



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: August 2017

School number: 1228

School name: Felixstow Community School

School Profile:

Felixstow Community School (FCS) is a small DECD public school located in the inner north-east suburb of Felixstow.

FCS is an inclusive community where there is a collaborative responsibility to inspire, challenge and support learners to ensure positive growth and life-long learning.

VISION:

Felixstow Community School students are self-directed, socially aware learners who strive to achieve their full potential. They are creative, critical thinkers who contribute as collaborative and engaged global citizens.

MISSION:

To create a positive, flexible, and collaborative learning environment that encourages academic, social and emotional growth.

Our school values of *Respect, Responsibility* and *Compassion* underpin all teaching and learning and expectations, and are the values we expect everyone in the community to live by and demonstrate.

Our new 2017 – 2020 strategic plan has three focus areas and objectives as follows:

1. *Educational Program (Achievement for all)* - Program that enables every student to achieve to their potential in every area - academic, social, emotional
2. *Learning Environment* - Beautiful, intentionally created spaces that are supportive of and connected to learning
3. *Community* - A strong, cohesive, supportive and inclusive community

Previously known as the Rose Park Family Unit, our school originally began in 1980 with a shared aim to provide an alternative path for education within the public school system. As a result, the Family Unit became an offered program available at Rose Park Primary School (RPPS). Predominantly situated in the Old Church Building at RPPS, the Family Unit was originally founded on a set of agreed principles and beliefs which contribute to the basic philosophy of our school today.

In April 2012, the Family Unit relocated as a DECD school in its own right with the new chosen name, Felixstow Community School. The school continues to have a focus on progressive educational theories and practice and education for all.

We have a strong focus on the development of Literacy, Numeracy, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and developing general capabilities and positive learner dispositions.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Skye van Heusden
- Deputy Principal's name, if applicable: N/A
- Year of opening: Term 2, 2012
- Postal Address: 5-11 Briar Rd, Felixstow 5070
- Location Address: 5-11 Briar Rd, Felixstow 5070
- DECD Region: Eastern Adelaide
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 10km
- Telephone number: 08 8365 7183
- Fax Number: 08 8365 7192
- School website address: www.felixcs.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.1228.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes, After School Care in term time only 3:10 to 6pm.
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Reception	13	16	16	12	9
Year 1	10	9	20	13	13
Year 2	7	11	13	19	13
Year 3	13	7	10	15	21
Year 4	8	11	8	8	14
Year 5	9	7	11	6	10
Year 6	6	5	7	11	6
Year7	2	6	6	6	9
Total (Enrolment Trends)	68	72	91	90	95

NEP	5.88%	8.33%	8.79%	10.00%	18.68%
ATSI	0%	0%	0%	1%	4.2%
EALD	12%	1%	1%	0%	5.3%
School Card	NA	NA	NA	18.9%	14.7%

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

Position	Staffing Numbers	FTE / Hours
Principal	1	1.0 FTE
Teachers	4.4	1.0 FTE
SSO	3	20 hours each
SSO - Groundsperson	1	15 hrs
Finance /Administration	1	37.5

- Public transport access:

There is good public transport access via bus, which is a short walk away, or the Obahn is a 20 minute walk away. It takes approximately 20 minutes by bus to the Adelaide city centre.

- Special site arrangements:

FCS is co-located with The Briars Early Learning Centre and the DECD Eastern Regional Office. We have access to the local council owned oval during the school day.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Our enrolments are predominantly from the local north and eastern metro area. Children are from mostly English speaking families with a small percentage (approx. 5%), from a non-english speaking backgrounds. FCS is identified as a Category 7 school.

- Student well-being programs

We use restorative practices and have a strong focus on our school values of **Respect, Responsibility and Compassion.**

Our whole school approach to the development of positive learning dispositions includes developing growth mindset practices, building learning power and positive psychology frameworks.

A focus of staff training and development has been on supporting students with ASD. Outside agencies are frequently involved with the school such as Austism SA, Social Workers and Family Time.

- Student support offered
SSO support is offered to children who are on a NEP. Specialised support for those not identified with a disability is limited, however SSO's support small groupings wherever possible using additional funds within the budget.
We encourage parent support in learning. For example many parents support reading programs within classrooms.
- Student management
We follow the DECD SEE guidelines. FCS has a whole school behaviour development policy. We have a focus on using Restorative Practice to support the development of positive behaviours in students. We have a strong focus on our school values of **Respect, Responsibility and Compassion.**
- Student government
In 2017 we are reviewing our student voice programs with a focus on improving student skills in reflection and feedback on an ongoing basis and ensuring students are consulted on an ongoing basis about their learning and environment.
There is student representation on the schools Governing Council Community Projects sub-committee.
- Special programmes
We run a one day per week outdoor education and social skills program for identified students.

3. Key school policies and priorities

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
Our three site improvement priorities for 2017 are Literacy, Numeracy and Social-Emotional Learning with a focus on improved teacher pedagogies.
- Community school:
We believe student learning can be greatly enhanced by the positive participation and support of its community members. Many of our school families are directly or indirectly involved in a variety of activities that support students and the school. The school has a new focus on building links with community groups and our local community (eg local nursing home and child care centres, public library and facilities). The aim is to improve, extend and consolidate these links to make Felixstow Community School a strong central focus of community life in our local area.

4. Curriculum

- The school offers programs designed to deliver the mandated areas of study in the Australian Curriculum: English, Maths, Humanities and Social Science, The Arts, Technologies and Geography.
Specialist teachers deliver Health and Physical Education, Science and Spanish.
Information and Communication Technologies are integrated throughout the curriculum and all staff use technology to support teaching and learning and all classes have access to laptops and ipads.
- Open Access/Distance Education provision: N/A
- Special needs:
We have additional funding support as per DECD disability support for students who are verified as students with a disability with the department.
We run intervention programs for identified students in Literacy and Numeracy including: MiniLit, MultiLit, Too Smart and QuickSmart.
NEP's are developed for students with verified disabilities, in consultation with parents, to support student learning.
- Special curriculum features: N/A
- Teaching methodology:
Our classes are structured in combined year levels.
2017 Class structure:
Class 1 - Reception /Year 1
Class 2 – Year 2/3
Class 3 – Year 3/4
Class 4 – Year 5/6/7
At various times during the school week students work in 'Home Groups' which are Reception to Year 7 mixed groups. These groups work together with different teachers and staff in cooking, dance, visual arts, music and technology. We encourage parent and community contribution during specialised programs that value add to the program provided.
- Student assessment procedures and reporting
Assessment:
As per DECD requirements we undertake Running Records, PAT (Progressive Achievement testing) in Mathematics and Reading Comprehension and NAPLAN.
We also use ongoing formative assessment practices to assess learning growth and progress.
Reporting:
Term 1 – Acquaintance/open night; 3 way interviews focused on student data and goal setting
Term 2 – Written summative reports
Term 3 – Learning Expo
Term 4 – Written Summative reports

Optional 3 way and/or parent - teacher conferences can be requested at any time by teacher or parent.

We encourage ongoing communication between staff, students and families regarding student progress and goals.

- Joint programmes: N/A

5. Sporting Activities

- We run a PE specialist program, which includes a whole school Sports Day each year.
- Other sporting activities are provided through Children's University, SAPSASA opportunities such as cross-country and athletics as well as parent – led opportunities.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

The students at Felixstow Community School are able to participate in the following co-curricular activities:

- Children's University
- Chess
- Instrumental music service – strings
- Private Music instructors – guitar and piano

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
We have 4 full time class teachers and .4 NIT allocation.
- Leadership structure
The current leadership structure is one Principal.
There is no additional leadership allocation.
- Staff support systems
As a small team all staff work together in planning and management of the site.
Staff are encouraged to network with other schools in our Partnership to extend their support base. Committees and planning groups are formed as necessary.
- Performance Management:
All staff engage in a Performance Management process. There are both formal and informal Performance Management structures. The Principal undertakes classroom observations on a regular basis, providing feedback to staff.
- Access to special staff
We have Instrumental Music staff who offer a Strings program and private music instructors that offer guitar and piano.
We regularly access our Regional Support Staff (Psychology, Special Education, Social Work, Speech pathology, Behaviour coach, and attendance counsellor)

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

N/A

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The school consists of one main building and a small additional building referred to as 'The Kitchen'. The main building has had the majority of space divided up into 4 classrooms, two are more traditional classrooms with glass walls. The other two areas are more open plan with furniture such as IKEA shelving used to give a sense of space and to restrict noise carrying to other classrooms. Within this building there is also a large sunken area referred to as 'The Pit' which is an open space with desk top computers and a resource/library area with lounges for students to sit and read on. This space is often used for drama and dance as well as an area that the whole school can come together in for Piazza on a Friday afternoon. The building also contains the staff room, Principals office, administration areas, and staff and student toilets. There is a 'Learning Lab' classroom which is used to run support programs by the SSO's and a second smaller room used to run small group work and meetings.

The Kitchen is used by OSHC after school and during the day is often used for meetings, class cooking or Playgroup.

The grounds include a basketball court, large sandpit area with a water feature, swings, monkeybars, artificial lawn area, the village play area, a cubby house and a nature play area referred to as The Forest. Class kitchen gardens are currently under construction. Recent building works have included the addition of a large pergola which provides extra shade for the students.

- Heating and cooling: All rooms within the school have reverse cycle airconditioning.
- Staff facilities: All staff are provided with laptop computers for classroom use. Each teacher has their own teaching room where their lessons are taught. There is one staff room which is used both as a lunchroom and as a meeting room. Staff car parking is available on the school grounds.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities: FCS has wheelchair facilities to both buildings and disabled toilets are available.
- Access to bus transport: Public bus access is available within a 5 minute walk of the school and is used for excursions. DECD or contractor buses are able to park outside the school grounds to collect students for excursions.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

FCS has a governing council and 3 sub-committees – OSHC, Finance and Community Projects that support decision making in the school.

Parents are encouraged to contribute to these on an ongoing basis

There is a PAC to support the Principal in making decisions regarding staffing and school structures

- Regular publications:
A school newsletter is published online fortnightly, a printed copy is available at the front office, notes are communicated to parents via the School Star App as needed.
- Other communication
FCS uses SchoolStar App for communication with parents which includes 'push' notifications. Email is regularly used as a communication tool between parents and teachers. School policies, newsletters and updates are posted to the school website <http://www.felixcs.sa.edu.au>
Staff use Learn Link email and One Note to communicate weekly schedules, meeting notes and timetables.
- School financial position
The school is in a healthy financial position
- Special funding: N/A

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
FCS is located approximately 7kms from the city centre, it is close to facilities such as Payneham Swimming Centre, Marden Shopping Centre and Payneham Oval. The River Torrens is a 1km walk away from the school with large open green space, walking and bike tracks and playgrounds. The Felixstow Neighbourhood Urban Renewal Project includes a 9.3 hectare site located opposite FCS and will increase the total number of homes in the area from 100 to approximately 200.
- Parent and community involvement
Parent and community involvement is encouraged. Parents can design projects and put proposals to the Community Projects committee for approval, support in learning programs, mentoring programs, fundraising, events, excursions and other activities in negotiation with class teachers or the principal. Two parents currently run our weekly Felixstow Community Playgroup which is held on site every Tuesday morning.
- Feeder or destination schools
We do not have any specific feeder schools or kindergartens and students tend to move to a range of high school settings.

Other local care and educational facilities

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
We are within walking distance of Marden Shopping Centre
- Other local facilities
We are able to access the council owned oval at the back of the school and have easy access to Payneham Pool and Payneham Public Library.
- Availability of staff housing: N/A
- Accessibility
There is easy access to the school by public transport on Payneham Rd and O.G. Road
- Local Government body
We sit in the Norwood, Payneham and St Peter's Council area.

12. Further Comments

FCS has an enthusiastic school community who are keen to take on new challenges and support each other. We encourage all community members to be positive, active participants who take a collaborative approach to support our students to develop their individual potential and life-long learning skills and dispositions.