

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 0218

School Number: 0372

School Name: Ramco Primary School

School Profile

Ramco Primary School is a small school with a family atmosphere. It is situated approximately 170 kilometres from Adelaide along the banks of the River Murray in the South Australian Riverland.

Our current student enrolment is 61, enabling closer relationships amongst students and staff as well as more individualised teaching and learning programs. We have a team of dedicated staff members, all of whom work together to provide the best possible learning environment for the students.

The school has a strong focus on ensuring students achieve high levels of functional English, Mathematics and Technology needed in today's world. Online learning and the use of ICT is incorporated into teaching and learning and all classrooms are adequately resourced. The specialist teaching domains of our school are Science, The Arts, Spanish language and culture and our focus on the Early Years. Literacy and Numeracy groups across the school have a focus on 'Intervention at all Levels' and are an important part of supporting the individual needs of our learners.

Ramco Primary School is also part of the Sustainable Schools Project. We have a life skills program that involves growing vegetables, keeping hens for eggs and recycling food waste. We have a worm farm and produce fertiliser for use in the school garden and we are working towards 'zero waste'.

The Ramco Primary School staff and Pastoral Care Worker, work closely with the students, their families and other agencies to develop strong relationships to improve learning outcomes for the whole school community. We offer family support and services, and we encourage life-long learning and involvement in all aspects of school life.

We have a proud history and reputation of excellence and aim to nurture key qualities in each student and to provide students with a comprehensive educational program within a supportive and equitable environment.

Motto: Together We Learn

Mission (What):

To provide every student with educational experiences which will equip them to continue to actively participate in the process of life-long learning. Every student is supported and challenged to be engaged in learning and to achieve their personal best.

Vision (Why):

Our students will become respectful, responsible, resilient and honest citizens with the knowledge, skills and confidence that will enable them to reach their full potential.

Values (How):

Our core values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Honesty are central to our improvement focus and guide our plans, actions and relationships.

1. General Information

School Name	: RAMCO PRIMARY SCHOOL	Courier	: Murray and Mallee
School No.	: 0372	Partnership	: Waikerie
Principal	: Mr Rob Smyth		
Year of Opening	: February, 1887		
Postal Address	: PMB 16, Waikerie 5330		
Location Address	: Ramco Road, Ramco 5322		
Region	: Murray and Mallee		
Distance from GPO	: 177 kms		
School Website	: www.ramcops.sa.edu.au	Phone No.	: 08 85412984
School Email Address	: dl.0372_info@schools.sa.edu.au	Fax No.	: 08 85412756
CPC attached	: NO		
After School Hours Care	: NO		

• February FTE Enrolment

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Primary, Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.					
Reception	9.0	9.0	7.0	4.0	8.0
Year 1	7.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	5.0
Year 2	6.0	7.0	7.0	12.0	6.0
Year 3	7.0	6.0	8.0	7.0	13.0
Year 4	8.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	9.0
Year 5	5.0	9.0	7.0	6.0	8.0
Year 6	9.0	5.0	7.0	9.0	5.0
Year 7	14.0	10.0	8.0	5.0	8.0
TOTAL	65.0	63.0	61.0	55.0	61.0
July total FTE Enrolment	65.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Male FTE	34.0	36.0	38.0	33.0	40.0
Female FTE	31.0	27.0	23.0	22.0	21.0
School Card Approvals (Persons)	22.0	21.0	19.0	16.0	13.0
NESB Total (Persons)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	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-site.

• Staffing Numbers:

- 1.0 Principal
- 1.8 Teachers permanent
- 1.8 Teachers contract

- SSO2 – 30 hours per week permanent
 - SSO1 – 15 hours per week permanent
 - SSO1 – 60 hours per week contract
 - Groundsman – 16 hours per week permanent
- **Public Transport:** No
 - **Special Site Arrangements:**
Our school is part of the Waikerie Partnership consisting of 10 Schools and Preschools. The Partnership has common Professional Development. In addition, the Riverland West Small Schools Network consisting of Ramco, Cadell, Morgan and Blanchetown Primary Schools, work closely together on common themes and projects.

2. Students and their welfare

- **General Characteristics:**
Ramco Primary School is a small school with a family and community atmosphere. The school draws students from the local town and surrounding rural communities. The school currently has 3 classes, configured as an R-2 class, 3-4 class and 5-7 class.
- **Student Wellbeing Programs:**
At Ramco, we run a LAP program, lunchtime activities, healthy breakfast program and healthy lunch days. The school is currently implementing the '*KidsMatter Framework*' and is committed to continuing to improve student and school community wellbeing. The '*KidsMatter*' Action team consisting of selected staff, parents and students, meets each term to discuss wellbeing priorities.
- **Student Management:**
The school has in place a Student Behaviour Policy which is agreed to by all parties involved in the school. This policy is reviewed each year. The code emphasises the rights for everyone to learn in a safe, supportive environment and everyone is to be treated with respect.
- **Student Government:**
School Captains, Student Voice Class Representatives, Ramco Environment Group Representatives (REG) and House Captains are elected at the beginning of each year to support staff and the whole student body.
The School Captains meet regularly with the Principal and participate in Governing Council and other Committees where appropriate. REG represent our school at Youth Environmental Leaders Forums throughout the year and work with project and education officers from Land Care and the Natural Resources Management team. We have an active student voice with representation from each level of schooling. This group of students work hard throughout the year to aid with fundraising, improvement of facilities, development of curriculum and programs and to support their peers on issues that are raised through class meetings and in the yard.
- **Special Programs:**

Additional Needs: Students who are identified with learning / social / emotional needs through data analysis and observations are supported with Negotiated Education Plans and Individual Learning Plans and are supported with specific programs to address their needs.

English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD): Students are supported through a program designed not only to develop English literacy skills but also to understand the culture of the local community. Our Indigenous students are supported through their Individual Learning Plans with additional classroom support where needed.

LAP: The LAP (Learning Assistance Program) is designed to assist students with their particular needs. Mentors assist students across the full range of year levels and with a wide variety of learning activities to develop their confidence and self-worth.

Literacy and Numeracy Blocks:

All classes are involved in daily literacy and numeracy blocks. The literacy and numeracy learning is differentiated with strategically, targeted groups that are supported by additional staff members during this time to increase engagement and achievement.

Mathletics:

All students use the 'Mathletics' program on our school computers as well as on their individual iPad. This extra program aligns to the Australian Curriculum and supports teachers and students to engage strongly with their Numeracy skills whilst learning and developing mathematical concepts.

Music: Students from Year 5 upwards have an opportunity to be involved with the Instrumental Music Program within our Region. Our Specialist NIT teacher also teaches the music component of 'The Arts' across all year levels.

PCW: The school has appointed a Pastoral Care Worker who works with all students and their families.

Play Group: A weekly Play Group session is offered every Friday morning from 9.00am – 10.30am in the Activity Room. Play Group supports birth to preschool aged children to develop oral language, personal and social competency and, early Literacy and Numeracy skills through targeted activities with their parents. Play Group also offers parents / community members a network of support with other parents and through referral to other agencies / support groups.

Riverland Music Festival: Choir is offered to all students from Years 5-7. The choir participates in the Riverland Music Festival and in community events. There is opportunity for the students to participate in the Public Schools Festival of Music held in Adelaide each year.

Spanish Program: A Language program is provided for all students R-7 via the Open Access College and classroom teachers. Students are actively engaged in language learning and cultural understandings. Throughout the year students are involved in Spanish Day, Multicultural Day, hands-on Music lessons in Spanish and Spanish cooking.

Whole School Reading and Writing Program: The school is committed to a whole school daily reading and writing program, including guided reading and writing sessions. Students and parents are encouraged to support our commitment by focussing on reading at home each night, as part of our home reading program.

3. Key School Policies

- **Long Term Objectives:**

The teaching and learning of a variety of skills in the eight areas of study; providing a balanced and challenging R to 7 curriculum; catering for the needs and talents of all students; providing an attractive and well-resourced physical environment.

- **School Development Priorities:**

Ramco Primary School Site Improvement Plan and Operational Plans are developed in consultation with the school community to support our identified priority areas. Our key improvement priorities in 2018 are;

- *Improve student achievement in Literacy with a focus on Reading Comprehension*
- *Improve student achievement in Numeracy with a focus on Problem Solving*
- *Improve school community wellbeing and learning culture*

- **Recent Key Outcomes:**

Please refer to our 2017 Annual Report on our school website: www.ramcops.sa.edu.au

4. Curriculum

- **Subject Offerings:**

All eight curriculum areas including: English, Mathematics, Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), Science, Design and Technology, The Arts, Health & Physical Education and Languages: Spanish are taught.

Information and Communication Technologies are a central part to all teaching and learning programs at Ramco Primary School. Each classroom is fitted with an Interactive Whiteboard to support staff and students with teaching and learning. Students have access to an up to date network of computers and are taught explicit computing skills and use various programs from R-7 to support learning in the classroom. Additionally, all students have access to iPads.

- **Open Access / Distance Education Provision:**

Spanish is taught through the Open Access College. Students receive 1 lesson per week via IWB - electronic face-to-face lesson with their Spanish teacher. Classroom teachers are involved during this lesson. Students also receive further lessons during the week with their classroom teachers to consolidate their learning.

- **Special Needs:**

Students with special needs and disabilities are catered for through Negotiated Education Plans. These plans are developed with the classroom teacher, the Principal, Berri Education Office personnel, students and families. Students are provided with additional support both individually and in the classroom environment by teachers and SSOs. Resources are purchased to assist students with their needs.

SSOs attend regular professional development and numerous classroom SSOs have completed a Certificate III in Education Support (Literacy / Numeracy).

- **Special Features:**

- Interaction days are held with other Riverland West schools.
- Transition programs with the Waikerie Children's Centre and Waikerie High School support our students overall confidence and wellbeing when enrolling or graduating to / from Ramco Primary School.
- Instrumental music is provided by DECD Instrumental Music teachers, with students travelling to Waikerie for their lessons. Further music tuition comes from private providers who conduct tuition on-site. These providers have their own insurance etc and pay a hire fee for the use of school resources.

- **Teaching Methodology:**

Staff at Ramco Primary School, work collaboratively across all areas using the Australian Curriculum. A range of methodologies are used and teachers regularly attend professional learning sessions and share experiences, learning and resources.

Through the Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL) document and Learning Design tool, teachers design lessons that result in high-level teaching and learning outcomes. In 2018, teachers will continue to focus on Wave 2 interventions: differentiating the curriculum within the classroom to provide supplementary instruction to those students who require extra time or revision.

SSO's are used with small groups to assist in targeted areas of curriculum support. Our Library SSO encourages resource based learning and works collaboratively with all staff.

- **Student Assessment Procedures and Reporting:**

The school's assessment and reporting procedures meet the requirements as specified by DECD and the Commonwealth Government. There are two formal written reports per year in the second and fourth terms (Mid-year and End-of-year). Two interviews are offered per year (Term 1 ILP meeting and Term 3 optional or upon request) as well as folders and workbooks which are shared with parents / caregivers. All students have an Individual Learning Program (ILP) – ILPs are developed collaboratively through 3-way interviews held in Term 1. ILPs are reviewed and updated in the middle of each term.

Student achievement is further monitored through a range of diagnostic tests through our site data collection and NAPLAN. The results are analysed and whole school programs and teaching programs are tailored to the learning needs of the students.

5. Sporting Activities

Sport plays a major role in both the school and the local community. The Ramco district has a strong and successful football and netball club.

The school Physical Education program includes:

- Ramco Sports Day – a family orientated day for students and parents to be involved
- Mid Murray Sports Day – an annual event that is hosted by Riverland West Small Schools Network together with Waikerie Lutheran Primary School on a rotational cycle
- Swimming Lessons and Aquatics Program – all students participate in instructional swimming lessons at our school pool / Waikerie Town Pool. Upper Primary Students participate in an aquatics program at Lake Bonney, Barmera.
- Splash Carnival – a family orientated day for students and parents is held at the Waikerie Town Pool
- SAPSASA Sporting Involvement – athletics, football, netball, basketball, swimming, cricket and golf

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Acquaintance Night
- Breakfast Club
- Performances
- Student Initiated Activities
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Premier's Be Active Challenge
- Jump Rope For Heart
- Sun Smart School – Life Education – Child Protection Curriculum
- Young Leaders Program – GRIP Leadership
- Environmental Education / Book Week / Science Week / Literacy & Numeracy Week
- Celebrations
- Healthy Lunches
- Book Fairs
- Quiz Nights / Fundraising
- Community Involvement: Waikerie Town Library
- Riverland / Adelaide Choir Festival
- Staff / student involvement in the annual Waikerie Advent Pageant
- End of Year Graduation
- End of Year Christmas Concert
- Assemblies are held up to three times per term and are hosted by each class. Assemblies are student organised and driven. Students from each class share their learning with the whole school community and students are rewarded / acknowledged with certificates and positive behaviour awards. Parents and the community support these and are an important part of the teaching and learning experience.
- School camps are offered on a regular basis

7. Staff and their welfare

- **Staff Profile:**

The school currently has an excellent blend of new and experienced teachers and SSOs who are highly supportive of each other and strongly committed and willing

participants to grow professionally, trial new initiatives and improve outcomes for our students and the school community. Staff members share leadership in curriculum areas and the school values are well represented in their professional relationships.

- **Leadership:**

Principal

PAC – The school has an active PAC and the Committee participates in all staffing decisions. The PAC meets as needed but at present at least twice per term.

- **Staff Support:**

Principal provides support to staff, students and families. Outside agencies are used when necessary.

Professional Development is strongly supported in line with the priorities of the site improvement plan and additionally on an individual needs basis. Teachers support one another at a site level and through the Waikerie Partnership by sharing teaching and learning programs, actively participating in professional learning opportunities and in observation of each other to mentor and challenge teaching methodologies and beliefs.

The staff social committee is active and social events are well supported by staff members.

- **Performance Development:**

Ramco Primary School Performance Development Plan (PDP) supports staff to manage personal and professional development and is in line with the Australian Professional Standards and the DECD Performance and Development Policy.

In Term 1 staff develop goals and actions to support school priorities and plans are discussed with Principal. PDPs are reviewed in terms 2, 3 and 4 through both formal and informal meetings and staff are provided with written feedback in Term 3. Other practices that support our PDPs are classroom observations, team teaching opportunities, planning and assessment meetings and regular discussions to address issues / concerns / successes.

- **Staff Utilisation Policies:**

The school has a comprehensive set of policies which are being systematically reviewed. Systems and processes are constantly being upgraded to ensure efficient work practices, service delivery and well-being.

Consultation exists in relation to class organisation, student placement and leadership arrangements. An Induction Folder supports the Induction process.

- **Access to Special Staff:**

DECD personnel and outside agencies support Special Education, Guidance, Speech, Attendance, Social Worker, CAMHS and Behaviour Management.

8. School Facilities

- **Buildings and Grounds:**

The school consists of one stone building, a new building, two portables, a kitchen, technology shed and a toilet block with disabled toilet. The original stone building constructed when the school first opened is currently used for specialist subjects such as music and science.

The main building houses the Principal's Office, Finance / Admin Desk, Meeting Room, Staff Room, First Aid room, Library, Teacher's Resource and Computer Suite. Our General Learning Area (GLA) building funded as part of the Building the Education Revolution has 4 classrooms each equipped with a wet area and Interactive Whiteboard (IWB), 2 teacher workspaces and an SSO room. The activity room is used for whole school performances / assemblies as well as Playgroup on Fridays.

The school grounds are beautifully maintained by our groundsman. Mature trees provide ample shade and a pleasant environment. There is large amounts of space for the students and the school is located adjacent to the community oval and netball courts. The school community takes great pride in maintaining the buildings and grounds to an immaculate condition.

- **Heating and Cooling:**

All buildings have ducted units and/or split system units providing heating and cooling for staff and students.

- **Specialist Facilities and Equipment:**

- Library / IT Resource Centre
- Outdoor Learning Area
- Art / Technology Room
- Technology Shed
- All classrooms have an Interactive Whiteboard
- School Swimming Pool
- Access to Waikerie Indoor sports complex
- Access to Waikerie Town Library
- Kitchen facilities for classroom cooking

- **Student Facilities:**

- Student Voice
- Classroom refrigeration

- **Staff Facilities:**

- Regular Staff meetings
- Staff room with fridge, stove, microwave oven
- Access to IT facilities
- Teachers Resource room
- Preparation Areas / Office
- Social functions

The staffroom provides access to an administration computer and the Internet. In addition, each teacher has been provided with a laptop computer and iPad for use with IWBs.

- **Access to Bus Transport:**
The school is serviced by the Murbko and Sunlands bus runs, managed by Waikerie High School. The school uses Pearson's Bus Service for most excursions.
- **Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities:**
 - The main building, new GLA and toilet block have disabled access
 - Disabled toilet and shower

9. School Operations

- **Decision-making Structures:**
Staff meetings are held weekly. Ancillary staff members are invited but attendance is not compulsory. Ramco Primary School is dismissed at 2.40pm each Thursday for staff to participate in site professional development and combined professional development with Network and Partnership schools.

Democratic decision making is practised through staff meetings, PAC, Governing Council, WHS, SRC and class meetings, and RWSSN and Partnership meetings. Sub-committees of the Governing Council are Finance, Grounds and Policy Committees and the Parents and Friends Association.

- **Regular Publications:**
The Newsletter is sent home to parents on a fortnightly basis to provide information about school events, priorities, successes, developments, directions and to seek feedback and support from families. Ultimately, the purpose is to keep our school community informed about Ramco Primary School. The Parents and Friends Association also produce a weekly newsletter to families.
- **Other Communication:**
Teachers utilise diaries / communication books for regular school / home communication. Periodic classroom newsletters are also sent home, keeping parents / caregivers updated on classroom news.
Other communication is achieved through:
 - Email
 - A weekly Staff bulletin
 - A day book
 - A yearly planner
 - School Website
 - Facebook Page
- **School Financial Position:**
The school's financial position is sound although budgeting is very tight.

10. Local Community

- **General Characteristics:**
The Ramco township is 7km from the nearest regional centre of Waikerie. It serves a community whose major income is from horticulture, fruit, vegetables and wine

grapes. Seasonal work is available fruit picking or cutting fruit. Some residents work in Waikerie but choose a small friendly community in which to live.

- **Community and Parental Involvement:**

Ramco Primary School is fortunate to serve a community, which is highly supportive of the school. Representation on Governing Council and the Parents and Friends Association is strong and support from the various community organisations is also very high.

Our community is passionate about giving children from Ramco the best possible start to their school life and work closely with the school towards a shared goal:

- Ramco Governing Council
- Ramco Parents and Friends Association
- LAP volunteers
- Listening to classroom reading
- Special events volunteers
- Fundraising events
- Rotary Club of Waikerie

- **Feeder or Destination Schools:**

- Waikerie Children's Centre
- Waikerie High School

- **Other Local Care and Education Facilities:**

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Riverland Community Health Services
- TAFE Berri
- AC Care Riverland
- Riverland Youth Theatre
- Access to private after school Dance / Music tuition

- **Commercial / Industrial and Shopping Facilities:**

Shopping is available in Waikerie:

- 2 Hotels
- 1 Motel
- Post Office
- Chemist
- Take away store
- Deli
- Gift Shop
- Toy Shop
- Electrical & Furniture Store
- 2 Supermarkets
- Hardware Store
- Garden Centre
- Pet Shop
- 2 Bakeries
- Caravan Park
- 2 Service Stations

- **Other Local Facilities:**

- Waikerie Medical Centre
- Waikerie Hospital

- **Availability of Staff Housing:**
 - Staff housing is available through Government Employee Housing. Please refer to the DECD Website for further information: www.decd.sa.gov.au

- **Accessibility:**
 - Transport to Adelaide is available through Premier Stateliner – Riverland. Pickup is available from the Waikerie Garden Centre. Please visit www.premierstateliner.com.au for information or call Premier Stateliner passenger reservations on: 08 8415 5555.

- **Local Government Body:**
 - Loxton / Waikerie Council is the local Government body.