



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 01/07/2026

School number: 0748

School name: Leigh Creek Area School

School Profile:

Leigh Creek is situated in the Far Northern Flinders Ranges roughly 300 kilometres from Port Augusta. The Northern Flinders Ranges is rich in Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal culture, heritage, historical significance and environmental uniqueness. Leigh Creek is currently the centre of the proposed Flinders Ranges World Heritage bid with most sites within 2 hours of the township, not to mention the beautiful sites well within the close confines of Leigh Creek and surrounds.

The student population consists of students from Nepabunna, Iga Warta, Copley, Beltana, Leigh Creek and surrounding station properties. Only 38% of our students live within Leigh Creek, the others travel either by school bus or parent transport. In 2026 we have 43 students in 4 classes.

The student population includes approximately:

- 90% school card holders
- 16% students with verified disabilities
- 78% Aboriginal Students

We continue to focus on learning improvement and wellbeing with our focused areas of improvement in Wellbeing and belonging alongside developing effective learners through meaning making and connecting classroom learning to real world tasks and experiences. We continue to develop the wellbeing of students and the greater community through the Adnyamathanha Language Program and our restorative Practices and implementation of Berry Street Education Model practices. .

Teaching programs continue to focus on oral language, phonological awareness and phonics through the DfE phonics program for students in the junior primary school. Staff have recently completed training in Promoting learning development (PLD) to gauge the level of the learner in writing to know our next steps. We have also completed some training in the Learning Through Doing program to enrich our maths program and align with students developing through meaning making connections.

Our continued focus on future pathways for the senior school students has provided opportunities for students to engage in vocational education training and access learning opportunities through open access college.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Miss Meryl perks
- Year of opening: 1982
- Postal Address: PO Box 83, Leigh Creek 5731
- Location Address: Blackoak Drive, Leigh Creek 5731
- DECD Region: Far North
- Geographical location: 580 kms from GPO
- Telephone number: 08 8675 2062
- Fax Number: 08 8675 2534
- School website address: <https://www.leighcreekas.sa.edu.au/>
- School e-mail address: dl.0748.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: Preschool attached
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: None
- July 1 FTE student enrolment:

February FTE Enrolment	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Reception	0	1	4	3	2
Year 1	4	0	1	2	3
Year 2	7	4	1	1	1
Year 3	7	9	3	3	1
Year 4	5	6	6	4	3
Year 5	2	4	5	7	6
Year 6	5	2	2	8	6
Year 7	2	4	2	4	7
Year 8	3	3	4	2	3
Year 9	4	2	2	6	2
Year 10	5	2	2	1	6
Year 11	3	2	2	1	1
Year 12 (Year 12 Plus)	3	1	4	1	0
Total	50	40	39	43	41

- **Student enrolment trends**
- **Staffing numbers (as at July 1, 2026 census):**

Principal – Meryl Perks

Teachers – 6.0 FTE

Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer – 25 hours

School Services Officers – 150 hours, including 50 hours for Community Library & 10 hours for Groundskeeping

- **Public transport access:** There is no public transport. The town is serviced by a private bus service that operates to Adelaide one day a week.
The school provides buses that collect students from the Beltana township and the Nepabunna and Copley townships
- **Special site arrangements:** Nepabunna children travel 140kms per day to attend Leigh Creek Area School. Beltana children travel 80kms per day to attend Leigh Creek Area School

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

The student population consists of students from Nepabunna, Copley, Beltana, Leigh Creek and station properties. Only 28% of our students live within Leigh Creek, the others travel either by school bus or parent transport

The student population is composed of approximately 78% Aboriginal students, 16% students with verified disabilities and 90% School Card. Preschool/kindergarten services operate adjacent to the school.

- **Student well-being programs**

Positive Behaviour for Learning, Berry Street Education Model and Restorative Practices has allowed students to identify their feelings and emotions and deal with them appropriately. Weekly wellbeing lessons have been timetabled to allow time with students and homegroup teachers to build relationships

Headspace Port Augusta visit regularly and continue to work with identified students and classes. Students are able to have appointments either face to face or online

- **Student management**

The school has a Student Behaviour Management Policy that is underpinned by Positive Behaviour for Learning principles, Berry Street Education Model and Restorative Practices. A safe, stimulating and positive learning environment for all students is developed in a team

approach involving students, teachers, parents and school leaders.

3. Key School Policies

- **Site Learning Plan and other key statements or policies:**

The Schools Site Learning Plan is available on the schools website. For 2026 the school's priorities through the new strategy for public education is Wellbeing – Belonging and effective Learners – Meaning Making. A focus within this is to become a culturally nourishing school for all students.

- **Recent key outcomes:**

Key outcomes in 2025 are discussed within the school's Annual Report which can be accessed on the school's website

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**

This school offers a balanced curriculum based on the South Australian Curriculum.

Open Access Distance Education is used to increase student's options and is offered when face to face delivery is not feasible, particularly for Stage One and Two SACE students

- **Special needs:**

Individual programs are developed for students with special needs and are supported by SSOs, AEW and teachers.

- **Special curriculum features:**

Adnyamathanha Language is taught from Reception to year 12.

Teachers are encouraged to teach 'passion subjects' with their class or negotiate time so that they can use their expertise across the school.

SSO's are used for small group learning development, to ensure we are filling gaps in students learning.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

Student conferences and parent interviews occur in term 2 and written reports occur in terms 1 and 3 along with grade only reports in terms 2 and 4.

Teachers are expected to take a 'no surprises' approach to reporting and begin the year meeting with parents to hear their hopes, concerns and goals for their child. Each child has a One Child One Plan developed.

- **Joint programmes:**

Leigh Creek Area School, Marree Aboriginal School and Hawker Area School often join together for specialist events. This promotes a bigger community, and gives an opportunity for our students and community to work with other people. Some of these programs are shared swimming carnivals, sports days, STEM challenges and SAASTA.

5. Sporting Activities

- A Health and Physical Education program operates at all levels across the school. The school makes use of the community's oval and school resources to ensure a wide and diverse range of sporting activities.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- There are extensive opportunities for culturally significant camping excursions in areas around Leigh Creek. Teachers are encouraged to offer both camps and excursions throughout the year.

We have a number of dedicated staff that coordinate events such as:

- Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC and other significant Aboriginal events.
- Science and Book Weeks
- Harmony Day

Where possible the school encourages visiting performers and supports student attendance by subsidizing the costs.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

There is a blend of early career and experienced staff. We have an enthusiastic, dedicated and cooperative team.

- **Leadership structure**

Principal
Leader

- **Staff support systems**

Weekly R-12 staff meetings, with focus on the Site Learning Plan. Regular T&D meetings are sourced and developed through the LET or Learning Improvement staff. Staff grievance and harassment policies and procedures, across school workshops, observation visits, development and circulation of professional materials, professional development conferences and workshops, performance management programs, induction programs, supervision/support personnel management practices

- **Performance Management**

All staff both teaching and non-teaching are expected to take part in professional planning sessions with their line manager.

Support for coming off probation, Step 9 and moving through the AITSL proficiency standards is incorporated in performance management processes.

- **Staff utilisation policies**

All staff work as Area School Teachers – not Junior Primary, Primary or Secondary Teachers. As such no matter what their primary focus is they may be utilised in other areas of the school to provide NIT and relief time. Some

teachers are rostered on as home group teachers and as such have a classroom pastoral care responsibility in both morning and afternoons.

- **Access to special staff**

Support services and Advisory staff are based at Port Augusta and support the school with visits. These personnel also offer T&D sessions for staff.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Shorter terms**

Term 4 is shortened by 1 day to allow for travel time

- **Travelling time**

To allow for staff to attend conferences in Adelaide or other country areas and in line with OHS driving conditions staff are encouraged to try and align their T&D with weekends and will be provided with driving time to allow them to get to their destination safely.

Participation in school holiday professional learning (in line with performance plan will be paid for by the school) allows staff to claim their holiday travel on their tax.

- **Housing assistance**

Housing is subsidised by Government Employee Housing with average rentals currently costing \$140 per week

- **Additional increment allowance**

Newly appointed staff are entitled to country incentive payments.

- **Medical and dental treatment expenses**

Leigh Creek is currently serviced by the Royal Flying Doctor which provides some medical and dental treatment often gap free.

- **Locality allowances**

Paid according to the number of dependants

- **Relocation assistance**

Teachers and leaders may be eligible to receive payment for the removals process to a rural or remote area when stipulated in their contract conditions.

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

School Buildings are single level, of flexible design and established as separate Units. Facilities include an Activity Room, Junior Primary Unit, Primary Unit, Middle School/Senior school Unit, Science and Music Unit, Technology, Art, Home Economics Unit and a Library and Admin Unit. An IT suite is incorporated into one of the units, laptops are available for years 7 to 12 and iPads available to Reception to Year 6.

- **Heating and cooling**

All buildings have split system air conditioning.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

The School/Community Library has upwards of 30,000 volumes and the total increases each week. Computer suites are available for community use in the library. As the Library is a part of the Public Libraries Division, the request, research and reference facilities of almost all libraries in South Australia are also available, as well as Internet access provided to school and community members.

The school has access to a substantial range of community, cultural and sporting facilities. These include a gymnasium, football oval, theatre, squash courts, and tennis courts. All of these are provided by and managed by Outback Communities Authority.

Grassed areas provide ample play and outdoor sports teaching spaces for students.

Extensive shade areas are provided around buildings and in play areas

- **Student facilities**

The school has a canteen facility but all foods for lunches are sourced through local businesses.

- **Staff facilities**

The school has a well-kept staffroom and staff toilets. Each classroom block has ample space with staff offices. Staff have access to the latest in information technology hardware and termly ICT support visits.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

All areas of the school are accessible.

- **Access to bus transport**

The school is serviced by buses bringing students from Nepabunna, Beltana and Copley.

- **Other**

The school has a four-wheel drive vehicle that can be used for school approved activities and Professional Development for staff where travel is required

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

The Governing Council, Leadership, PAC, Staff and Sub School meetings, SRC and other committees contribute to the decision-making structure of the school.

- **Regular publications**

A school newsletter is produced termly for parents and community and a weekly bulletin is emailed to staff.

Facebook is used as another medium to communicate with parents and community

- **Other communication**

Regular communication through sms

- **School financial position**

The school has adequate funds to ensure our priorities can be resourced.
The school has recently sent its financial processes to Adelaide for quicker administration work

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Leigh Creek is situated in the Far Northern Flinders Ranges roughly 300 kilometres from Port Augusta and 600 kilometres from the CBD. The Northern Flinders Ranges is rich in Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal culture, heritage, historical significance and environmental uniqueness. Leigh Creek is currently the centre of the proposed Flinders Ranges World Heritage bid with most sites within 2 hours of the township, not to mention the beautiful sites well within the close confines of Leigh Creek and surrounds.

With an elevation of 200m, the town is set in an imposing arid landscape, enclosed on three sides by hills with views of the Flinders Ranges. Summers are hot with day time temperatures up to 48°C. Winter minimum over night temperatures can be as low as -2°C. Winter days are usually sunny with comfortable temperatures. An annual rainfall of about 215mm and annual evaporation rate of 3000 mm limits the type of vegetation that can grow in the area. Rains can come in any month but intense falls can disrupt access to roads.

- **Parent and community involvement**

Access to decision making is through the Governing Council. We encourage parent involvement in the school through membership of the School Governing Council and the Adnyamathanha Language and Culture Committee

- **Feeder or destination schools**

There are no feeder schools but our catchment area for student enrolment includes Nepabunna, Iga Warta, Beltana, Copley, Lyndhurst and some outlying stations.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

The Leigh Creek Kindergarten is located adjacent to the school. A Medical Clinic provides access to basic services. There is a local ambulance service and access to the Royal Flying Doctor in case of emergency. A doctor visits every second Monday and specialists through the Royal Flying Doctors attend roughly once a month

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

There are no regular sporting clubs but informal social sporting opportunities are sometimes arranged. Social facilities are limited. There is a Supermarket that operates 6 days a week. There are hotels and café facilities at Leigh Creek and Copley.

- **Other local facilities**
Fuel and mechanical services are available at Leigh Creek and Copley. Leigh Creek has a football oval, gym, tennis and netball courts. There is also a church (at Copley), police station, and post office.
- **Availability of staff housing**
All housing is allocated to school staff and has been designed to provide comfortable living with a relaxed lifestyle. It features carports, rainwater tanks, ducted evaporative coolers, insulation, underground electrical services, underground water reticulation and sewage.
- **Accessibility**
Staff often drive their own cars or car pool back to Adelaide which takes roughly 6-7 hours on a fully sealed bitumen road.
- **Local Government body**
The town administration is undertaken by the Outback Communities Authority. A voluntary group has formed the Leigh Creek Progress Association.