CHRISTIES BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School Number: 0921

School Name: Christies Beach Primary School

1. General Information

Part A
- Principal: Ian Filer

Part B
- Deputy Principal: Valerie Harrold
- Assistant Principal/School Counsellor: Chrissa Connor
- Accelerated Literacy Leader: Lisa Bailey
- Play Is The Way Leader: Michelle Morrison

- School e-mail address: dl.0921.info@schools.sa.edu.au

- Staff Numbers: The school has 15 classes with 34 teaching staff, 17 of whom are full-time. There are 29 females and 5 males on the teaching staff, which includes leadership staff.

There are 20 School Support Officers (4 male, 16 female), providing support in curriculum, the front office, finance, grounds, ICT and challenging students. There is a Grounds person, a Pastoral Care Worker, a Canteen Manager and 2 ACEO’s (who share the role).

- OSHC: An OSHC centre provides before and after school care and Vacation Care operates onsite during school holidays. It is anticipated that this will be outsourced this year.

- Enrolment Trends: Enrolments are currently 354 students. The school has maintained numbers over the past 3 years.

- Year of Opening: Christies Beach Primary School opened in 1961. In 1987 the Junior Primary and Primary Schools amalgamated.

- Public Transport Access: There is a bus stop adjacent to the school on Beach Road.
2. **Students (and their welfare)**

- **General Characteristics:** Most students are of Anglo-Saxon origin with 3% from non-English speaking background, 16% Aboriginal descent and approximately 44% are School Card holders.

- **Pastoral Care Programs:** The Deputy Principal manages the curriculum support program for students at risk, which includes students with disabilities and those with learning difficulties. The majority of the temporary SSO hours are employed to assist students at risk.

  A Peer Mediation program is in operation with fortnightly training provided by the School Counsellor.

- **Support Offered:** One to one support and small group support are provided to students weekly.

  Considerable classroom support and small group support are provided to the Transition classes (new Receptions) and to the Special Class.

- **Student Management:** The Student Behaviour Management policy exists to manage yard and classroom behaviour. In 2010, this policy was comprehensively reviewed with a range of new initiatives introduced. The practices are supported by all staff and are consistent throughout the school. The policy places emphasis on students taking responsibility for their own behaviour. Restorative Practice is utilised to help students be more accountable to themselves and others, and help restore relationships. In term 4 2010, our school introduced a whole school programme known as ‘Play Is The Way’, which is designed to develop students collaborative and cooperative skills. Circle time is held regularly in all classes, at this stage immediately following recess and lunch. The school is currently reviewing its policy moving to a Behaviour Education approach and away from a punitive/reward approach.

- **Student Government:** The SRC meets weekly with a Year 7 executive group managed by our School Counsellor. Class meetings operate across the school and address class and yard issues. Six student committees operate.

- **Special Programmes:** Special programs include transition programs (K-R, 7-8), buddy classes, peer tutoring, Festival of Music, participation in Wakakirri – The National Story Telling...
Festival, swimming, aquatics, Peer Mediation workshops, SAPSASA competitions, Crossing Monitor training and instrumental music.

3. **Key School Policies**

- **Site Learning Plan**: Major Priorities for 2015 are Numeracy, Literacy and Student and Staff Wellbeing. Other priorities include students at Risk, ICT and Play Is The Way.

**Our Vision**
The goal of our school community is to encourage all students to participate fully in all aspects of their learning, striving for excellence and realising their full potential, in a socially and emotionally competent manner.

**Our Values**
Good Manners -Courage -Friendliness -Resilience -Persistence - Empathy

4. **Curriculum**

- **Subject Offerings**: The eight areas of study are taught with Performing Arts, Indonesian, Information Literacy and Science taught as specialist offerings across the school from special class to year 7.

- **Special Needs**: There is a Special Class for R-2 students.

- **Special Curriculum Features**: The school focuses on explicit and uninterrupted teaching in literacy daily, with all classes implementing Accelerated Literacy.

The school has been involved in the Big Ideas in Number, aligning practice to the Accelerated Learning teaching sequence.

- **Teaching Methodology**: Various methodologies are encouraged in all classes to cater for SHIP students, students with learning difficulties and those students with varied preferred learning styles.

Christies Beach Primary School has a whole school commitment to Play Is The Way, Restorative Practice and the Emotional Thermometer.
Social Skilling is a strong focus with all classes participating exclusively in a whole-school social skilling programme at the beginning of the year for the first week. Life Raft activities are promoted as part of our Behaviour Education programme. Whole school Play Is The Way games are played 3 times per week.

- Assessment Procedures and Reporting: The school reporting procedures includes:
  - Acquaintance Night: Tuesday week 4 Term 1
  - End of term 1: 3 way interviews where learning and behavioural goals are set.
  - Comprehensive written report end of Term 2. Recently reviewed and aligned with the National Curriculum.
  - Summative written report end of Term 4
  - NAPLAN assessments Year 3, 5 & 7: Term 2

Performing Arts, Information Literacy, Indonesian and Science are taught throughout the whole school.

The school has strong links with feeder kindergartens (Christies North and Taikurrendi) and support a strong transition for students moving into year 8. The majority of our students attend Christies Beach High School.

5. **Sporting Activities**

Daily fitness lessons are held and regular physical education lessons occur weekly. Coaching clinics are held throughout the year in a range of sports.
Year 6/7 students are involved in SAPSASA – athletics, football, cricket, swimming, basketball, netball, soccer and cross-country. There is a strong after hours sports programme in soccer.
A 500m synthetic fitness trail with fitness stations was installed late in 2002 and provides a great resource for the school and the local community.
Swimming instruction is held in Term 2 for R-5 students at the Noarlunga Leisure Centre. Year 6 and 7 students participate in an Aquatics program at Port Noarlunga in Term 4 for a week.
6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- **General:** The school choir participates in the Primary School Festival of Music. Instrumental music lessons are offered.

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

- **Staff Profile:**
  
  1 Principal  
  1 Deputy Principal  
  1 Assistant Principal/School Counsellor  
  2 Leaders Band – Play Is The Way & Accelerated Literacy  
  1 Librarian  
  15 classes which includes our Year R-2 Special Class.  
  20 ancillary staff: 1 groundsperson, 2 front office, 1 finance officer, 1 resource centre, 12 curriculum support/student behaviour, 1 ICT technician, 1 Pastoral Care Worker & a canteen manager.

- **Leadership Structure:** The leadership team consists of Principal, Deputy Principal, and Assistant Principal, 2 Coordinators (Play Is The Way and Accelerated Literacy).

- **Staff Support Systems:** Staff are grouped into 5 Learning Teams: Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Primary and Upper Primary and Specialists. These teams work collaboratively, share resources and plan to continually meet the needs of the students.

- **Performance Management:** Performance development is a supportive and collaborative process. Line managers are the Principal, Deputy Principal and the Assistant Principal. Formal meetings are held at least once a year. All staff prepares and follows a Performance and Development Plan. Written feedback is provided to staff.

- **Other:** Staff morale is generally high, although the complexity of the site can at times be very challenging.

8. **School Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds:** The school is situated on well-maintained grounds and consists of the original buildings that house classrooms, the staffroom and administration. There is a separate Resource Centre, canteen building and an Out of School Hours Care Centre/Vacation Care Centre. In 2010 a new gymnasium and a three teacher unit were built, with an old four teacher
wooden transportable demolished. The ground shed has been relocated and the 27 year old pool removed. The southern side of the school has been completely redeveloped.

There are extensive grounds that include landscaped gardens including an outdoor learning centre, a soccer pitch, football oval, netball court, basketball court, numerous play areas and hard play areas.

A 500 metre synthetic fitness track and fitness stations were developed in 2002, in collaboration with the City of Onkaparinga Council. This track is positioned around the outside of the soccer field and the football oval and is used by the local community after hours.

A groundsperson is employed for 25 hours per week to maintain the grounds and facilities.


- **Cooling**: All buildings and rooms are air-conditioned.

- **Staff facilities**: All staff accesses the staff room and other spaces are available to undertake planning, preparation etc.

The schools recently upgraded wireless network ensures staff can have internet access at any location on their own laptops.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**: The school has ramp access to all buildings. There is a disabled toilet in the Junior Primary Building.

- **Access to bus transport**: The school is almost adjacent to a bus stop. The Noarlunga Centre train and bus stop is within walking distance.

9. **School Operations**

- **Decision making structures**: There is a strong emphasis on shared responsibility and participative decision-making. The leadership team works on a collaborative model. Supporting this is the development of a school culture which is built on mutual respect, valuing others and acceptance of difference. Key consultative and decision-making groups are the Governing Council, SRC, Staff and PAC. The Learning Teams meet regularly with meetings scheduled within staff meeting agendas. Decisions are made on a consensus model whenever possible.

- **Regular publications**: A school newsletter is sent out to the parent community fortnightly on Thursdays (even weeks). Many are now emailed to parents.
A staff bulletin is distributed weekly, via email on Sunday evenings.
An electronic Daily Bulletin is an important reference for all staff.

- **Other communication:** Each student has a diary or communication book to communicate between school and home.
  All sub committees report to the Governing Council.

- **School financial position:** Financial management is based on a Resource Entitlement Statement and is managed by the Finance Officer, the Finance Committee and the Principal who assist the Finance Officer in this role. Learning Teams and budget managers coordinate the expenditure of curriculum budgets in consultation with other key stakeholders.

10. **Local Community**
- **General characteristics:** The Christies Beach community has a strong sense of pride and community spirit. The community has a component of Housing Trust accommodation as well as a substantial proportion of privately owned homes. There are a significant number of people unemployed.

- **Parent and community involvement:** Parents are involved in the school through the Governing Council and various sub-committees.

- **Feeder kindergartens:** Most students come to the school from Christies North Kindergarten and Taikurrendi.

- **Commercial/Industrial and shopping facilities:** There are numerous retail shops adjacent to the school on Beach Road.

- **Local Government body:** The school is in the City of Onkaparinga Council area, Ramsey Place, Noarlunga Centre (phone 8384 0666).

11. **Further Comments**

  Christies Beach Primary School is an exciting and challenging place for teaching and learning. The teachers and support staff are committed to providing quality programs that meet the needs of students. Collegiality and collaboration are highly valued and practised. There is a tangible culture of caring.