# SCHOOL PERFORMANCE – REPORTING: 2025

## Contextual Information about the School

Waikerie Lutheran Primary School (WLPS) is a Foundation to Year 6 primary school of 77 students in the picturesque rural town of Waikerie which is on the River Murray in the Riverland. It is located 178 km due East of Adelaide.

While it is a small school it has a huge passionate, loving and caring community. In 2025 we have four classes: Foundation/Year 1, Year 2/3, Year 4/5 and Year 5/6. We have seventeen Year 6s who will graduate from WLPS this year.

Established in 1979, WLPS has worked hard to develop a culture of care that extends to staff, students and families. We seek to share the love of Jesus with our community, and this serves as the central fabric of who we are. WLPS is one of 80 systemic Lutheran Schools across Australia, with 30 of those being in South Australia.

WLPS partners in ministry with the Waikerie Lutheran Parish – including Lutheran congregations in Waikerie, Lowbank and Ramco. We thank this Parish for their ongoing support and involvement in our school.

## Our Mission:

**Our School Mission statement:**

*Waikerie Lutheran Primary School's mission is to be a Christ-centred community that equips each student for life, fostering a nurturing environment with love, respect, and integrity.*

**Our Vision Statement:**

*To connect families with the wider community and promote their positive involvement to develop creative, curious and compassionate students who actively participate in our local and wider community*

## Our Staff

We would like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated staff who continue to care for and provide quality learning opportunities for our students. Staff members who serve WLPS this year: Geoffrey Strauss, Kimberley Waterson, Roz Buckman, Sonya Winter, Besa Kafexholi, Emily McDonald, Nikki Liebich, Samantha McCarthy, Shazz Paschke, Sharon Hackett, Jane Shug, Shirley Mudge, Melissa Schmidt, Kirsty Smith, Kara Irving, Graeme Ziegler, Pastor Julian Bayha.

Teacher Standards and Qualifications:

All teachers are on full registration. They have all satisfied the requirements of teacher registration, including child protection training, WWCC and a criminal history check.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Geoffrey Strauss | Principal | Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree<br>Graduate Diploma in Education<br>Lutheran School Teacher Accredited |
| Kimberley Waterson | Year F/1 Teacher<br>Christian Studies Coordinator | Bachelor of Education (Jnr.Prim/Prim)<br>Lutheran School Teacher Accredited |
| Roz Buckman | Year 2/3 Teacher<br>Music Teacher | Diploma of Teaching (Primary)<br>Diploma of Professional Children's Writing<br>Postgraduate diploma of Education |
| Sonya Winter | Year 2/3 Teacher | Bachelor of Education (Jnr.Prim/Prim) |
| Besa Kafexholi | Year 4/5 Teacher | Bachelor of Arts (R-7)<br>Bachelor of Education |
| Emily McDonald | Year 5/6 Teacher | Bachelor of Media<br>Masters in Education (Jnr.Prim/Prim) |
| Nikki Liebich | PE Specialist Teacher and Sports Coordinator | Bachelor of Education (Jnr.Prim/Prim) |
| Samantha McCarthy | Learning and Inclusive Leader | Bachelor of Education (Jnr.Prim/Prim) |

**Workforce Composition**

| | Number | FTE | Indigenous |
|---|---|---|---|
| Teachers | 8 | 6.0 | 0 |
| Non-Teaching | 8 | 5.3 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 11.3 | 0 |

**KEY STUDENT OUTCOMES**

## Student Attendance as at 11/12/2024

| Year Level | % of Actual attendance |
|---|---|
| Foundation | 87.4 |
| Year 1 | 88.2 |
| Year 2 | 86.8 |
| Year 3 | 89.2 |
| Year 4 | 87.5 |
| Year 5 | 88.2 |
| Year 6 | 83.8 |

## Attendance Monitoring

Although we have a high attendance rate, student absence is documented and followed up with a phone call. Records (including reasons) are maintained, and meetings are held with parents if a pattern of non-attendance emerges. This is followed by formal notifications to the regional Attendance officer.

## Student outcomes in standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing - NAPLAN

National Assessment Program 2024 Literacy and Numeracy
SCHOOL SUMMARY REPORT - WAIKERIE LUTHERAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

| Year 3 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **2023** | **2024** |
| Reading | 378 | 330 |
| Writing | 356 | 401 |
| Spelling | 390 | 375 |
| Grammar and Punctuation | 373 | 352 |
| Numeracy | 381 | 377 |

| Year 5 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **2023** | **2024** |
| Reading | 482 | 482 |
| Writing | 455 | 475 |
| Spelling | 482 | 442 |
| Grammar and Punctuation | 477 | 507 |
| Numeracy | 472 | 449 |

## Post Year 6/7: School Destinations

| | |
|---|---|
| Waikerie High School | 13 |
| Rivergum Glossop | 3 |
| Adelaide | 1 |

**Value Added Learning Programme**

WLPS continues to offer a number of additional initiatives which add value to the learning provided. These include especially our Specialist Literacy Program Playberry Laser which is structured for student success. Other programs include:

Student support structures and programmes

- Chaplain facilitated programmes such as friendship programmes, Kiddy Gym and anxiety programmes, family support and working with individual students in areas of need
- Transition programmes held with other schools / kindergartens
- Intensive Learning Support programmes including Playberry Laser
- Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum
- Structured lunchtime activities each day including craft, sport, SWELL, library, and games

Special curriculum and co-curricular activities

- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Book Week
- Premier's Be Active Challenge
- Sports days, PE week, sports clinics. Involvement in sporting events which involve students and families from other schools and towns - SAPSASA, Mid Murray Sports Day and District events
- Choir
- School Concert
- School Disco
- Camps and Excursions
- NAPLAN testing
- Buddy Visits to the Childcare Centre – workshops, story reading and games
- Casual days raising money for Sports equipment and charities
- Collecting non-perishable items for local charities: CVCO

Global connections and community outreach

- Australian Lutheran World Service awareness and offerings given to the Gifts of Grace Program
- Combined worship opportunities with supporting congregations
- Carols by Candlelight
- Choir performances within the community
- Christmas Pageant float and involvement
- Raising money for various charities including Foodbank
- Food hamper donations for families in need
- Hundreds of Meals provided by staff and families for families where additional support is needed
- School and Principal involved in local school leaders PD, including a combined Walk My Way
- Captains representing the school at formal and informal school events including Anzac Day / Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Staff continue to be involved in multi school collaborative learning partnership with other Lutheran Schools in the Barossa and Regional areas.

Student leadership opportunities

- Student Leadership Captains – three students
- Social Justice Leaders – four students
- Sport Captains – 2 students from Year 5 and 6 from each sport team are elected by the students and are given specific training, responsibilities and privileges on Sports day, Swimming Carnival, sporting lunchtime activities and our Cross-Country event
- Three Captains representing the school at formal and informal school events and Anzac Day / Remembrance Day ceremonies
- Leadership development – School Captains involved in external workshops and opportunities
- Students involved in working with teachers in lunchtime activities and initiatives

**School Income broken down by Funding Source as at June 2023.**

| Source | Amount | % of funding |
|---|---|---|
| Commonwealth Govt | $1,298,551 | 67.93% |
| State Govt | $361,132 | 18.89% |
| Student Fees | $100,727 | 5.27% |
| Other income | $132,039 | 6.91% |
| TOTAL | $1,892,449 | 100% |

**Grants for this year (over and above normal recurrent funding)**

| Source | Amount |
|---|---|
| State – Capital Grant | $111,000 |
| Chaplaincy | $13,351 |
| Sporting Schools | $6,075 |
| TOTAL | $130426 |

**Satisfaction**

WLPS continues to monitor the satisfaction levels of all stakeholders to ensure the delivery of best practice education. Feedback from parents occurs through a number of sources, some formal and some informal. It includes specific feedback to teachers on a daily basis and through parent / teacher communication sessions (information nights), diaries, communication books etc., open classroom and school policy. Formal comments are also received through feedback requests on specific events / issues, the WLPS School Council, and Class Carers.

The school encourages parents to give feedback to teachers directly and there is an 'Open Door' policy with Classroom Teachers, and Leadership staff for both parents and students to voice their concerns and suggestions. All feedback is regarded as valuable and is used to evaluate our practice.

Staff are regularly consulted and encouraged to provide feedback through formal and informal opportunities including staff meetings, interviews with Leadership staff and surveys for external evaluations.

In the past, every three years Principals were given a 360-degree review. Given that I am knew to the area I volunteered for a review halfway through Term 1. This proved invaluable to assess where progress is at with staff and students, and areas to give extra attention. This was followed up with a probationary review of which it was a unanimous decision by the board to continue with my five-year contract at WLPS. This review information gives feedback about current initiatives, curriculum, management, and satisfaction levels. This information feeds into both our Strategic Plan and Principal Development plan, and it drives leadership positions and staff Professional Development opportunities for the following year.

**Council Sub Committees**

**Education**

We have continued to focus on Assessment and analysing data to highlight student progression and weaknesses, as well as to identify curriculum coverage and programming effectiveness. We focus on PAT testing results and NAPLAN across English and Math subjects and identify trends. We have spent staff meeting time comparing longitudinal data across classes and using it to ensure that each child is progressing at their expected growth rate. We also have discussed implications for teaching and made some changes to the length of time we spend on specific curriculum aspects.

School Policies continue to be updated and reviewed. This year we have continued to roll out the CompliSpace governance, risk, compliance and policy management platforms. We have processed the initiating of online forms and audit trails for leave forms, incident and complaint forms.

This year with ongoing support from the Association of Independent Schools, South Australia (AISSA) we have been able to maintain the support for students with needs. AISSA have supported us with advice and professional support and referrals regarding the NCCD govt reporting system, ASD, Behavioural concerns and child development. Our Educational Consultant continues to work with us on compliance and curriculum initiatives.

**Ministry**

The Ministry team comprises Mrs Kim Waterson in her role as Christian Studies Co-ordinator, Mrs. Shazz Paschke as Chaplain, three student School Captains and myself as Principal. This year, worship themes have focussed on *the Fruit of the Spirit.*

Mrs. Shazz Paschke also has the role at the school of Christian Pastoral Support Worker. She works in her role running the weekly "Kiddy Gym" in the hall one day per week and works both in and with classes, with small groups and with individual students as the needs arise. Shazz also offers Breakfast Club on Mondays and Thursdays, and lunch time activities where students can interact and chat in an informal setting. These activities are very popular with our students and have included cooking, craft, ball games, construction and other activities as suggested by the students.

One vital aspect of Ministry that has been continued this year is to have School Worship services every Friday afternoon. WLPS students have the opportunity each week to participate in worship through singing in the choir, skits, puppet plays, Bible Readings and Prayers. We enjoy having congregational members join us for chapels and special events. This year, Lutheran Pastor Julian Bayha is actively involved at our school and has been attending these Chapel and worship times. We have also invited other Christian Pastors in the town to attend as it is a lovely way for our families to meet and make connections with each other. Some of our school families attend their churches /congregations so it was good to acknowledge the role they have in Christian ministry here.

The WLPS Carer Program continues again this year, which is an excellent avenue for existing families to support and nurture new families to our school and families that need our help. We have seen a lot of support from the school and wider community with meals being supplied to families in need, welcoming new families, supporting teachers or just catching up with school families. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this a unique service we are able to provide within the school.

WLPS has continued to support the Australian Lutheran World Services Organisation (ALWS) through fundraising events. We feel that this represents a wonderful opportunity of helping some less fortunate people in a significant way.

**Promotions**

The promotions include:

- Articles and advertising in local paper
- Letter drops for brochures
- Principal's Tours
- Promotional packs and brochures distributed to ELCs, kindies and Childcare Centres
- Facebook posts of school events and advertising – internal and external
- School involvement in community events including Mid Murray sports day, pageant, walkathons etc.
- Focus on improving relationships with local feeder kindy's / childcare centres
- Building relationships with our local Aged Care residents
- Student leaders representing the school at public events like ANZAC Day
- Choir performing publicly
- Public use of the stadium for community events (regular bookings for sporting, Karate, Gymnastics
- Use of the stadium for school events – School Fair, Worship/Chapel, Assemblies, School Concert, etc.
- Buddy activities between WLPS and Kindy students

**Finance:**

The finance committee is comprised of Mrs. Rebecca Evans from Rebecca Evans Consulting, Burnie, Tasmania, our LSO Finance Officer, Miss Kara Irving and myself the Principal. We meet throughout the year, particularly monitoring income & expenditure to budget. At this stage, the school is running according to budget for this year.

**Facilities**

This year we have had a concerted effort to continue keeping our grounds looking great. The playground is ready for painting and during the holidays the swings will be replaced. We look forward to improving our garden area of which we have a grant for. We shall also look into the nature play area to develop again near the staff rooms; mud kitchens and nature huts.

The SWELL area is a 'Creative Learning Space' where students can do games and activities and the rooms are set up with different areas – restaurant/shop/dress up.

We continue to enjoy our new classroom and a covered outdoor learning space as a large collaborative space. We are truly excited about this, as the buildings and furniture promote collaborative inquiry learning. These spaces are flexible and allow children to work both in groups and individually according to their learning preference and the requirements of the task.

**Grounds and Maintenance**

We are very fortunate to secure the services of Mr Graeme Ziegler who is our part time school grounds person. Graeme works four hours every morning 7-11. We continue to do busy bees to keep our grounds looking good. The nature part of our grounds is lovely.

**Conclusion**

2025 continues to be a year of re-defining who we are and what we are about. Connecting with the community and reaching out to people.

We are here to LOVE and RESPECT people and to deal with our students, staff and families with INTEGRITY. We work together as a community to support, care and learn from and with each other, with God always walking alongside us.

I would again particularly like to thank:

- our caring and dedicated staff for striving for the best learning opportunities for our students, and for their willingness to see themselves as learners and try something new
- our students for their positive attitudes and efforts to do their best
- our families for their support and encouragement
- and to our supporting congregations and the wider community for their continued support for WLPS

We thank the School Council members for their on-going time, dedication and service to our school. Many hours are spent behind the scenes in council roles to ensure our school not only operates efficiently but also to ensure it is well placed and flourishing in the years ahead.

This year our School Council members are: Philip Lawson, (Chairperson), Alison Wurst, Rebecca Paschke, Katherine Stanley, Craig Jervies, Sharry Kalsi, Geoffrey Strauss (Principal) and Rebecca Evans (Finance).

We thank God for their vision, passion, expertise and skills which they have used to develop and improve our school. We particularly thank Phil in his role as Chair for the commitment and effort he has put in and pray for him in his continuing leadership role.

We thank God for blessing us this year and know that He will continue to guide us.

Finally, we invite you to come to our school at any time. We would love to share our story and our vision with you – a vision where students come first, where learning is engaging, fun and has real life connections. A vision where growing each other is important, where we work as a team, and where God is at the centre of all we do. We pray that God will help us to continue to flourish for many more years to come.

In His service,

Geoffrey Strauss
Principal

Phillip Lawson
Council Chair