

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2019



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

**School number:** 0265

**School name:** Mil Lel Primary School

## **School Profile:**

Mil Lel Primary School was opened in 1867 and celebrated 150 years of education in 2017. The school is located among picturesque farmlands on the outskirts of Mount Gambier.

We are committed to providing high quality education for students from Foundation to Year 7 within a supportive learning environment. Our core values of 'Respect, Participation and Growth' are encouraged through a broad, balanced curriculum and a variety of extra-curricular programs. We have a strong focus on Literacy, Numeracy and the Arts.

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, Parent Club and Governing Council. We pride ourselves on being a proactive and positive community, with parents, staff and students working together to assist with the local Mil Lel Show, our school's biggest fundraiser for the year. Having a strong sense of community fosters an environment that promotes community connection and facilitates student wellbeing.

# 1. General information

School Principal name: Suze Ricketts

Year of opening: 1867

Postal Address: PO Box 8124 Mount Gambier East SA 5291

Location Address: 627 Kennedy Ave Mil Lel SA 5291

Local Partnership: Blue Lake

Distance from GPO: 435km

Telephone number: 8725 5883

Fax Number: 8725 0802

School website address: <https://web.millelps.sa.edu.au/>

School e-mail address: [dl.0265.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0265.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

## February FTE student enrolment:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Foundation	16	14	11	11	12
Year 1	13	14	15	9	11
Year 2	20	11	15	13	9
Year 3	12	18	12	13	15
Year 4	13	12	17	12	16
Year 5	10	13	11	17	13
Year 6	5	10	10	9	17
Year 7	9	5	8	10	7
	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>

	2018 Cohort Information	2019 Cohort Information
School Card Approvals	6	8
ATSI	7.5%	6%
IESP	2%	5%

## Part B

### Leadership positions

Principal Mrs Suze Ricketts  
Wellbeing Leader Mrs Michelle Schutz

Teaching staff: Female 6 Male 1  
SSOs: Female 7 Male 2  
ACEO: Female 1  
GSE: Male 1

### Enrolment trends:

Enrolments have remained steady over the past 5 years, however projected enrolments are increasing due to land developments in the township of Mil Lel.

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

### General characteristics

We are a Foundation to Year 7 primary school. Families represent a range of socio-economic backgrounds with the majority of students coming from English speaking backgrounds.

### Student well-being programs

Student wellbeing is supported and promoted through a combination of teacher pedagogy and whole school programs. These include Play is the Way, restorative practices, child protection curriculum and buddy activities.

A teacher is released 0.2 to coordinate wellbeing initiatives within the school and, through the Federal Government's program, the school is allocated a Pastoral Care Worker for one day a week to support and provide wellbeing programs for our students.

### Student support offered

Students with identified learning needs, who receive funding through the department, are supported by SSOs to assist in their learning. Students that are not eligible for this funded support, but are experiencing learning difficulties, are identified through school based assessments. The identified students engage with structured intervention programs with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy to assist with their learning.

### Student management

The school's behaviour and anti-bullying process are reviewed annually by staff and governing council. These policies are shared with the wider community, and are referred to during meetings and assemblies. High expectations of our students are in place and our school values underpin discussions with students.

### Student government

School Captains are elected by students and staff in Term 4 each year. Students in Year 6 and 7 are eligible for election and follow an application process. Along with the elected School Captains, an SRC with members elected from classes each semester, ensures representative student voice and governance. Classes are expected to hold regular meetings to ensure that students are involved in decision making.

### Special programmes

Specialist non instruction subjects are: French (F-7)

School camps are held every even year for students in Year 3-7. This includes a 3 day/2-night camp. Students in Year 6&7 every odd year travel to Canberra for a week long camp.

### 3. Key School Policies

#### Our Vision

Mil Lel Primary School is committed to providing a high quality education for students from Foundation to Year 7 within a supportive learning environment.

Our school vision is: 'Inspiring a love of learning in a caring community'.

Our school community actively practises our school values, which are:

Respect: to have tolerance of others

Participation: to take part in learning and other opportunities that are offered by our school

Growth: the understanding that we can get smarter through hard work, using effective strategies and seeking help when we need it

#### Literacy and Numeracy Goals

- Raise student achievement in reading from Years 3-5

Challenge of practice: If we develop and strengthen the design of the reading program through activities that build comprehension, within the context of the Big 6 of Reading, we will achieve increased student achievement in reading.

- Increase student achievement in Mathematics, particularly in the Number Strand, in Years 5-7

Challenge of practice: if we develop a common evidence based approach (using the guidebook resource) to teach place value (including decimals, fractions, ratios), multiplicative thinking and design multi-step mathematical problem-solving tasks or investigations, then we will increase student achievement in mathematics, particularly in the number strand.

#### Student Wellbeing and Engagement Goals

The school environment supports the safety and wellbeing of our students. Effective learning dispositions, resilience and growth mindset support improvement in student learning. Engaging families through communication, consultation and participation to foster a supportive learning environment.

#### Recent Key Outcomes

Implementation of Learning Sprints to support teachers in continually enhancing their practice. Engagement in Learning Sprints supports the adoption of evidence-informed practices and enables educators to collectively plan, act and evaluate their impact.

## 4. Curriculum

### Subject offerings

Mil Lel Primary School staff plan and program according to the curriculum guidelines described within the Australian Curriculum.

### Special needs

Students with special needs are identified through established whole school systems. Learning achievement data is then used to inform student participation in intervention programs.

### Special curriculum features:

The school provides a range of curriculum opportunities for students, this includes:

- Performing Arts – participation in Music is Fun, Footsteps, Move It
- Languages – French
- Camps – Whole school (Years 3-7) even years & Canberra Camp (Year 6&7) odd years

Teachers are expected to work in year level teams through our Small School Learning Improvement Clusters, with a focus on the LDAM strategies.

### 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. Accelerus is used to centrally manage reporting. PAT-R and PAT-M are being used from Year 3 -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. A parent acquaintance night is held at the beginning of Term 1 and allows families the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher and familiarise themselves with the class and learning environment.

## 5. Sporting Activities

All students participate in Physical Education lessons. Extensive sporting opportunities exist for students in school-based teams which are parent managed. All classes attend swimming classes. Students in the upper primary years have the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA and Regional Sporting competitions - Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Cricket, Basketball, Softball, Table Tennis, Hockey, Tennis, Netball, Soccer and Football. Weekend sport is highly organised and developed in our local community and is actively supported by the staff of the school. Younger students enjoy Auskick which is run on site at Mil Lel. All students actively participate in our annual school sports day that attracts a large number of visitors.

## 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 4.

Students in Year 5 are involved in choir and perform in Adelaide and LSE Festivals. Excursions are planned on as needs basis to support class based learning activities.

## **7. Staff (and their welfare)**

### Staff profile

The school has experienced teachers, many of whom are Step 9.

### Leadership structure

Principal

Wellbeing Leader

### Staff support systems

Staff are supported and encouraged to work collaboratively, 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. Step 9 teachers are expected to take on mentoring roles.

### Performance Management

Our Performance Development policy and structure follow department requirements.

Key points of staff performance development include:

- Staff meeting with the principal to establish a performance development plan that reflects school, department and individual priorities. Follow up meetings are held during the year to review progress towards the goals.
- Teachers submitting work programs for review.
- Lesson observation and feedback based on identified areas.

New staff are supported through the induction process by meeting with the principal to enable them to become familiar with school routines, policies and WHS requirements. Eligible teachers are also supported to work toward Step 9 classification. Teachers are expected to take leadership in areas of expertise and to contribute to some part of the school's curricular and co-curricular activities. Step 9 teachers are also expected to take on mentoring responsibilities, including hosting pre-service teaching students and work experience students.

### Access to special staff

Good working relationships exist across the Blue Lake Partnership with specialist support available within the district's limited resources. Psychologists, Special Educators, Speech Pathologists, Behaviour Coaches, Attendance Officers and Social Workers are accessed when appropriate.

A Pastoral Support Worker is appointed to the school working one day per week, and works closely with the Wellbeing Leader in their role in supporting student wellbeing.

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

Teachers are eligible for Government Housing and support with relocation expenses. Further information about these areas can be found on the department's website.

### Complexity placement points

Mil Lel has an Educational Disadvantage of 7

### Isolation placement points

4.5

### Travelling time

5hrs from Adelaide by vehicle and 10mins from Mount Gambier.

## 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 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 (grounds and sports shed). All classrooms and administration areas are air conditioned. Each classroom and learning area has an interactive screen installed. The school uses the adjoining Mil Lel cricket oval and tennis courts in a community agreement through Mil Lel Parks. The cricket oval is used during our school sports day.

Works are scheduled for the enclosure of the sheltered area, and upgrade to the septic system in 2019.

### Access to bus transport

Students are able to access the district bus run. Further information can be sought by contacting Grant High School.

## 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

The school publishes a fortnightly newsletter to families and is available on our website. Class teachers also have their own newsletters for families and some teachers use online platforms to do so. Our website provides further information about the school for the wider community and the school also uses a communication app (School stream) and an SMS message service to keep parents informed. Communication with staff occurs via an electronic daybook.

### 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 officer.

## 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. The parent population of the school reflects the local industries.

### Parent and community involvement

Parent and community support and involvement in the school is positive. Governing Council operates effectively through a series of sub-committees, which look after Finance, Facilities and the Mil Lel Show. Most decision-making and action planning occur through sub-committees, which give wider membership and participation than if just drawn from Council. Parents are involved in decision-making in appropriate areas at every level of the school's activities and management. Their views are canvassed through newsletters, sub-committees, surveys and Governing Council.

### 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 kindergartens.

### Other local care and educational facilities

Many primary schools and 2 secondary schools serve the immediate community. Tertiary studies are available through TAFE and some university courses are offered through University of SA and the James Morrison Music Academy now offers university degrees also. There is significant movement of young people to the metropolitan area to follow further education and related careers.

### Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Several large shopping centres and numerous smaller regional shopping centres serve Mount Gambier. Its sporting facilities are very highly regarded and are outstanding for a city of its size. Visiting performers, exhibitions and some local groups cater for cultural activities. Most religious denominations are well catered for.

### Other local facilities

Mt Gambier is South Australia's largest regional town outside of Adelaide and has a range of services and facilities available to the public.

### Availability of staff housing

This can be accessed privately or through Government Housing.

### Local Government body

Local government authorities are the City of Mount Gambier and Grant District Council.

## 12. Further Comments

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