SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: February 2011

School number: 0282

School name: MORGAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Profile

Morgan Primary School is a small school with a family atmosphere. It is situated about 160km Northeast of Adelaide where the Murray River turns south. The school has a strong teaching focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Science as well as The Arts, Design, Technology and ICT. On-line learning and the use if ICT is incorporated into teaching and learning and all classrooms are adequately resourced. The specialist teaching domains of our school are physical education, teaching and learning Japanese. Morgan Primary School is also part of the Leading 21st Century: Engage with Asia project. We have a strong focus on the Early Years with a strong partnership and transition program between the school and Morgan Kindergarten. Early intervention programs are an important part of the curriculum to support the needs of our learners.

The Morgan Primary School staff and Christian Pastoral Support 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.

At Morgan Primary School we offer an Active After Schools Sports Program, and Kids Club program to provide opportunities for students to further develop a sense of belonging. Students are actively involved in SAPSASA, Interactions Days and involved in community groups and events.

Our School Values

Our values of Doing Your Best, Respect, Care and Compassion, Understanding, and Responsibility are embedded into all aspects of school life.

Vision Statement

At Morgan we believe learning is a life long process where all parties are valued. We aim to provide a safe, supportive and caring environment, in which children have access to an education, which will equip them to live confidently and independently in an ever-changing world.

This will be achieved by professional and knowledgeable staff working in a supportive environment with families and the community, to provide a well-resourced program that is responsive to the learning needs of our children.

Striving for positive attitudes toward learning improvement and excellence will be encouraged and valued.
1. **General information**

- **School Principal**: Ms Kellie Goodrich
- **Year of opening**: 1880
- **Postal Address**: Fourth Street, Morgan SA 5320
- **Location Address**: Fourth Street, Morgan SA 5320
- **DECS Region**: Murray and Mallee
- **Geographical location**: 160km North East of Adelaide
- **Telephone number**: 08 85402102
- **Fax Number**: 08 85402217
- **School website address**: www.morganps.sa.edu.au
- **School e-mail address**: info@morganps.sa.edu.au
- **Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached**: No, but has Pre-school/Playgroup in building alongside school. A sub branch of the Morgan Kindergarten.

- **Out of Schools Hours Care (OSHC) Service**: No

- **February FTE student enrolment**:
  
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- **Student enrolment trends**: We have a somewhat transient community and as such enrolment numbers vary considerably during the year. Our enrolment numbers have declined during the past three years due to the drought and financial climate of our area. Families are seeking employment opportunities in other towns.
• **Staffing numbers** (as at February census):
  
  - 1.0 Principal/teacher
  - 2.6 teachers
  - 0.1 NIT teacher/Reading Recovery
  - 0.2 Counsellor
  - SSO2- 28 hours per week
  - SSO 15 hours per week
  - SSO 12 hours per week
  - Groundsman 12 hours per week

• Public transport access: No

• Special site arrangements: Morgan Primary School is a member of the Riverland West Small Schools Network (RWSSN), consisting of Morgan, Cadell, Blanchetown and Ramco Primary Schools. This involves shared Professional Learning twice a term, Pupil Free Days, sharing resources and facilities, and Interaction Days based on different curriculum areas and site priorities.

2. **Students (and their welfare)**

• **General characteristics:**
  Morgan Primary School is a small school with a family and community atmosphere. The school draws students from the local town and surrounding rural communities.

• **Student well-being programs:**
  At Morgan we run a LAP program, weekly Elective (CUDRR) Values program, Kids Club, lunchtime activities, healthy breakfast program and healthy lunch days.

• **Student support offered:**
  Learning Assistance Program, Speech and Language program, WASP program, Counselling support, Christian Pastoral Support Worker

• **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**
  We have an active Student Representative Council 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.

  School Captains and House Captains are elected at the beginning of each year to support staff, SRC and the whole student body.
• Special programmes:
  
  **Active After School Program** – this program runs throughout the year and provides an opportunity for students to try new sports, learn new skills and to have fun.

  **Christian Pastoral Support Worker** – supports the pastoral care of the school community and includes the Kids Club program Christian Seminar visits.

  **Healthy Eating Program** – A breakfast and healthy lunch program runs throughout the year and is supported by parents and classrooms.

  **Riverland Choir Festival** – annually a group of students participate in the Riverland Choir Festival in Renmark. This is a highlight for parents, staff and students.

  **WASP Program** – Students in lower primary work on Fine Motor Skills and Sensory skills while developing their overall coordination.

  **Reading Recovery** – Identified students in Year 1 are involved in the Reading Recovery program, ran by our Lower Primary teacher who is trained in this area.

  **Rainbow Reading** – Identified students in Middle / Upper primary are involved in the Rainbow Reading program to support comprehension and reading skills.

  **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.

  **Maths Program** – strong emphasis on understanding processes using concrete materials.

  **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.

  **Lexile Program / Smart Kiddies** – Students in Middle / Upper Primary are involved in these interactive computer programs to support reading comprehension and understanding in mathematical concepts learnt.

  **Japanese Program** – A LOTE program is provided for students in Kindergarten through to Year 7. Students are actively engaged in language learning and cultural understandings. Throughout the year students are involved in Quiz Days, Japanese Sports Days, Japanese Open Day/ Night and will be designing and building a Japanese school garden. Japanese Interns visit our school and students have an opportunity to communicate with students and friends in Japan via the Internet to continue to broaden their experiences and skills. We are currently a Leading 21st Century School in Asia with Japanese language and culture embedded throughout our site.

3. **Key School Policies**

• A Morgan Primary School Site Improvement Plan and Operational Plans are developed in consultation of the school community to support our identified priority areas. Our school priorities in 2010 are:

  **Literacy** - The school will focus on improving outcomes in the area of writing, through focussing on reading and spelling programs.

  **Numeracy** - The school will focus specifically on the number strand.

  **Science** - We will promote science and inquiry methodology and improve student’s attitude towards science.

  **Wellbeing** - We will improve the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of students
• Recent key outcomes:

In 2009, students made outstanding achievements with their NAPLAN tests achieving scores well above their peers at a region and state level and have shown a high percentage of Medium/Upper levels of growth. As reading and numeracy have been the school’s focus over the past 2 years, these results have supported the work of the staff and student’s during this time.

In 2009 100% of students completed the ‘The Premiers Reading Challenge’. This target has been also set in 2010.

4. Curriculum

• Subject offerings:
The South Australian Curriculum, Standards and Accountability Framework (SACSAF) is used for teaching and learning, planning, assessment and reporting. All eight curriculum areas including: Literacy, Mathematics, Society & Environment, Science, Design and Technology, The Arts, Health & PE and LOTE Japanese are taught.

Information and Communication Technologies are a central part to all teaching and learning programs at Morgan 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. A Morgan Primary School R-7 Computing Developmental Continuum is being developed this year to support our whole school approach to teaching and learning in this area.

• Open Access/Distance Education provision: No

• Special needs:
Students targeted with special needs are allocated SSO time to assist in their learning. Resources are purchased to assist students with needs.

• Special curriculum features:
* Interaction days are held with other Riverland West schools.
* Transition programs with Morgan Kindergarten and Waikerie High School support our students overall confidence and wellbeing when enrolling and graduating from Morgan Primary School.
* In 2010, we hosted a Japanese intern for 6 weeks to further our Japanese studies.

• Teaching methodology:
The school is currently grouped LP- R/1, MP - 2/3/4, UP – 5/6/7. In semester 1, we trialled a new classroom structure which saw these groupings until lunch. The afternoon learning session allowed students in R-2 and students in years 3-7 to work collaboratively in teacher’s areas of expertise.

Staff at Morgan Primary School, work collaboratively across all areas using SACSA. A range of methodologies are used and teachers regularly attend professional learning sessions and share experiences, learning and resources. SSO’s are used with small groups to assist in targeted areas of curriculum support. All students have access to computers and internet and each classroom has an interactive whiteboard which is actively used.
• **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**
  NAPLAN results and internal test results (November each year) are recorded and analysed by staff to inform teaching programs and individual plans and to help set site priorities for the following year.

  Reporting:
  - Acquaintance Night is held in Term 1
  - Student/Teacher/Parent Interviews Terms 1 & 3
  - Homeshare Folders sent home at the end of each term
  - Written Reports are sent home in Term 2 & 4

• **Joint programmes:**
  Interaction Days and shared learning opportunities through the Riverland West Small Schools Network and The Riverland West Cluster.

5. **Sporting Activities**

• Morgan Sports Day – family orientated day for students and parents to be involved.
• Mid Murray Sports Day – An annual event that is hosted by Riverland West Schools 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 Barmera every two years.
• Spash Carnival - is held in Term 1 at Waikerie Town Pool with students and staff from Morgan, Blanchetown and Cadell PS.
• SAPSASA Sporting Involvement : Tag Rugby, Lawn Bowls, Croquet, Athletics, Basketball, Football, Netball, Cricket
6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- School camps are offered on an annual basis. In 2010, LP students will travel to the Adelaide Hills. Our 3-7 students will be travelling to Canberra in November.
- Active After School Program – weekly program
- Kids Club
- Healthy Breakfast
- Performances
- Student Initiated Activities
- Sun Smart School – Life Education – Child Protection Curriculum
- Young Leaders Program
- Environmental Education
- Bookweek / Science Week / Literacy & Numeracy Week Celebrations
- Healthy Lunches
- Quiz Nights / Fundraising
- Community Involvement: Morgan Museum, Morgan Day Care Centre, Morgan Town Library
- Riverland / Adelaide Choir Festival
- End of Year Graduation / Christmas Concert
- Staff / student involvement in annual Morgan Christmas Pageant
- Assemblies are held on a fortnightly basis and are hosted by each class and 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.

. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile:
  We have a small, dedicated and enthusiastic TEAM with all members being supportive of each other. All staff have a wealth of knowledge and experience and are willing participants to grow professionally, are life long learners, trial new initiatives and are committed to improving outcomes for students and our school community.

- Leadership structure
  The Principal teaches (NIT – Japanese and Physical Education) and is in an administration role for 2 days per week. She supports the Reading Recovery program and teaches in the Kindergarten 1 day fortnight.
• **Staff support systems**
Principal provides support to staff, students and families. Outside agencies are used when necessary.

Teachers support one another at a site level and through the Riverland West Small Schools Network by sharing teaching and learning programs, actively participating in professional learning opportunities supporting our site priorities, through mentoring and challenging teaching methodologies and beliefs.

• **Performance Management**
Morgan Primary School Performance Management Plan supports staff to manage personal and professional development.

In Term 1 staff develop goals and actions to support school priorities and are discussed with Principal.

Performance Plans are reviewed in terms 2/4 through formal meetings and staff are provided with written feedback. Other practices that support our PMP plans are classroom observations, team teaching opportunities, planning and assessment meetings, regular discussions to address issues/concerns/successes.

• **Staff utilisation policies**
Consultation exists in relation to class organisation, student placement and leadership arrangements.

An Induction Folder supports the Induction process and is continually updated.

• **Access to special staff**
Students have access to an instrumental music service provided in Waikerie. Regional agencies support Special Education, Guidance, Speech, Attendance, Social Worker, CAHMS and Behaviour Management.

8. **Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

• Complexity placement points
  : Nil

• Isolation placement points
  : 3.5

• Shorter terms
  : N/A

• Travelling time
  : Approximately 2 hours from Adelaide

• Housing assistance
  : See Rental Agency in Waikerie

• Cash in lieu of removal allowance
  : N/A

• Additional increment allowance
  : N/A

• Designated schools benefits
  : N/A
• Aboriginal/Anangu schools
  :N/A
• Medical and dental treatment expenses
  :N/A
• Locality allowances
  :N/A
• Relocation assistance
  :Refer to DECS
• Principal’s telephone costs
  :The Principal is able to claim private telephone rental

9. School Facilities

• Buildings and grounds
  The school consists of one stone building, a new building and two portables. The main building houses the front admin office, staff room, SSO workspaces, Japanese room, teacher’s resource and preparation area, meeting rooms and Principals office.
  The two portable classrooms have been freshly painted, new heating and cooling units installed, new blinds and lockers.
  Our new building funded as part of the Building the Education Revolution – Library Program houses our library, computer room and kitchen area for students and parents to utilise.
  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  
  All classrooms have Interactive Whiteboard  
  LOTE- Japanese Room  
  School swimming pool  
  Access to Indoor sports complex  
  Access to Morgan Town Library  
  Access to netball/basketball/tennis courts  
  Sand volleyball court  
  Kitchen facilities for classroom cooking

• **Student facilities**
  
  SRC  
  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

• **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
  
  Most rooms have wheelchair access  
  Disabled toilets
- **Access to bus transport**
  - Hire of buses for excursion/camps
  - Use of community council bus

10. **School Operations**

- **Decision making structures:**
  Democratic decision making is practiced through staff meetings, Governing Council, class and SRC meetings and RWSSN Meetings.
  Sub committees of the Governing Council are Finance, Grounds, Parents and Friends and Fundraising Committees. Our PAC committee consists of all staff.

- **Regular publications:**
  Weekly Newsletter – is sent home to parents on a weekly basis to provide information to families 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 Morgan Primary School.
  - Information Handbooks
  - Staff Induction Folder
  - Weekly Teachers Bulletin
  - Term / Yearly Overviews

- **Other communication:**
  All classroom teachers, parents and students use a daily Diary/Communication Book to communicate with families.

- **School financial position:**
  The school is in a sound financial position with reserves allocated for continual upgrades and improvements to facilities and equipment.

- **Special funding:**
  The school is fortunate to receive various grants and funding to support students and learning at Morgan Primary School.
  - Small Schools Grant
  - Rural and Isolated Students Index allowance
  - Disadvantaged Schools Program
  - Special Education Funding
  - Drought Assistance
  - Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Funding
  - Primary Maths and Science Funding
11. Local Community

• **General characteristics**
  The Morgan Progress Association and Lions Club are very active in the community and support the school wherever possible.

• **Parent and community involvement**
  Strong parental involvement in the school
  Parents and Friends
  Fundraising events
  Parents elective helpers
  Listening to class reading
  Library volunteers

• **Feeder or destination schools**
  Morgan Kindergarten
  Waikerie High School

• **Other local care and educational facilities**

• **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  2 Hotels
  Post Office
  Take away store
  Deli
  Supermaket
  Hardware Store
  Bakery
  Caravan Park
  2 service stations
- **Other local facilities**
  - Medical centre
  - Council office
  - Town Library
  - Internet Centre
  - Sporting Complex
  - Netball/Tennis courts
  - Town Oval
  - Bowling Club
  - St John Ambulance Service
  - CFS
  - Golf Club
  - Go-Kart Club
  - Lions Club
  - Tourism Association
  - Local Museum

- **Availability of staff housing**
  Contact Martin Williamson on 82265432

- **Accessibility**
  - Accessed by road from Adelaide 150km.
  - No public transport
  - Closest regional centre Waikerie 45km east
  - All sealed roads

- **Local Government body**
  - Mid Murray Council

12. **Further Comments**

At Morgan Primary School we believe in the following positive features:

- It is a small school - There is a greater opportunity for children to receive individual attention.
- It is open - Everyone is approachable. There are no barriers. Everyone is valued and welcome.
- It is safe – We have an excellent Behaviour Management Policy. Inappropriate behaviour is attended to effectively.
- It is exciting – There is always something happening.
- It is effective – We strive for high standards in all that we do!
- It is positive – We work from a success-oriented culture and strive for continual improvement!