



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2017

**School number:** 0265

**School name:** Mil LeI Primary School

## School Profile:

Mil LeI Primary School was opened in 1867 and this year celebrated 150 years of educating students in the region. The school is located among picturesque farmlands on the outskirts of Mount Gambier.

We are committed to providing a high quality education for students from Reception to Year 7 within a supportive learning environment. Our values of respect, participation and growth are encouraged through a broad, balanced curriculum and a variety of extra-curricular programmes. We have a strong focus on literacy, numeracy and the arts. To support literacy and numeracy outcomes, a key priority is intervention and support programmes to maximise student learning in these areas.

Our school grounds are well maintained with open play spaces, recently updated playground and natural play area, and vegetable gardens maintained by the students as a part of their learning activities. Students are also able to access the local tennis and cricket club areas.

We have inviting and modern classroom facilities that provide an excellent learning environment for our students. All classes are equipped with state-of-the-art interactive whiteboards and multimedia tools. We have a flexible learning area with kitchen facilities that provides space for art and technology activities. We also offer specialist curriculum areas in French, and the arts. Students have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities such as choir, 'Move It', 'Footsteps' and the end of year presentation and concert.

We value parent involvement in school life and have a high level of participation from our families through a variety of outlets, including assisting class activities, Parent Club and Governing Council. We pride ourselves on being a proactive and positive community, with parents, staff and students working together to provide an environment that promotes student success and wellbeing.

# 1. General information

- School Principal name: Mrs Suzanne Ricketts
- Year of opening: 1867
- Postal Address: PO Box 8124, Mount Gambier East, SA, 5291
- Location Address: Kennedy Avenue, Mil Lel, SA, 5291
- DECD Region: Blue Lake Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 450km
- Telephone number: 08 8725 5883
- Fax Number: 08 8723 0802
- School website address: [www.millelps.sa.edu.au](http://www.millelps.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [dl.0265.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0265.admin@schools.sa.edu.au)
- February FTE student enrolment:

Rec	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total
9	12	15	12	17	11	10	8	97

- School Card: 6%
- NESB: 0%
- ATSI: 2%
- Student enrolment trends:

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
68	78	96	91	97

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

Teaching Staff: 5.9 FTE (this includes: 1FTE Principal, 1FTE Step 9, 0.2FTE Student Counsellor)

Non teaching Staff: 56.75hrs/week

Student Welfare Worker: 7 hours/week

Groundsperson: 5 hours/week

IT Support: 5hrs/week

Public transport access: N/A

- Special site arrangements:

Mil Lel PS is currently a member of the Small Schools Learning Improvement Cluster (SSLIC) that includes Glenburnie PS, Moorak PS, Yahl PS, Kongorong PS & Compton PS

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Mil Lel is an R-7 school with enrolments in the 90s. For the past four years, increased enrolments have established a 4<sup>th</sup> classroom. Projected enrolments for the next 4 years will ensure that a 4<sup>th</sup> classroom is maintained.

- Student well-being programmes

Students have access to a Student Welfare Worker each Tuesday. This is funded under a Federal Government programme.

For the past 3 years, a teacher has been allocated 0.2FTE to the role of Student Counsellor.

- Student support offered

All staff receive SSO classroom support. SSOs support identified students.

- Student management

Students at Mil Lel are generally well behaved. When issues do arise, staff use Restorative Practice Principles. All staff have been trained in Restorative Practices and Play is the Way to value add to our school wide practices in countering harassment. Anti-bullying programmes are implemented using resources from KidsMatter, and Social/Emotional programmes. We have established a mentoring and support programme for individual students identified as needing additional support.

- Student government

Students elect school captains who have nominated for the role via an application process managed by all staff. An SRC with all classes represented also operates alongside this structure to ensure representative student voice and governance. All classes are expected to hold weekly class meetings to ensure that students are involved in decision-making. The school's Student Counsellor manages the student representative body.

- Special programmes

Non instruction French is offered from Reception to Year 7.

The school participates in and provides a range of programmes, including; Whole school camp (every 2 years), Canberra Camp (for Year 6 & 7 students every 2 years), Move It, Footsteps, Mt Gambier Eisteddfod participation (speech and drama, music and debating), Choir (South East Music Festival), Lower South East Jump Rope For Heart skipping demonstration team. Students also access music tutoring via open access.

### 3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:  
Mil Lel's Site Improvement Plan (SIP) is available on the school's website.

Our SIP key areas of improvement are:

Powerful Learners and Student Agency

- Recent key outcomes:

Staff have been involved in a number of professional learning opportunities to develop pedagogy and student wellbeing. This included staff involvement in ResultsPlus, Informing Literacy project provided by Cengage, STEM and Play is the Way.

### 4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings:  
Areas of study are consistent with the Australian Curriculum and include English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Science, Health and Physical Education, Technologies, The Arts and French. Instrumental music, choir and sport are readily available enrichment activities. In our school, this happens within the state and national curriculum framework. Student learning is continuously assessed through both formal and informal means. Teacher/parent interviews are held twice a year in addition to the two formal reporting periods each year. The school's specialist curriculum areas is French. Transition programmes operate for students entering school for the first time, and for students moving to secondary schools. There is close collaboration between this school and the three secondary schools that receive our students.
- Open Access/Distance Education provision:  
Students access music lessons via open access weekly.
- Special needs:  
SSOs support students with identified learning difficulties. Staff are responsible for the identification of student needs and determining what

programme/support is required. Individual Learning Support plans are developed for students with an identified learning disability.

- Special curriculum features:  
Our classrooms are composed of multi year levels. In 2017 class structures are:
  - Reception & Year 1
  - Year 2 & 3
  - Year 4 & 5
  - Year 5, 6 & 7
  
- Teaching methodology:  
Literacy  
Scaffolding of text types (to, with, by model)  
Guided Reading Benchmark Reading assessments (including a further Reading inventory that measures reading fluency)  
Numeracy  
Problematized situations.  
Lesson scaffolding (mental routines, strategy lesson and reflection).  
SSO use is influenced by the Wave Model of Support (1:1 student intervention, small group work and whole class support).

- Student assessment procedures and reporting  
A wide range of assessment methods are utilised to suit individual needs. This includes – peer, formative, anecdotal notes, self, observations and standardised tests. We have developed a data collection and analysis schedule that clearly describes the use of consistent data collection tools and timelines.  
We use ‘Accelerus’ to centrally manage all student reporting. PAT-R, PAT-C and PAT-M are being used from Year 1 -7. Student achievement and progress is reported through newsletters, diary notes, NAPLAN, Running Records, formal reports (Term 2 and 4) and parent teacher interviews. The reporting timeline is set at the commencement of each year and communicated to families through the newsletter. Formal reporting formats meet national reporting requirements. We put face to the data using ‘traffic lights’ in behaviour, literacy, numeracy and social/emotional fields. This data informs class formation and interventions.
- Joint programmes:  
Mil Lel staff are involved in a Small Schools Learning Improvement Cluster (SSLIC) with other staff from neighbouring small schools. The aim of the cluster is to improve teacher pedagogy to ensure that students are stretched as learners to reach their full potential. Staff are provided half-day release time to meet and discuss areas of focus for their group.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Students at Mil Lel participate in 2 sports days in Term 1: Internal Sports Day and the Small Schools District Sports Day. Students also access DECD swimming lessons at the local aquatic centre in Term 1. Year 3-5 students have opportunities to access out of school hours sporting opportunities each term. Students from other schools also participate to form an interschool competition. Mil Lel is an Auskick Centre. Yr 5-7 students have the opportunity to try out for SAPSASA representative teams throughout the year. Move It and Footsteps Dance programme is offered every 2 years.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Mil Lel Primary School’s main fundraiser is the Mil Lel Show, held at the end of Term 3 each year. A whole school concert is held in the last week of Term in Term 4.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile  
Currently 5.9FTE • Leadership structure  
:Principal
- Staff support systems  
Staff are supported/encouraged to work collaboratively with each other along with peers from other sites. Professional development is a priority for the

school and staff are given positive opportunities to access this, both on a school needs and personal needs basis. Step9 teachers are encouraged to take on mentoring roles with other teachers, including beginning teachers.

- Performance Management  
Staff are required to develop a Performance Development Plan in Term 1 that is then discussed with the Principal. 'Pro chats' are held throughout the year to monitor staff progress and support them with this process.
- Staff utilisation policies  
An SSO is provided time to manage and coordinate the school's Jump Rope for Heart skipping demonstration team. An ICT SSO has been employed by the school to support ICT infrastructure. Access to special staff
- Other  
Access to special staff Guidance officers and external support is sourced through the Regional Office. Students are provided with the opportunity to participate in DECD Instrumental lessons.

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

- Complexity placement points  
Mil Lel has an Educational Disadvantage of 7
- Isolation placement points  
:4.5
- Shorter terms  
:NA
- Travelling time  
:5hrs from Adelaide by vehicle and 10mins from Mount Gambier
- Housing assistance  
:NA
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance  
:NA
- Additional increment allowance  
:NA
- Designated schools benefits  
:NA
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools  
:NA
- Medical and dental treatment expenses  
:NA

- Locality allowances  
:DECD funded
- Relocation assistance  
:NA
- Principal's telephone costs  
:NA – Principal uses own phone

## 9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds  
The office/admin/library is a solid limestone building and is a part of the original school. There are 4 classrooms that were built with BER money in 2014, a transportable multi-purpose building that is in need of repair due to subsidence, a toilet block and two sheds (groundsmen and sports shed). The school playground will be added to this year to update equipment and expand our existing play area.
- Heating and cooling  
All rooms have heating and cooling.
- Specialist facilities and equipment  
NA
- Student facilities  
Students have a variety of IT resources readily available for use in each classroom.
- Staff facilities  
Limited space exists for staff preparation areas. The Admin computer system was upgraded this year to provide a more secure server system.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities  
:NA
- Access to bus transport  
Approximately 8% of students access the district bus run. Local contractors are used for excursions.
- Other  
:

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures  
The school's Governing Council and Parent Club is involved in a consultative role regarding various matters/decisions regarding the school. PAC (composed of staff) is also consulted on staffing and resourcing decisions.
- Regular publications  
A fortnightly newsletter (also available on the school website). Governing Council receive principal and staff report twice a term. Staff handbook is provided at the beginning of each year.
- Other communication  
:Class newsletters, APPS (class dojo, classcraft)
- School financial position  
The school is in a sound financial position. Financial management is the role of the Governing Council's Finance sub-committee, working through the Principal and finance manager.
- Special funding  
Students who have been identified with D or I LOS funding receive support through the employment of SSOs. RAAP funding is converted in to SSO hours and other programmes to meet student needs.

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics  
Mil Lel is a rural community located on the outskirts of Mt Gambier. Farming land surrounds the district along with recently subdivided land for residential purposes.
- Parent and community involvement  
Parent involvement in school activities is valued and relied upon to support teaching programmes and school activities. Parent support is provided through: listening to reading, attending excursions/camps, transport of students. The school's Parent Club is also active in fundraising activities and provides a lunch order service once a week for students.
- Feeder or destination schools  
The school of right for students in Year 7 is Grant High School. Beginning students come from a variety of local kindergatens.
- Other local care and educational facilities
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
:NA

- Other local facilities  
Community owned land surrounds the school (a cricket oval, tennis courts and local hall) which are utilised by the school at various times.
- Availability of staff housing  
Teachers have access to housing within the city limits of Mount Gambier
- Accessibility  
No public transport exists between Mil Lel and Mt Gambier. Plane flights from Mt Gambier to Adelaide/Melbourne are available but are quite expensive.
- Local Government body  
District Council of Grant.

## 12. Further Comments

Mil Lel PS enjoys a positive reputation in the wider community and continually strives to provide quality learning experiences for students.