

Loxton Lutheran School



2020 School Performance Information Report

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The following “School Performance Information” for the 2020 year, is made publicly available to the school Community as a requirement of the Australian Government funding agreement for Loxton Lutheran School.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Loxton Lutheran School Office on 08 8584 7496 to make an appointment to see the Principal; Mr Brad Williams.

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1. Contextual information, including student body characteristics

Located in the township of Loxton, approximately 240 kilometres east of Adelaide, in the Riverland region of South Australia, Loxton Lutheran School is highly regarded within the community for providing an extensive range of educational opportunities for its students.

From its inception in 1947 (1954 at its present site), Loxton Lutheran School has been an independent Christ-centred co-educational primary school catering for children from Reception to Year 7.

Loxton Lutheran School is a Reception (with two intakes) to Year 7 co-educational school of the Lutheran Church of Australia and offers a high quality education for families seeking a Christian education for their children.

Through the continued support of government, the congregations of the Loxton Lutheran Parish, and an active and committed parent community, the school has grown into a modern facility with well-equipped classrooms and facilities.

Enrolments in 2020, at census date were 176. These figures included students of Loxton, Loxton North and

surrounding districts, as well students residing in the greater Riverland area, where private buses are run to service towns such as Lyrup, Renmark, Berri, Moorook and Glossop.

The School's mission is "**Educational Excellence – Together in Christ**", lived out in the ten core values of *love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, courage, humility, hope, quality and appreciation*. Loxton Lutheran School aims to be a Christ-centred caring community, providing quality education where individuals are challenged to achieve their potential and empowered to be responsible citizens and leaders in the community.

The School makes a concerted effort to foster a sense of community, inclusion and belonging for every individual. Education, by its very nature is dynamic – forever changing and evolving. For schools to be successful they too must be dynamic by continually evaluating, modifying and providing a challenging, safe and caring learning environment for their students.

The strength of Loxton Lutheran School is its ability to continually improve its offerings to children via the provision of a quality, well rounded academic, spiritual and socially inclusive education program. Committed teaching and support staff continually provide a range of multi-disciplinary learning opportunities which embrace best practice educational theory and methodology.

The Australian Curriculum and Lutheran Education Australia's Christian Studies Curriculum Framework (CSCF) are used to define the key learning areas with essential elements that provide specific learning outcomes and content for each year level. As part of this curriculum and additional to it, the School offers a full program of enriched learning experiences:

Spiritual Development

Open Worship services are conducted on a regular basis, officiated by staff and students, and when possible, by a Pastor from the Loxton Parish. Class groups take turns in presenting items such as drama or songs and reading their own prayers, fostering an active involvement in the development of their faith and beliefs.

Classes took part in regular devotions and each week staff would respond to written prayer requests from students, from one of the classes, which was done on a rotational basis. Some classes also engaged in writing and responding to prayer requests within the class. Displays of student artwork, especially from units they have explored in Christian Studies are often showcased in the foyer of the LIFE Centre. Additionally, students often take part in various parts of the service, when special Church Services are held with Lutheran Congregations.

The faith life and development of the School's staff was also fostered through regular devotions.

Curriculum Related Activities

The School offers a range of opportunities and initiatives related to key curriculum areas including:

- Mini-Lit Literacy Intervention Program
- Multi-Lit Literacy Intervention Program
- GMG Co-ordination Program (Reception classes)
- Specialist Arts, Physical Education and German lessons
- Scholastic Book Fair & Book Club
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Book-week activities – group sharing across the school. In 2020, we took our parade over to the Riverview Rest Home
- Growth & Development Lessons (Year 5, 6 & 7 students) via Families SA prepared materials
- Choir
- Riverland Music Festival
- Cubby house building
- Year 7 Gardens
- Access to a iPad's and laptops to enhance learning
- Science Week activities

- School Sport events
- Art and craft activities at lunch times with the Chaplain

Student Well-being

In this fast moving and ever more complex world, student well-being is assuming a much higher profile as a part of what 'we do' in schools. Loxton Lutheran School staff continue to strive towards providing students with the support structures they need to engage with learning and develop themselves personally. Such support, apart from the ongoing counselling provided by the teachers to their students, takes place in various forms, some of which are:-

- the **School Chaplain** (funded under the Commonwealth School Chaplaincy Program), providing support to students and coordinated lunch-time activities
- a **Student Support Leader**
- **intervention programs**
- a **Friendship bench**, where students looking for someone to play with, are able to go at break times. Other students are encouraged to connect with them and invite them to join in an activity.
- a **Buddy Class** program, with coordination of regular activities to encourage friendships and connections between junior primary and middle -upper primary classes
- **Transition programs** - transition sessions for Loxton pre-school students. Loxton Lutheran School continues to offer two Reception intakes per year (Term 1 and 3).
- The Loxton Lutheran School is one of a number of feeder schools for the Loxton High School and also coordinates with them, to provide a transition program for Year 7 students before moving on to High School.
- a **Healthy Eating Canteen**, which was open two days a week.

Community

The **Riverview Lutheran Rest Home** is situated directly opposite the School. Despite COVID restrictions, we still managed to find ways to continue building on this relationship.

School Captains again represented the school at ceremonies to commemorate Anzac Day & Remembrance Day and laid a wreath at the town's Cross of Sacrifice on behalf of the School Community to acknowledge the sacrifice of Australian service men and women for the benefit of all Australians.

In 2020, Loxton Lutheran School gave back to our community through participation in annual events of the town including Loxton Show, the annual 'Mardi Gras' Pageant and the Christmas Tree Display.

The School supported several charity organisations via weekly offerings at worship services and through casual days raising money for charity, coordinated by the Student Parliament. These included Australian Lutheran World Service, Royal Flying Doctors Service, McGrath Foundation, Loxcare, MND South Australia and Foodbank.

We also continued to offer the use of the LIFE Centre to community organisations (sporting & non-sporting) at minimal hire costs and assisted a number of organisations and other schools through periodic use of the school buses at no cost.

Sporting

There was strong Involvement in Riverland SAPSASA again, with student participation in sports including tennis, cricket, hockey, football, netball, swimming, athletics, cross-country and soccer.

Cultural

Gatherings in the LIFE Centre open with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Ownership and Aboriginal cultural values. Some class teachers have also engaged with guest speakers, for example, local members of the Aboriginal community or other cultures.

The School has for many years convened a Choir to participate in the Primary Schools Music Festival at Chaffey Theatre, which involves many hours of rehearsals, including with other schools in the 'Cluster'.

An annual school Concert is held in the School's LIFE Centre. Due to COVID, this was recorded and made available to families electronically.

The School also hosts various visiting performances or provides opportunities for students to attend performances locally or in Adelaide.

For a number of students, there was an opportunity to study music during school time, by arrangement with private tutors.

Camps / Excursions

The School has a sequential approach to camps and excursions through the year levels, with Reception and Year 1 students staying back of an afternoon for activities and a shared tea. Year 2 students progress to an overnight stay. Year 7 students stay away for 5 nights in Canberra as part of the annual Loxton Schools Combined Year 7 Trip. Due to COVID, the Canberra Trip did not take place. Other camps and excursions for some classes still went ahead.

Swimming lessons are programmed at the Loxton Swimming Pool, for Reception to Year 2 classes and Year 7's participate in a day-long Aquatics program in the nearby township of Barmera.

Student Voice and Leadership

Loxton Lutheran School has a strong emphasis on student voice and student leadership. Year 7s learn about the Westminster style of Government and a School Parliament (in place of SRC) involves all year 7s in decision making and reporting on behalf of the student body in an organised parliamentary forum. In addition:

- Students make speeches as part of an election of School Captains and Vice Captains, made by the student body each year. Leaders for the following year are announced and installed at the end of year service.
- Election of Sports House Captains & Vice Captains for the year (by the students year 3 & above)
- Opportunities for student leaders to attend training and motivational forums such as 'Young Leaders Day' and Lutheran Education's Young Leader's Day
- Students have input to some decisions such as the themes for casual day and at times are consulted as a focus group.

2020 Student Comparison Composition

Reception – 26

Year 1 - 27

Year 2 - 22

Year 3 - 19

Year 4 – 21 (1 Indigenous Student)

Year 5 - 21

Year 6 - 16

Year 7 – 24

Students with Disability Summary

QDTP – 18

Supplementary – 16

Substantial – 2

Extensive – 0

Boarding Students - 0

Distance Education Students - 0

Students on a Visa - 2

Overseas Students - 0

2. Workforce Composition, including Indigenous representation

In 2020 Loxton Lutheran School employed a staff of 33 (including teaching and various non-teaching roles). Broadly, this included the Principal, ELC Director, teaching staff and learning support officers, together with a Business Manager, Chaplain, bus drivers and grounds and maintenance staff.

Loxton Lutheran school had an eight-class structure in 2020 and the teaching staff comprised the following:

Teaching Staff FTE = 12.3 (including Principal)

Non-teaching FTE = 7.8

Non-teaching Indigenous FTE = 0

3. Teacher Standards and Qualifications (as mandated in the relevant jurisdiction)

3.1 Teaching Staff Structure

- Loxton Lutheran School had an 8-class structure in 2020. This included two Reception classes, Year 1, Year 1/2, Year 3/4, Year 4/5, Year 5/6 and Year 7 class.

3.2 Teacher Qualifications

All teachers at Loxton Lutheran School meet full accreditation requirements for the Teacher's Registration Board of South Australia. Many are well qualified in their field and hold two or more tertiary qualifications.

Below is a listing of teaching qualifications held by our teaching staff:

Diploma in Teaching	2
Bachelor of Applied Science	1
Bachelor of Education/Teaching	12
Bachelor of Teaching (and Learning)	2
Bachelor of Early Childhood	2
Bachelor of Arts	4
Diploma/Certificate in Lutheran Education	3
Graduate Certificate Catholic Education	2
Graduate Certificate in Religious Education	1
Bachelor of Library Studies	1
Diploma of Children's Services	1

3.3 Non-Teaching Staff Changes / Additions

- One of our grounds staff left partway through last year to take up a full-time position elsewhere. We employed an additional LSO staff member partway through 2020 and increased the number of hours for other LSO staff.

4. Staff Training and Professional Development

All staff members at Loxton Lutheran School are required to undertake training and have current accreditation in:-

- Mandatory Notification/Responding to Abuse and Neglect
- Basic 1st Aid (BELS)/Full First Aid
- Valuing Safe Communities
- Epi-Pen Use (anaphylaxis)
- Asthma Management
- Fire Safety & Training

The training in the above mentioned areas is not annual, but cyclic. In 2020 all staff, teaching and non-teaching, participated in the following training activities:

- CPR

A focus on Literacy commenced in 2018 and continued in 2020. All staff engaged in professional learning in the area of phonics/spelling, writing, cognitive load theory, schema theory and Morning Routine.

All teaching staff at Loxton Lutheran School are required to be involved in professional learning activities. These take a variety of forms:-

- whole staff professional development
- specific in school curriculum focus activities for teaching staff
- attendance at workshops, seminars and conferences for individuals or small groups of teachers.
- Individually focussed Professional Development, initiated by individual staff members, and tailored to their own Personal Development Plans

Learning Support Officers also attended professional learning in 2020. Literacy, ASD, Dyslexia and Christian Studies were topics explored by LSO staff.

While associated costs can be identified for most professional development activities, there are many for which it is not possible to allocate a cost. Teacher professional development activities that are not costed include:

- the staff appraisal process
- teachers acting as mentors to new staff
- induction processes for new staff
- mentoring student teachers
- out of hours meetings to review curriculum, assessment etc
- participation on advisory committees such as the Ministry & Care, Workload Consultative Committee, as well as joint parent/teacher committees such as Continental. (It is an expectation that all teaching staff are involved in at least one committee)

5. Staff Attendance

The average attendance rate is an indicator of the proportion of time staff are required to be at work, that is actually spent at work. The larger the percentage, the less time is spent away from work due to illness, carer's leave, bereavement leave, short term parenting leave and the like. It does not account for staff on long term leave for reasons such as extended illness, maternity leave, long service leave and so on, where a replacement employee has been contracted to fulfil an absent person's duties.

The average attendance rate of staff (teaching and non-teaching) at Loxton Lutheran during 2020 was 96.19%.

6. Student attendance

6.1 Student attendance across the school and by year level

During the 2020 school year, the average total attendance for students enrolled at Loxton Lutheran School was 93.95%. Separating this for each year level, the following rates were achieved;

Year Level	Maximum Days Possible	Actual Attendance	Percentage of attendance
Reception	4810	4574	95.1%
Year 1	5089	4824	94.8%
Year 2	4127	3904	94.6%
Year 3	3481	33287	94.4%
Year 4	3979	3686	92.6%
Year 5	3795	3579	94.3%
Year 6	2960	2850	96.3%
Year 7	4414	4161	94.3%

In the day to day recording of student absence, parents are required to contact the school to inform the administration of their child(ren)'s absence. School policy states that, in normal circumstances, this notification should be made via telephone or electronically by 9.30am on the morning of the absence.

Students arriving late or leaving early are required to do so via the school office to be signed in/out by parents/guardians.

6.2 Managing non-attendance

Phone contact is made with parents of children not at school by 9.30am on any given day without notification, to ascertain the reason for the absence.

In dealing with any issues of consistent ongoing or extended unexplained non-attendance, all reasonable efforts are made to firstly contact and speak with the parents /guardians. Failing a satisfactory result or explanation, appropriate government agencies are contacted and involved, including through written reports.

7. Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

In 2020 education ministers decided that NAPLAN testing would not proceed that year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a school, we continued with our own internal standardised testing.

8. Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction with the School

In 2020, we did not conduct formal parent satisfaction surveys. We did however, survey parents, staff, students and board members in relation to the Specialist Learning Area offerings at LLS and Transition/Student Leadership for 2021.

Feedback from parents occurs through a number of sources, some formal and some informal. It includes responses to surveys, comments through sub-committees or groups such as Playgroup, and specific feedback to teachers, senior staff and the Principal. Such feedback is always welcome.

9. Improvement to School Facilities

8.1 In the 2020 year

A number of minor capital projects were completed to improve learning areas across the school. This included new carpet, air conditioners, furniture, window tinting, painting etc. in a range of rooms. The exterior of the LIFE Centre was painted, and new laptops and iPads were purchased for class use.

8.2 Projected 2021 Projects for School Facilities Improvement

A number of works are proposed for the 2021 school year. These include the following:

- painting of exterior of school
- refurbishment of old ICT room to become a Sensory Room

10. School income by funding source

In 2020, the funding for the school was provided by the following sources.

2020 School Funding Sources	Total	Per Student
Australian Government recurrent Funding	\$2,210,356	\$12,559
State / Territory Recurrent Funding	\$567,437	\$3,224
Fees, Charges and Parent Contributions	\$238,353	\$1,354
Other Private Sources	\$73,107	\$415
Total Gross Income	\$3,089,253	\$17,552

11. 2020 Highlights

Literacy Partnership

In 2020, the school continued the partnership with a literacy coach, Ms JoAnne Dooner, to oversee the construction of our literacy curriculum.

School Concert

Albeit in a different format, we were still able to hold a school concert under the guidance of our arts teacher, Mrs Rachel Klose.

Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day was a fantastic event, held here at LLS.

Transition Program

Our transition program for incoming Receptions was outstanding. Our Ready for Reception night, as part of this program, was highly valued.