



RENMARK PRIMARY SCHOOL 2019 CONTEXT STATEMENT

Renmark Primary School is situated in Renmark in the rural Riverland region, 254 km northeast of Adelaide. Employment within our community is varied, ranging from professional, agricultural and horticultural (citrus, almonds, stone fruit, grape growing) to retail and business.

Many wonderful opportunities exist within our school and broader community for young people and families including a great range of all year round sport, the Arts, Scouts and Girl Guides, activities associated with living on the River Murray (fishing, boating, camping, bushwalking), service groups and community facilities to enjoy.

In 2019, 280 students are enrolled with numbers declining over the past three years. Families have relocated interstate or to other areas of SA for many reasons.

RPS comprises 13 classes with 20 teachers, 2.8 senior staff, 19 ancillary staff members, a Pastoral Care Worker and an Aboriginal Community Education Officer.

Renmark Primary School is a Category 2 level of disadvantage, impacted by low socio-economic issues. However, we are resilient, optimistic, and inclusive and have high expectations of ourselves and our students. A high quality education allows our young people to have choices and a voice in their lives and community.

Our student cohort includes 16% Aboriginal, 10% non-English speaking from at least ten cultural backgrounds, and 10% students with a disability. Students from culturally diverse backgrounds develop an understanding of and respect and care for each other through learning and playing together. Inclusivity is embedded within our school culture and highly valued by our community.

Renmark Primary School provides highly effective academic, social and emotional teaching and learning for every student, in partnership with its school, local and broader community.

Our ongoing focus on the school values of Respect, Excellence, Self-belief and Trust, a growth mindset and goal setting have contributed to improved engagement and learning outcomes evidenced in our 2016-2018 data i.e. NAPLAN, Engagement and Wellbeing survey, Progress Achievement Testing (Reading and Maths).

Student learning goals are developed with students or individually constructed, parents and teachers through a shared understanding of each student's achievement, where to next and how to get there. This is the foundation of teaching and learning at Renmark Primary School. We understand that students learn and develop differently however all students are supported and challenged to progress in all areas, and progress is very closely monitored at individual, class, cohort and whole school levels. Our mantra is "Success for every student" and this is achieved through appropriate scaffolding and challenge.

An ongoing collaborative professional development program informed by research and evidence of highly effective practice, focuses on pedagogy, curriculum and wellbeing, and explicit improvement strategies. All staff are learners too!

Visible Learning is our whole school pedagogical framework that has greatly empowered students to know themselves as learners, deepening their learning, initially in the key areas of Literacy and Numeracy, and extended to all curriculum areas by the end of 2018.

Agreed whole school approaches to Maths/Numeracy, Literacy, Behaviour Learning and Restorative Practice create a safe and engaging learning environment where high levels of challenge and appropriate support allow students to flourish.

Students also learn within the local and broader community which have recently included the year 5-7 Business Expo with local business people, Forensic Science workshops, engaging with Greek residents in the Renmark Paringa Aged Care facility, the Aboriginal STEM congress, student algebra workshops with Dr Chris Matthews, a highly esteemed Aboriginal mathematician.

We are very well supported by our Governing Council, school community, local service clubs and many volunteers, for which we are very appreciative.

Our staff, students and community are very proud of Renmark Primary School. We look forward to continuing collaboration with all stakeholders to provide the best educational outcomes for every student.