

# SITE CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 11/19

**Site Name:** Monash Primary and Preschool  
**Number:** 0274 & 6523

“Successful schooling – our future’s foundation”

## 1. General Information

### Part A

School Name : MONASH PRIMARY & PRESCHOOL  
School No. : 0274 & 6523 Courier : R27/9  
Principal : Ms Alana Kitson  
Postal Address : PO Box 24, Monash 5342  
Location Address : 22 Jackson Street, Monash 5342  
District : Riverland  
Distance from GPO : 230 km  
Phone No. : 08 8583 5361  
Fax No. : 08 8583 5510

February FTE Enrolment	2016	2017	2018	2019
Preschool				15
Primary				
Reception	25.0	15.0	24.0	18.0
Year 1	21.0	26.0	15.0	22.0
Year 2	33.0	24.0	25.0	15.0
Year 3	28.0	35.0	24.0	22.0
Year 4	24.0	32.0	34.0	21.0
Year 5	29.0	28.0	31.0	31.0
Year 6	28.0	29.0	25.0	29.0
Year 7	22.0	27.0	28.0	26.0
Secondary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
Year 8				
Year 9				
Year 10				
Year 11				
Year 12				
Year 12 plus				
TOTAL	210.0	216.0	206.0	184.0
Male FTE				102
Female FTE				95
School Card Approvals (Persons)	53	50	67	56
NESB Total (Persons)	7	8	5	8
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	4	13	8	11

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 web-site.

## Part B

<b>Deputy Principal</b>	N/A	
<b>Band B Leaders</b>	Student Wellbeing Leader	0.4
	Intervention Support	0.2
	Teaching and Learning Improvement	0.2

### Staffing numbers

Teachers:	10.7 FTE (8 classes, preschool, specialist teachers)
SSO's:	15 (various hours)
Grounds:	10 hpw

### OSHC

Nil. Currently in the process of establishing an OSHC service.

### Enrolment Trends

Student numbers have been stable in the past few years, predicted to decline slightly in the future.

### Year of Opening

1920, on the Maddison Road site.

### Public Transport Access

Nil.

## 2. Students and their Welfare

### General Characteristics

The school and preschool community consists of families from various locations within the Riverland. A significant number of parents work within Berri and surrounds. The school attracts enrolments from our site based preschool as well as kindergartens in Berri and Barmera.

### (Pastoral) Care Programmes

Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) appointed for 10 hours per week

### Support Offered

Learning support and intervention programs  
Buddy classes/peer support  
Structured Transition programs (Pre-entry to Preschool, Preschool-Reception and Year 7-Year 8)  
Access to Department services such as speech pathology  
Weekly Breakfast Club on a Friday and fortnightly Friday special lunches  
Drum Beat program  
Some local private therapy providers are able to provide their service on site at Monash

### Student Management

School and preschool policies based on Department for Education policies and procedures, shared values, purpose statements and agreed code of conduct are in place to support the effective management of students and children.

### Student Government

SRC meets fortnightly, assisted by staff co-ordinators. SRC organise events for students, and act as the voice of students when decisions are made regarding student matters. The KidsMatter Student Team also meet fortnightly. Their role is to promote positive mental health and wellbeing, as well as offer lunchtime activities and events.

### 3. Key Policies

#### Our Defined Values and Purpose:

At Monash Primary School, our purpose is to provide a safe, caring and supportive environment that values respect and responsibility and encourages everyone to succeed.

We value: Respect, Responsibility and Success

At Monash Preschool, we nurture respectful, caring relationships that foster inclusion and enable children to learn and succeed through play.

We value: Respectful, caring relationships; Self-aware, confident, persistent individuals; Meaningful connections with families and community; Learning through child-initiated play.

#### Improvement priorities:

As an education community, we partner with families to develop children as *Successful Learners*. We nurture the social and emotional characteristics that all children need to develop to become successful citizens and life-long learners. These commitments form the basis of our work with all children and families from Preschool through to Year 7. We have a strong commitment to learning improvement, with the vision to develop learners who can talk about their learning, set challenging learning goals, persist with learning, seek feedback to improve and work as a member of a team.

#### School:

- Numeracy achievement – focussing on improved outcomes Years 3-7 and improving teaching through targeted training and development based on current research and methodologies.
- Literacy achievement – focussing on promoting high level reading outcomes for Reception-Year 3.
- Learner Wellbeing – implementing the Berry Street Education model and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing through KidsMatter/Be You strategies.

#### Preschool:

- Early Years focus – building a strong connection between educators of preschool and early years of school to best meet the individual needs of children Preschool to Year 1. Collaboratively plan and implement quality programs to support each child's learning and development.
- Individual learning plans – educators and families work together to develop individual goals in Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing for children and review and reflect on progress.
- Learner Wellbeing – implementing the You Can Do It program to develop social and emotional and successful learners, as well as promoting positive mental health and wellbeing through KidsMatter/Be You strategies.

#### Recent key outcomes:

- Successful amalgamation of Monash Primary and Monash Kindergarten (end 2018) to form Monash Primary and Preschool.
- Commitment to a three year training program (2017-2019) with Corwin International in 'Visible Learning' to influence how we work with children Preschool-Year 7.
- Developing our "Successful Learners" and "Social and Emotional Learner" frameworks to define the characteristics that we strive to develop in all learners.
- The Berry Street Education model has commenced implementation with a few key staff undertaking training.

### 4. Curriculum

#### Special needs

Intervention Support leader and Teaching & Learning Improvement leader are appointed. SSOs provide specialised and targeted student support.

#### Special curriculum features:

Visual Arts & Technologies; Music, Dance & Drama; Health & PE and Languages are taught to all students Reception-Year 7.

Choir (as part of the Riverland Festival of Music) is offered to students in Years 4-7.

Significant involvement in SAPSASA events, with a teacher co-ordinating the program and training students as part of PE curriculum.

**Teaching methodology:**

Teachers provide programs in line with the Australian Curriculum and Early Years Learning Framework. Student engagement in learning, a relevant and meaningful curriculum and providing opportunities for success are features of teaching and learning programs.

**Assessment procedures and reporting:**

Student Learning Discussions during Terms 1 & 3, and mid & end of year written reports for students Reception – Year 7.

Individual Learning Plan discussions during Terms 1, 2 and 3 and a Statement of Learning written summary in Term 4 for Preschool children.

**Joint programmes:**

A transition program exists between all feeder Preschools/Kindergartens and Monash Primary, as well as for Year 7 students transitioning to Glossop High School. A pre-entry programs provides an opportunity for children to prepare for Preschool.

**5. Sporting Activities:**

Students are involved in both summer & winter sports in neighbouring towns. Monash Primary School has a SAPSASA Co-ordinator on staff. Our Upper Primary Students are heavily involved in the various SAPSASA sporting events throughout the year. Other staff members support our involvement by coaching as required.

**6. Other Co-Curricular Activities:**

An annual fundraiser, the Mammoth Monash Market, conducted on the last Sunday in May each year, is now an award winning, regional event. This large scale project attracts interest from around the state while bringing the whole Monash community together.

The Monash Choir, which began in 1997, encourages Year 5, 6 & 7 students to take part in the Riverland Music Festival.

**7. Staff (and their Welfare)****Staff profile:**

Most staff reside in the area and have purchased homes between Berri and Barmera and travel to work by private vehicle.

**Leadership structure:**

Principal and 2 x Band B1 Leaders.

**Staff Support Systems:**

All staff meet with Line Managers and are required to have a working Professional Development Plan in line with Education Department policy.

Staff meetings are held weekly on an afternoon designated to maximise staff attendance. Staff meetings involve a combination of administration matters and Professional Learning.

Staff focus groups meet two-three times per term to drive school improvement.

Class teachers share a buddy class for positive peer connection, leadership and behaviour management support.

Significant SSO commitment is made to student support learning and engagement.

**Staff Utilisation Policies:**

Classes are mostly composite.

An SSO is employed to provide ICT support.

An SSO is employed to manage the Library.

Two SSOs are employed to manage front office administration and Finance.

Student support SSO's provide a combination of social learning, curriculum learning and classroom support across the school.

The school grounds person duties attract an allocation of 7.5 hours.

**Access to Specialist Staff**

Visual Arts; Music, Dance & Drama; and Health & PE are taught by specialist staff.

Languages are taught by Open Access College specialist staff via video link.  
Woodwind instrumental music lessons are held on campus. Some students travel to neighbouring schools for other instrumental lessons.  
Support services staff are located at the (Berri) District Education Office.

## 8. Facilities

### Buildings and Grounds

The Administration building is a substantial, solid stone construction and underwent major improvements in 2011. This building houses several office spaces, staff room, staff toilets and first aid room. The preschool is an open plan space with two outdoor play areas. The main Junior Primary area is a Demac, providing 2 open plan learning areas. A new dual classroom was delivered to the school in 2016, increasing our capacity. Other buildings are of weatherboard construction, and of varying formats. All teaching spaces are newly carpeted and painted, air conditioned and have an interactive whiteboard. A new library and ICT facility and a Covered Outdoor Learning Area were constructed in 2010. Given the age of many of the buildings, the school and preschool is well presented. Located on 2.137 hectares, grounds and fixed play equipment are well established.

### Specialist Facilities

An Activity Room is used for Music, Dance and Drama lessons and is used for instrumental lessons. It also houses additional computers for whole class access.

The Visual Arts Space was recently refurbished. The Library caters for whole class activities as well as small group/independent research activities. Attached to the Library is an IT hub, with desktop computers for whole class use.

The Multipurpose Room is equipped with an oven, fridge and sink. It is suitable for Science and Technology lessons as well as small group cooking and craft activities. Parents also use this facility for catering for whole school events, and our Breakfast Club uses it on a Friday.

### Student Facilities

In line with usual range of student amenities.

### Staff Facilities

Staffroom with microwave, stove, and fridge. The Library building also has a small kitchen in the office area. Some teaching spaces have an attached preparation area.

### Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities

Some General Learning Areas (GLAs) have ramps, others have steps.

### Access to Bus Transport:

n/a

## 9. School Operations

### Decision Making Structures

Governing Council – 12 parents/carers, 1 staff rep, Principal. One member of the Council must be a parent/carer of the Preschool.

Parents and Friends Group – Open membership.

Leadership team – consists of Principal, Student Wellbeing Leader and Teaching and Learning Improvement Co-ordinator.

Staff meetings held are held each week.

PAC – 2 teaching staff, 1 SSO and Principal.

SRC – 2 student members from each class, elected for one semester.

KidsMatter Student Team.

### Regular Publications

Fortnightly Newsletter to families.

*Family Information Handbook* issued on enrolment of pupils.

Daily Notice Book.

Staff Meeting Minute Book.

Annual Magazine.

School Website.  
Weekly staff bulletin.  
Facebook page.

#### **Other Communication**

Classroom communication books/class newsletters where appropriate. Behaviour Management records are kept on the EDSAS system and recorded by staff. Some classes utilise apps such as Class Dojo for communication with families.

#### **School Financial Position**

'Sound'. The annual Mammoth Monash Market generates funds which are used to support school programmes/resources and/or facilities.

#### **Special funding**

School Card students – approximately 35%.

## **10. Local Community**

#### **General characteristics:**

Monash Primary and Preschool is located in the heart of South Australia's Riverland, ten kilometres north of Berri, and ten kilometres east of Barmera. The Primary School was established in 1920, and in 1990 the Children's Services Office established a separate Kindergarten building on-campus to cater for a growing number of pre-school children in the area. At the end of 2018, the Primary School and Kindergarten amalgamated, forming Monash Primary and Preschool. The school has always enjoyed strong community support. Lone Gum/Monash was originally established as a fruit growing district for soldier settlers and until recently, most of the children at the school were from rural allotments. However, a steady change is taking place and increasingly, families are building homes on (approximately 5 acres) 'dry' blocks in the Monash district, and commuting into regional centres to work. The school experienced a steady increase in numbers during recent years, although it is predicted to decline slightly in numbers in the future, which is reflective of the population across the region and the move of Year 7 students to High School. The community is presently serviced by a general store/post office, butcher shop, Community Club and an Anglican Church. Larger shopping centres exist at Berri, Loxton, Renmark and Barmera. Coach services provide the main form of public transport into and out of the district. Monash has its own sporting facilities & clubrooms.

#### **Parent and community involvement**

Parents/carers are always welcome to assist with classroom programmes, camps and excursions. Families participate in whole school events such as Walk Safely to School, Sports Day and End of Year Concert. The annual Monash Market requires high numbers of family involvement in many different areas. The school and preschool is well regarded, both locally and in the wider community.

#### **Feeder Schools**

Monash Preschool and Berri and Barmera Kindergartens.

#### **Other Local Care and Educational Facilities**

Monash Primary is a feeder school to Glossop High.

#### **Commercial/Industrial and Shopping Facilities**

There are commercial and light industrial areas in Berri and Barmera, and each of the neighbouring towns of Berri, Barmera, Renmark and Loxton have good shopping centres.

#### **Other Local Facilities**

Medical centres/surgeries are well established at each Riverland town. A Regional hospital is located at Berri, with a smaller district hospital at Barmera. Team sports are popular in the Riverland, with sporting facilities enjoying popular support. Water sports are most popular during the summer and include skiing and sailing. Each town boasts a community club and service clubs include RSL, Lions, Apex, Rotary, Free Masons and Zonta chapters. Arts groups are also well established. Community libraries exist in both Berri and Barmera. Monash Adventure Park is located next to the school.

#### **Availability of Staff Housing**

Housing is available through Government Employee Housing (see DFE website for further information).

**Local Government Body**

Berri Barmera District Council, 19 Wilson Street, Berri, SA, 5343, 8582 1922 and Berri Visitor Information Centre, Riverview Drive, Berri, SA, 5343, 8582 5511.

**11. Further Comments**

The school and preschool is well equipped and the general facilities and lifestyle the area offers makes Monash a highly desirable country school location. As the Berri Education Office is conveniently located at Berri, professional assistance and advice is readily on hand.