

CURRAMULKA PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Small School, Strong Team
Respect, Responsibility, Trust*

Parent Handbook
2023

CURRAMULKA PRIMARY SCHOOL
EST. 1880

Phone (08) 8854 2102

Website: <https://curramulka.sa.edu.au>

OUR VISION and VALUES

“Curramulka Primary School aims to promote innovative thinking and positive partnerships.”

***Our values are:
RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and TRUST.***

Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

This handbook provides information regarding commonly asked questions about our school, in particular, and the Education Department’s policies in general. The information is current and we will keep you informed of changes if they occur.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any queries, concerns or if there is any additional information you require.

The Staff of Curramulka welcome you to our school.

STAFF 2023:

Ms Michelle Densley	Acting Principal (R-6)
Mrs Lucy Tilbrook	Teacher (R-6)
Miss Lilly Premrl	Teacher (R-6)
Mrs Sharron Kennedy	School Services Officer
Ms Emily Harris	School Services Officer
Ms Michele Short	School Services Officer
Mrs Louise Lang	Pastoral Care Worker

What does our school offer?

Our school offers a comprehensive curriculum covering all areas of learning. It provides students with learning that is tailored to their explicit needs. The school is particularly proud of its focus on sustainability. The Parklands Project is a key feature of this program as is the emerging Edible Kitchen Garden program which commenced in 2015.

ADMISSION

In 2024, a mid-year intake in Term 3 will start in schools. Students who start school through a mid-year intake complete 6 terms of reception.

5th birthdate	School Starting Date
Before 1 st May	Term 1
Between 1 st May to 31 st of October	Term 3

Transition to school is organised with your Preschool. Transition consists of four visits in term 4, on Wednesdays from week 3 to 6. Students start with a visit in the morning and increase their time each week to full days. A parent information session and school tour is held on the first visit.

We aim to make entry to school a positive experience and are always ready to discuss any difficulties with parents for their children beginning schooling.

A yearly Open Day is held in Term 3. Please contact the school for more information.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school, as well as being a legal requirement, has enormous implications for children's development. Irregular attendance and late arrival interferes with learning and can affect the children's attitude later in life to commitment and responsibility.

If your child is ABSENT, please advise us IN WRITING the reason for the absence. This needs to be a note in a diary or complete a form in the front office. We will not be accepting text messaging regarding student absences (Telephone calls **must** be followed up by a written note). If absences are unexplained we are legally bound to seek explanation. Our absence records are subject to audit every year and we are required not only to record absences but the reasons for them and maintain written explanations. A supply of absence notes is provided for your convenience.

Students who are **LATE** for school, **MUST SIGN IN** at the Office upon arrival at school and should **bring a note** with the reason for the lateness.

HATS and SUN SAFETY

Students **MUST** have a brimmed hat available at all times at school. Hats must be worn while outdoors, at all times. Staff will adopt a common sense approach during the winter months.

Every year our Reception students will receive a personally named school hat.

We keep a supply of sunscreen in the classrooms and children are encouraged to use it or bring their own.

BELL TIMES

School Starts	8:45am
Recess	10.50am – 11.10am
Lunch	12.50pm – 1.30pm
Dismissal	3.15pm
Bus assembly	3.15pm

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The Curramulka Primary School Behaviour Policy was updated in 2023 and appears on the school's website. A copy is available on request and is sent out annually with a newsletter to parents.

BUSES

Two school buses operate to and from Curramulka to Minlaton District School. The buses service the Port Vincent and Port Julia townships and in-between. Please call in to the school for more information with regard to the school bus routes. Benbow's Bus Service from Minlaton are contracted to operate the Department for Education school buses.

CAMPS/EXCURSIONS

Camps/Excursions are held on an annual basis. Students will engage in experiences appropriate to them to enhance their learning. The school camps will alternate each year between a whole school (R-6) camp and individual class camps.

Notes regarding camps will be sent out a term prior to the camp occurring. Generally the camps are subsidised through the school, and costs are kept to a minimum.

COMMUNICATIONS

As our school is small it is quite easy to get messages to both children and staff. Don't hesitate to ring us and we'll always return your call if we're tied up at the time. The Newsletter is distributed twice a term and is available for community messages. Newsletters can be sent to you electronically and are uploaded to our Website and Facebook Page. A hard copy can be provided on request.

We invite you to join our closed Curramulka Primary School Parents Facebook page. We also have a page for the Curramulka Playgroup.

We encourage communication through your child's message book/diary for any school related purpose. The diary may be used for written communication about absences or notes can be written on the absence sheets provided to each family. *Messages to personal phones are not preferred and contact should be made directly to the school regarding absenteeism.*

ASSEMBLIES AND END OF YEAR CONCERT

There are two assemblies each term. Generally these will be on the Friday of Week 5 and the last week of school (Term 1 Week 11, Term 2 and 3 Week 10). These are an opportunity for students to share and celebrate the work they have been doing within the classroom.

Our end of year Concert/Presentation is always held on Wednesday of Week 9 Term 4. This is an evening performance generally beginning at 6.30pm.

FEES AND CHARGES

School fees are set each year by the Governing Council. If you anticipate any difficulties with payment, please consult with the school Finance Officer or the Principal.

Information about School Card and payment by instalments can be provided or accessed online.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an approaching bush fire, all students and staff will remain in the stone building of the school unless otherwise instructed to do so by the CFS.

If a Catastrophic Day is declared, the Principal at Minlaton District School will contact the Parent Team Leaders, who will in turn contact individual families about buses not running.

PLEASE NOTE: On days of CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER – NO BUSES WILL RUN. It will be parent’s responsibility to provide transport to and from the school. Please also note that in the event of no communication services being available as per the 2016 severe weather event, parents will assume that there will be no buses running the next day.

For any other emergency situation, evacuation procedures are displayed throughout the school and appropriate drills occur to strengthen these procedures.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The school has a stand-alone Grievance Procedures Policy which includes information about the Parent Complaint Unit. Please refer to the full document for more information. The Procedure for how to get help with a concern or complaint is summarised below:

STAGE 1 – Talk to the school

Classroom concern?

(start here) ___ Contact Teacher

Concern resolved?

If not, speak to the Principal

School-wide concern?

(start here) ___ Contact Principal

Concern resolved?

If not, contact the Educational Director.

STAGE 2 – Parent Complaint Unit

Parent Complaint Unit (Telephone 1800 677 435 – Freecall)

DECD.parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au

www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint

(N.B. Parents may contact the Parent Complaint Unit at any stage of the process for support and advice via the 1800 number or email above.)

HOT WEATHER

We do not have an early dismissal policy because of our shared bus transport arrangements with Minlaton District School. Air conditioning in the classrooms ensures that children have access to comfortable work places. Inclement weather policy is that students will remain indoors during break times.

LUNCHES

There is no school canteen, but our local shop can provide lunches. Bags for this purpose are available from the office. Prices may vary during the year and will be advised and updated as necessary.

We encourage parents to follow The Department's Healthy Eating Guidelines. We have a traffic light system. Monday to Thursday are set as green. Whilst Friday is a day where students may choose from the Amber and Red sections on the menu.

12:50pm-1:00pm is a supervised eating time where students sit down together to eat before playing.

MONEY SENT TO SCHOOL

If you are sending money to school PLEASE put it in an envelope with your child's name on it, the amount enclosed and what the money is for. Seal the envelope and if possible make it completely secure with sticky tape. This saves frantic searches through school bags for escaped coins.

NAMING

Please ensure **all** personal items and clothing brought to school are clearly named. This includes ALL stationery items.

Lost property will be held in the office for collection. This will be cleared out at the end of each term.

WELCOME POLICY

We always welcome help in our classrooms. Please let us know when you are able to help so that we can use your talents to the full.

Incidental visits by parents to our classrooms are also welcome, but we do appreciate advance notice to ensure staff availability. If the visit is in relation to a particular issue, experience tells us that an interview is much more effective and can be followed up by a classroom visit.

Parents/ Caregivers are asked to sign in via the Front Office when they visit the school.

The opinions of our Parent/Caregivers are important to us and each year we seek the views of families via our Parent Opinion Survey. If you have any suggestions of how we can improve the school, please contact us.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Governing Council meets on Tuesdays twice each Term and notice of meetings is always given in the newsletter. The meetings are open and you are welcome to attend. Please note however that only elected council members have voting rights. The Governing Council provides advice and represents our families.

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS 2023:

Chair: Lyndall Short
Deputy Chair: Cara Mullen
Secretary: Mel Eccles
Treasurer: Joanne Short
Kim Hoskins
Emily Leong
Craig Hickman
Louise Lang (community member)

The AGM is held at the first Governing Council meeting of the current year. Meetings generally occur in Week 2 and 8 of each term.

Volunteering Opportunities

We are always looking for people to volunteer their time at Curramulka Primary School. If in 2023 you have a few moments we are in particular looking for people to listen to reading, assist with our gardening program and help with cooking on a Friday. If you have a particular skill and a passion for working with children please make contact with the school. Grandparents are more than welcome.

** A Working with Children Check is required before volunteering at Curramulka. This can be obtained from our front office. Please note this takes some time to process.

School and Community Opportunities

Throughout the school year there are opportunities for the students to engage in community programs and events. These are a few of our school community events that require parent assistance. Any help is truly appreciated.

There are also multiple sporting and excursions that occur each term. Notes and information regarding these will be sent out at the earliest convenience. Please note these are open to change dates according to the school calendars.

Term 1

Sports Days
Beach Day

Term 3

Tree Planting Week
Science Week
Book Week
Open Day

Term 2

Grandparents Day
Digital Technology Afternoon

Term 4

End of Year Concert
Beach Day

UNIFORM

We strongly support the wearing of uniform as ratified by the school's Governing Council. The uniform requirements give students comfortable and practical items of clothing to wear. Students competing in Interschool sports, wear the school Sports Shirt provided by the school.

CURRENT SCHOOL UNIFORM (as approved by Governing Council)

GIRLS

SUMMER

School Polo shirt
Black or grey shorts

WINTER

Grey or black skivvy under Polo Shirt
School Polar Fleece Windcheater
Black or Grey Track pants or pants

BOYS

SUMMER

Black or Grey Shorts
School Polo Shirt

WINTER

Black or grey track pants or pants.
Grey or black skivvy under Polo Shirt
School Polar Fleece Windcheater

SPORTS UNIFORM

Black Basketball Shorts
Sports Shirt provided by school for special sports events e.g. Interschool

Year 6's have their own special top for their final year of primary schooling. The students help design these tops.

NB School uniform items are available to order through the school. Hats are available for purchase at school. Please contact our front office if you require an ordering form.