track reading progress and support independent library borrowing after students have achieved level 26
- Teaching methodology:
  - ICT is integrated across the curriculum at all year levels with Interactive TVs installed in all classrooms. Students have access to classroom computers and ipads as well as a computer suite. Every student in year 5/6/7 is provided with an individualised chromebook, which is utilised daily.
- Student assessment procedures and reporting
  - Reporting procedures include parent/teacher/student discussions at the end of Term 1 and during Term 3 (optional) and written reports twice a year

## 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 2021 is the Hot Shots tennis program
- The school is involved in the Sporting Schools program

- The school has won the State Tennis Hot Shots Tournament 3 years in a row
- Table tennis figures prominently with students playing regularly during break times. The girl's table tennis team has won the state competition 3 years in a row, and in 2019 the boys team were crowned state champions.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

### General

- A variety of special activities are held regularly including Choir, Specialist Drama Group and The Garden Group
- Playgroup meets each Friday from 9:00 in the Multi-Purpose Room. This caters for ages 0-5.

### Special

- Cobdogla Primary School is 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

- The number of Staff at the school has increased over the last 5 years.

### Leadership structure

- The current structure is the Principal based at Cobdogla, with a number of experienced staff taking on leadership roles, including Wellbeing Leader and Visible Learning Impact Coach.

### 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.

### Performance Development

- Performance Development meetings are held on a regular basis and are closely linked to goals within the Site Improvement Plan, 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 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  
:0
- Isolation placement points  
:2
- Shorter terms  
:0
- Travelling time  
:0
- Housing assistance  
:Limited
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance  
:Yes
- Additional increment allowance  
:0
- Designated schools benefits  
:0
- Locality allowances  
:0
- Relocation assistance  
:Yes

## 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 Gym is well utilised by students and community sporting groups.
- In 2020, The School/Governing Council were successful in accessing Disability Access Program Funding. The funding was used to extend the Junior Primary Building, creating an extra classroom space. As part of the works the whole junior primary area was given an upgrade and included a large outdoor learning area, utility room and staff preparation area. In addition, the unit was completely revamped with new carpet, fittings, ceiling and lights.
- Cobdogla School has a swimming pool.

### Cooling

- All rooms have air conditioners, with the junior primary classroom recently updated.

### Specialist facilities

- The school is well equipped with modern computer networks of Microsoft PC's, Microsoft Laptops, chromebooks and iPads, with an excellent Resource Centre to support learning. In 2020, the school upgraded to the SWiFT Network providing high speed and reliable internet.
- All teaching and learning areas are equipped with Interactive Smart Televisions
- The school Gym is used for assemblies, concerts, and sporting 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 Covered Sporting area, oval and new Tennis Hot Shots Courts.

### Staff facilities

- The recently renovated staff area includes a new kitchen and computer workstation

### Access for students and staff with disabilities

- A variety of ramps are installed throughout the school for wheelchair access and there is a disabled car park.

### 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, with some students travel to school on the Glossop High School Bus
- Buses are hired locally for excursions and camps.

## 10. School Operations

### Decision making structures

- Decision making occurs through Staff meetings and key staffing matters are decided in consultation with the PAC Committee
- The school has an active and passionate Governing Council with membership at 15. The Governing Council meets twice a term where reports are provided from the Principal and other committees.

### Regular publications

- We have a newsletter, which is sent out fortnightly via email, and is uploaded on the school website, School Stream and Facebook Page
- The school Facebook Page, Class Dojo and email are used to communicate important school events/information.
- A parent and student information pack is provided for new parents on enrolment.

### Other communication

- Each term parents are provided with a term calendar of school events.
- The Principal provides a regular “weekly bulletin” handout to staff.

### School financial position

- Cobdogla Primary 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
- The town is surrounded by agricultural properties
- 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: Barmera, Berri, Loxton, Renmark and Waikerie nearby.
- All students are expected to wear the school uniform: royal blue and yellow

### Parent and community involvement

- The school has an active Parent Group, which meets regularly to plan events and discuss school matters.

- 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, SAPSASA, electives and helping with transport.

#### Feeder schools

- Children from Cobdogla Primary School primarily attend Glossop High School, with some going into Loxton High School.
- A transition program occurs each year for year 7 students.
- Our feeder Kindy is in Barmera. A progressive transition program occurs with planned visits throughout the year and a 5-day transition program.

#### Other local care and educational facilities

- Childcare is usually organised through Family Day Care, as the nearest facility is the Berri Regional Child Care Centre. 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 Cobdogla, Barmera or Loveday.

#### 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.