SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0265

School name: Mil Lel Primary School

School Profile:

Mil Lel Primary School was opened in 1867 and 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 success 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. To support literacy and numeracy outcomes, a key priority is intervention and support programs to maximise student learning in these areas. Our school grounds are well maintained with open play spaces and vegetable gardens are 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 interactive whiteboards as well as access to laptops. We have a flexible learning area with kitchen facilities that provides space for art and technology activities. 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: Stephen Jolley
- Deputy Principal’s name, if applicable: N/A
- Year of opening: 1867
- Postal Address: PO Box 8124
- Location Address: Kennedy Avenue Mil Lel
- DECD Region: Limestone Coast
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 450km
- Telephone number: 08 8725 5883
- Fax Number: 08 8725 0802
- School website address: www.milleps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0265.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: N/A
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: N/A
- 2014 February FTE student enrolment:

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<th>Rec</th>
<th>Yr 1</th>
<th>Yr 2</th>
<th>Yr 3</th>
<th>Yr 4</th>
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<th>Yr 6</th>
<th>Yr 7</th>
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School Card: 6%

NESB: 0%

ATSI: 2%

- Student enrolment trends:

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• Staffing numbers (as at February census):
  Teaching Staff: 5.7 FTE
  Non teaching Staff: 2.03 FTE
  Student Welfare Worker: 7 hours/week
  Groundsperson: 5 hours/week

• Public transport access: N/A

• Special site arrangements:
  Mil Lel PS is currently a member of 2 clusters:
  Blue Lake Partnership
  Small Schools Cluster (Glenburnie PS, Moorak PS, Yahl PS & Compton PS)

2. Students (and their welfare)

• General characteristics
  :Mil Lel is an R-7 with enrolments in the mid 70s. In previous years the school has had 3 classrooms. In 2013 increased enrolments warranted a 4th classroom to be established.

• Student well-being programs
  :Mil Lel was successful in 2012 in having a Student Welfare Worker commence at the school under a Federal Government program.

• Student support offered
  :N/A

• Student management
  :N/A

• Student government
  :The school’s Student Welfare Worker manages the student representative body. Class meetings are also held.

• Special programmes
  :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, 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, French LOTE. Students also access private music tutoring.
3. **Key School Policies**

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
  Mil LeL Primary School's Site Improvement Plan is available on our website.
  
  Key priorities are Literacy and Numeracy.

- Recent key outcomes:
  
  Literacy:
  
  Whole approach/agreement to the teaching of reading and writing has been developed. This agreement reflects professional development perspectives from PALL and Stephen Graham. All staff have an explicit focus on teaching written text types, guided reading and intervention.

  Numeracy:
  
  All staff have participated in professional development with Ann Baker and George Booker. A whole school agreement in the teaching of Numeracy is currently being developed.

4. **Curriculum**

- Subject offerings: All subjects within SACSA are taught along with the following Australian Curriculum subjects: English, Mathematics, Science and History.

- Open Access/Distance Education provision: N/A

- Special needs:
  
  SSOs are deployed in each class to support students with identified learning difficulties. Staff are responsible for the identification of student needs and determining what program/support is required. Where required, Learning Support plans are developed for students with an identified learning disability.

- Special curriculum features:
  
  Most of our classrooms are composed of multi year levels. In 2014 class structures are:
  
  Reception & Year 1
  Year 1 & 2
  Year 3 & 4
  Year 5, 6 & 7

- Teaching methodology:
  
  Staff involvement in professional development has influenced current methodologies, this includes:
  
  Literacy;
Scaffolding of text types (To, with, by model)
Guided Reading
Benchmark Reading assessments (including a further Reading inventory that measures reading fluency)
Numeracy;
Problematised situations.
Lesson scaffolding (mental routines, problematized situations/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
  Term 1: Parent/Teacher Interviews
  Term 2: Open classroom visits
  Mid year written reports
  Term 3: Optional Parent Interviews
  Term 4: End of year written reports

- Joint programmes:
  Mil Lel staff have formed PLCs with other staff from neighbouring small schools. Staff are provided ½ 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. Footsteps Dance programme is offered every 2 years.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Whole school concert is held in the last week of term in Term 4.
- Students can participate in DECD music lessons or access private tuition in piano or guitar.
7. **Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile**
  - Currently 5.7 (4 x 1.0, 1 x 0.8, 1 x 0.7)

- **Leadership structure**
  - Principal (0.8 administration & 0.2 teaching)

- **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. AST1s 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**
  Guidance officers and external support is sourced through the Regional Office. Students are provided an opportunity to participate in DECD Instrumental lessons.

- **Other**

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**
  - N/A
• Travelling time
  : Approximately 5 hours by car from Adelaide, 10 min for Mt Gambier.
• Housing assistance
  :
• Cash in lieu of removal allowance
  :
• Additional increment allowance
  :
• Designated schools benefits
  :
• Aboriginal/Anangu schools
  : N/A
• Medical and dental treatment expenses
  :
• Locality allowances
  :
• Relocation assistance
  :
• Principal’s telephone costs
  : N/A, principal uses personal phone.

9. School Facilities
• Buildings and grounds
  The office/admin/library is a solid limestone building and is a part of the original school. The BER program enabled a new 4 classroom block to be built in place of the existing transportable building.
• Heating and cooling
  : All rooms have heating and cooling.
• Specialist facilities and equipment
  A separate transportable building is used a multi-purpose room: French, Art and Technology.
• Student facilities
  Laptop computers have been provided for each class.
• Staff facilities
  Limited space exists for staff preparation areas.
• Access for students and staff with disabilities
  : N/A
• 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
 :N/A

• School financial position
 :N/A

• Special funding
N/A

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 programs 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
  Our school is zoned to Grant High School. Beginning students come from a
  variety of local kindergartens.

• Other local care and educational facilities

• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  : N/A

• 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

• 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.