

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: December 2014

School number: 0279

School name: MOORAK PRIMARY & PRESCHOOL

1. General information

Part A

School name : MOORAK PRIMARY & PRESCHOOL
School No. : 0279 Courier : Mount Gambier
Principal : Mr Peter Mitchinson
Postal Address : PO Box 961, Mount Gambier 5290
Location Address : Yells Road, Moorak 5291
District : South East
Road distance from Mt Gambier GPO 7kms
Phone No: :08 87266261 Fax No: 08 87266225
Preschool attached : YES

February FTE Enrolment	2011	2012	2013	2014
Preschool	21	38	21	18
Primary				
Reception	14	16	12	23
Year 1	11	15	18	12
Year 2	14	10	11	17
Year 3	9	13	11	10
Year 4	10	8	11	10
Year 5	5	10	9	9
Year 6	9	6	7	8
Year 7	11	9	7	5
Secondary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
Year 8				
Year 9				
Year 10				
Year 11				
Year 12				
Year 12 plus				
TOTAL SCHOOL ENROLMENTS	83	87	86	94
July total FTE Enrolment				
Male FTE				
Female FTE				
July School Card (Persons)	15	13	17	16
NESB Total (Persons)	0	0	0	0
Born O/S & in Aust less than 1 yr (Persons)				
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	2	4	4	4

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document. "Placement Points History" in the "Admin Information" section of the "Legal and Policy Framework Library" available on the departmental CD-ROM.

Part B

- Deputy Principal's name, if applicable
No
- School e-mail address
dl.0279@schools.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers
There are 4 full time teachers, 2 part-time teachers & 1 Preschool teacher. There are 3 permanent part-time SSOs & 2 temporary part-time ancillary staff who provide class support, intervention, ICT, preschool finance and clerical support. The principal has teaching responsibilities across the school.
- Partnerships 21 status
:Entered into Round 1
- OSHC
:No
- Enrolment trends
: In recent years numbers have averaged at 80 students Reception – Year 7. The school currently has 4 primary classes and a Preschool. Recently Preschool numbers have averaged 17 enrolments / year.
Special arrangements
: Preschool and Reception class work closely together to ensure a smooth transition into the primary years of schooling. Staff work closely with others, including a small schools network for training and development and student enrichment activities.
- Year of opening
: 1912
- Public transport access
: None

2. Students (and their welfare)

- Class Structure
 - : Preschool – Monday & Tuesdays; odd weeks and Monday, Tuesday Wednesdays; even weeks.
 - Classes – Reception/Year 1, Year 1 / 2, Year 3 / 4, Year 5/ 6 / 7.
- General characteristics
 - : The school population is predominantly Anglo Saxon. English is the first / only language spoken at home.
 - The school provides an individualised and supportive learning environment for students with additional learning / physical needs, currently catering for numerous students with specific needs.
 - Staff work collaboratively and this is a very strong characteristic of our small team, providing numerous buddying activities.
 - The school values are Respect, Individuality, Growth and Community. Students are involved in many supplementary activities to highlight and build upon the school values.
 - The school is located in an idyllic rural setting only a short distance from Mount Gambier. The grounds are well maintained and offer students a variety of activities to be engaged in.
- (Pastoral) care programs
 - The school is entitled to a student counsellor one day per week.
 - The role includes assisting teachers with the implementation of programs which focus on student well being, including Keeping Safe Child Curriculum, National Safe Schools framework, Better Buddies and Bounce Back. Support is also provided to individual students.
- Support offered
 - : Specialised programs are in place for students with identified needs. There is a particular focus on literacy and numeracy and ensuring students are supported in this area. Small classes and additional SSO / adult support provide extensive support to individuals.
- Student management
 - : Behaviour Management Policy is reflective of the school values and also ties in with social programs, such as 'What's the Buzz', Program Achieve & Bounce Back which are implemented within classrooms.
- Student government
 - : Student consultation occurs in all classes. SRC is active and involved in relevant school based decision making issues and initiatives. The counsellor currently facilitates and assists the management of SRC.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Plan Priorities include
 - : Literacy – with a strong focus on the Australian curriculum & the Big 6 of Reading.
 - : Numeracy – Natural maths strategies and the Australian Curriculum has been a focus in training and development activities, staff meetings and cluster meetings. Quality teaching practice will continue to be a focus in 2015.
 - : Science – Staff are involved training & development with the Glenburnie cluster to develop their scientific skills, knowledge & understandings ensuring the delivery a quality program to students.
- Recent key outcomes
 - : The recent focus on literacy and numeracy has resulted in the review of policies in both domains. Resourcing has also been a priority, resulting in pedagogy changes and improved student outcomes.
 - The Arts becomes a focus in term 4, culminating in a whole school concert. All students are involved in this production, utilising and expanding upon a range of skills.
 - Each primary classroom has an interactive whiteboard, maximising student engagement and learning opportunities.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
 - : Reception – Year 7 Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science & History.
 - Preschool – The Early Years Framework
 - 2015 NIT offers, Phys.Ed, components of Health and The Arts curriculum.
- Open Access
 - : Japanese.
- Special needs
 - : The site is fully equipped to cater for students with physical needs. The meeting of individual learning or physical needs is catered for with additional and allocated S.S.O. hours. Specific literacy programs include Jolly Phonics, Multi-lit, use of Lexile, Flesch Kincaid and Benchmark reading levels to monitor progress and small group work. Early Intervention programs are developed for identified students, in the areas of literacy and numeracy.
- Special curriculum features
 - Whole school theatre production. Students from Preschool – Year 7 are involved in a production which links many aspects of learning and curriculum areas. Students are provided opportunities to develop skills in the Arts and utilise community resources, such as Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre.

- Teaching methodology
 - : Teachers use a constructivist approach based on the Australian Curriculum & SACSA Framework and ensuring that the individual needs of students are met.
 - : The primary staff is guided by The S.A. Teaching for Effective Learning document to implement the Australian Curriculum.
 - Preschool staff is guided by Respect, Reflect, Relate document to implement the Early Years Framework.
 - Teachers plan using the Learning Design / Backwards planning framework.

- MUSIC
 - Music / drama has been a focus over the past few years as a non contact subject and with whole school involvement in the end of year concert production.
- Assessment procedures and reporting
 - : 2 parent interviews per year –Term 1 and 3
 - Written Reports – Term 2 and 4
 - Acquaintance night
 - Learning Journeys – twice per term
 - Newsletters – school and class based.
 - Teachers and parents are encouraged to make contact at mutually agreeable times to discuss queries or concerns. Staff utilise a variety of opportunities to keep parents informed, including phone calls, diary notes, and informal discussions.
- Joint programmes
 - : Moorak is part of the Glenburnie Cluster which meets for the purpose of shared training and development. Teachers also have the opportunity to meet in Professional Learning Communities to investigate and research their teaching practices in relation to TfEL. Principals of this group meet regularly to plan teacher support activities and work collaboratively on relevant matters.

5. Sporting Activities

- : The school has its own sports day and competes in a district sports day, involving small schools surrounding Mount Gambier. Students in Years 3/4/5 are involved in school football, netball & T.Ball in out of school hours time. Students have the opportunity to try for SAPSASA Representative Status. Sports Clinics are utilised when available to extend the range and familiarity of sporting options eg. Auskick, cricket, basketball, and hockey clinics have been accessed. Swimming lessons are accessed at the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre, usually at the beginning of the year.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
 - : The annual school production is a highlight of the year, with students working towards this outcome during term 4.
 - Learning journeys are held twice per term, during which work is shared and students have extended opportunities to speak publically. Students are responsible for the organisation and running of the learning journeys which provide students, staff and parents with an opportunity to visit all classes across the school and observe the learning that has occurred.
 - An end of year celebration combines Year 7 graduation with a social event.
 - Camps are offered on a biannual basis. Year 6 / 7's combine with students from other small schools to attend a camp in Canberra. Remaining students – (R-5) are offered a whole school camp opportunity.
 - On alternative years, a school fete is held, providing students with the opportunity to be enterprising, celebrate achievements and involve the community.
 - Buddying of classes where older students work with younger students occurs regularly, highlighting a particular curriculum area or event (ie. Harmony Day) and furthers builds our school values. In 2011 the school entered the 'Buddy Bear' program (Alannah & Madeline Foundation)
 - A variety of leadership opportunities exist for students, some of these include; representing class as an SRC representative, school team sports captain, assisting younger students, running school assemblies and school captain.
- Special
 - : Activities organised within the networks, special performances, one per term and SRC organised activities.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
- There are currently 2 temporary teaching positions, the remaining positions are filled with permanent employees. The staff makeup is representative of a variety of ages. Staff are highly dedicated to the students in their care, providing high quality programs to all students.
- :Leadership structure
 - Principal.
 - : All staff takes on aspects of leadership in curriculum or other identified area.

- **Governing Council**
 - : 11 parent representatives
 - : Finance Committee
 - : Parent Club
- **Staff support systems**
 - : The school composition, processes and priorities naturally lead to a strong team ethos. Additional support is accessed through network connections and Limestone Coast Support Services.
 - Performance Management**
 - : Teachers meet with the Principal at least once a term to discuss plans for future, programming and to receive feedback. The nature and structure of the school ensures that support and feedback is continuous, with both formal and informal processes occurring. The performance plans and discussions are based on the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.
- **Staff utilisation policies**
 - : Each year utilisation depends on staffing. The enrolment distribution determines class compositions. Principal provides release time as part of their teaching responsibilities. One SSO is responsible for Finance and Administration. Remaining SSO positions support classroom work, ICT, individual students and maintain the library.
- **Access to special staff**
 - : Closeness to Mt. Gambier ensures access to a full range of specialist staff and Limestone Coast regional support personnel.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Complexity placement points**
 - : None
- **Isolation placement points**
 - : 2
- **Shorter terms**
 - : No
- **Travelling time**
 - : 10 minutes from Mt. Gambier - no public transport.
- **Housing assistance**
 - : A range of housing in Mount Gambier can be accessed with help from Government Housing.
- **Cooling for school buildings**
 - : All areas are supplied with reverse cycle air conditioning facilities.

- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
: This occurs after 7 years, conditions apply.
- Additional increment allowance
:NIL
- Designated schools benefits
:NIL
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:NIL
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:NIL
- Locality allowances
:Yes
- Relocation assistance
: After 3 years

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
: One main stone building with one classroom, a library and a staff room, a computer pod of 20 computers, along with teacher preparation areas and administration and SSO preparation areas. Five transportables make up the other classrooms, all are linked to the main building with an under cover walkway. Activity/Art Room and kitchen area provide a wonderful venue for art and craft and cooking activities – this area is also regularly utilised by the Parent Club. Grounds shed, sports shed and furniture shed. Grounds are neat and attractive with ample space for sporting activities and play. Buildings have recently been upgraded. The recent redevelopment of the toilet block, now provides under cover walkways to all main buildings.
- New Developments
: Extension of the school library has been finished as part of the BER funding, resulting in this facility doubling in size and providing a computer hub area, which houses 20 computers and a projector connected to the teacher's computer. The redevelopment also includes an additional classroom space with access to an outdoor learning area.
- Cooling/Heating: All rooms and buildings have reverse cycle air conditioning
- Student facilities
: Additional land and a new playground ensure students have ample space. Staff and students have access to a nearby hall and tennis courts. A wide range of sports equipment is available to students. A well resourced library, complete with computer pod is also readily available.

- Staff facilities
 - : Separate staff preparation/resource area. Recently upgraded classrooms and administration areas provide a pleasant working environment.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
 - : Access has been improved for disabled students with railing and ramps being added. All buildings have ramp access..
- All rooms have computers with a pod of 20 computers in the library. Classrooms also have access to ipads. All our classrooms also house Interactive Smart Boards

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
 - : Consultation and review processes in place for policies and procedures.
 - Site Learning Plan available.
 - Monthly Governing Council meetings.
 - Weekly staff meeting.
 - Staff committees exist for other areas of responsibility
- Regular publications
 - : Parent Information Booklet, weekly newsletter.
 - Staff Induction booklet. Class newsletters.
- Other communication
 - : Student learning journeys - 2 times per term.
- School financial position
 - : Sound.
- Special funding
 - : NIL

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
 - : The local Moorak community derives their income from farming and various trades or industries specific to Mount Gambier area eg. Pine industry. The Moorak township is not large (a hall, CFS unit, church, tennis court and school).
 - The community's close proximity to Mt. Gambier ensures a full range of shopping, sporting, health and entertainment facilities.

- Parent and community involvement
 - : This is high, with parents willingly contributing their skills to improve the facilities and the learning situation. Parent Club and Governing Council are very active and productive groups.
- Other local care and educational facilities
 - : A variety of day-care and pre-school situations are available, a majority of these are Mount Gambier based. Within Mount Gambier there are two public high schools, a private primary and a combined R-12 school, TAFE & University Of S.A facilities are also available.
- Playgroup
 - : Use of Preschool facilities for 0-3 year olds and parents 1 morning a week, currently Friday morning.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - : A variety of commercial, industrial and shopping facilities within Mount Gambier.
- Other local facilities
 - : A full range of health, sporting and theatre facilities. Specialists visit from Adelaide.
- Availability of staff housing
 - : Government housing provides a range of rental properties in Mt Gambier.
- Accessibility
 - Families make private arrangements.
- Local Government body
 - : District Council of Grant

12. Further Comments

- Values Statement
 - Moorak values are as follows: *Respect, *Growth, *Individuality, *Community. A program to actively live and understand these values is implemented throughout the school.
- Moorak is a pleasant rural working environment. Staff are highly motivated and caring. Parents are very supportive. Students are keen and enthusiastic to learn.