SCHOOL PROFILE

Guiding Principles:
Moe (Albert Street) Primary School has clear expectations that all students can and will learn. To meet this aim, the school is committed to developing the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes for the students to succeed in literacy, numeracy, communication, cooperation, confidence, tolerance, acceptance of others and perseverance leading to the children becoming independent and life-long learners.

The school's motto “Achieving Together” highlights the strong belief that staff, parents, students and the wider community shares a responsibility for ensuring that effective learning and teaching takes place at Albert Street Primary School.

Location and Demographics:
The school was established in 1879 and is situated in Albert Street, Moe close to the CBD of Moe. The school has a proud history of serving many generations of local families within the broader community of Moe. The school's 125th anniversary was celebrated in April 2004.

The community of Moe is situated in the Latrobe Valley which has been heavily impacted by the privatization of the power and brown coal industries in the early 1990s. The region is characterized by high unemployment, high mobility and transience of population. The school experiences many of the issues which are often associated with these factors.

Moe (Albert Street) Primary School is a school of 296 students where 53% of families are in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and a very low 2% of families have a language background other than English (LBOTE). The school caters for families from all sections of the community including professionals, trades people and small business owners to unemployed and those dependent on Centerlink benefits.

Local issues revolve around employment and community access to family support services. For the school there are wide and on-going issues with student welfare, attendance and family support. The school currently employs a full time Family Welfare Officer to support attendance and student engagement, social skills programs, parenting skills programs, counselling and linking families to community support agencies.

Enrolments have remained stable over the past three years but, like many schools in the Latrobe Valley, have significantly declined from enrolments in excess of 400 students in the mid 1990s. It is anticipated the school’s enrolment may fall below 280 students in the next three years. This declining enrolment trend will continue to impact on school staffing and resources in the future.

Personnel – Staff
The school has an extremely talented, committed and professional staff team, both in terms of teaching staff and non-teaching staff. The school also has access to excellent contract staff, from cleaners to tradespeople. The age/experience profile of the staff has started to change over the past few years after an extended period of very little personnel change. There has been opportunity to employ a number of graduate class teachers whilst retaining an extensive group of very experienced teachers. The school seeks to build a culture of performance and development which demonstrates continuous improvement. Current emphasis is in the areas of performance and development planning, implementation of the Principles of Learning and teaching (PoLT) Program and strengthening teamwork.
School Organization and Programs:
Albert Street currently operates 14 classrooms and specialist programs in Arts, Physical Education, Disability and Impairment, Library and Reading Recovery. The school strives to be a health promoting school and provides a wide exposure to a variety of other successful programs including:

- School Orchestral Instrument program (FIASCO - Fun In Albert Street Children’s Orchestra)
- Student Welfare and Management including Peer Activity Leaders
- Perceptual Motor and Occupational Therapy Programs
- Junior School Council and Student Leadership Program
- Physical and Outdoor Education programs including ‘Blue Earth Discovery Experience’, interschool sport, camps and excursions
- Life Education, Drug Education and Health and Human Relations
- Religious Education
- School Musical and our Annual Art Show
- Enrichment and support programs

Moe (Albert Street) Primary School seeks to provide an optimal learning environment that supports the development of our preferred learner profile. This will be promoted through the development of a stimulating and secure learning environment, an increased focus on optimal conditions for learning and purposeful teaching that sets high expectations for all students.

Community Interest and Participation
The school enjoys a very strong, positive reputation in the Moe and Latrobe Valley communities. This school actively seeks interaction with its local community and has developed close links with many community organisations including Moe Life Skills, Moe Development Group, Moore Street Kindergarten, Lowanna College and the education faculty of Monash University. School Council has been, and still is a productive and harmonious group with a real interest in education. The school enjoys a high level of voluntary parent and community support through a wide range of activities including parent reading, classroom helpers, canteen, breakfast program, camps and excursions, working bees, etc.

Facilities and Resources
In building terms, the school’s facilities span the era commencing in the early 1900s to current, with a range of building types. The school is currently seeking recognition of its 127 years of operation as evidence of on-going viability and grounds for establishing a larger permanent building stock. Currently 75% of classrooms are of portable 5 module construction with the remaining 25% being of high maintenance light timber construction. In spite of varied building construction types, the school community has ensured that all rooms are extremely well equipped and conducive to effective learning. All spaces are heated and air-conditioned and equipped with computers at a ratio of at least 1-5. The school is expanding its ITC capacity with the introduction of interactive whiteboards across the school. Areas of concern however include the adequacy of maintenance and development funding.

Grounds and Playspace
The grounds have well established and attractive gardens with an extensive range of active and passive play spaces for children. These include two asphalt courts, a covered sand pit, a fully drained grass oval, fitness track, four adventure playgrounds, paved courtyard and a sealed undercover area catering for a range of age groups and activities. Of some concern however is the high cost of maintenance and development.
Technological
This school has been proactive and innovative in building its ITC capacity to improve student engagement and learning. The school has a sophisticated network of computers covering all classrooms and teaching spaces. All computers are networked to access the internet. The school is currently extending the introduction of interactive whiteboards into classrooms. The school utilises many digital resources including photography, video and a wide range of educational software to support teaching and learning in all strands of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. Of some concern however is the high cost of recurrent expenses, maintenance and ongoing development.

Strategic Intent – An Overview:

- To build leadership across the school.
- To develop a culture of high expectations and actions in the Performance and Development Culture.
- To strengthen shared understandings and role clarity in relation to teaching and learning, particularly for English and Mathematics.
- To develop the school as a ‘Learning Community’.
- To strengthen teamwork across the school for students, parents and teachers.
- To develop a capacity of success for students through health, movement, physical activity and positive relationships.
- To better understand the effects of generational poverty on student learning and to translate understandings into processes and actions at all levels of school operations. For example: discipline policies, relationships with students and parents, approaches to non-attendance.
- To strengthen and continually improve purposeful teaching.