

## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2023



Government of South Australia

Department for Education

School number: 0279

School name: Moorak Primary and Preschool

### School Profile:

Moorak Primary and Preschool is located in a rural setting 5km from Mount Gambier. The student population consists of students local to the area and also those from Mount Gambier who choose to access a small school environment. Moorak is a part of the Blue Lake Partnership of schools and preschools, across the Mount Gambier area. We cater for a steady student population, ranging between 90 and 120 students in the school and 20-30 children in the Preschool. Moorak Primary is committed to the development of a challenging curriculum with an emphasis on thinking skills, positive learner dispositions and a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. Specialist learning areas for all students include Japanese, Science, the Arts and Technology. Optional interest areas include Instrumental Music Service, YELP, Lego League and after school sports.

Moorak Primary and Preschool prides itself on knowing and respecting each student and family. Relationships are developed through curriculum activities and celebrations, including whole-school assemblies, camps and school concerts, as well as participating in the annual district sports days. Opportunities are available for students to work with different ages and interest groups through our Reading Mentor Program. Students are encouraged to have a voice through an active Student Council and Student Leadership Team.

The school has proactive support and participation from the school community. We have strong participation in our Governing Council and Parent Club.

Moorak Primary and Preschool continues to place student learning and the individual student at the centre of all that we do. A committed and highly professional team of staff deliver high quality learning programs. The support of parents through Governing Council, Parent Club or volunteering within the classroom programs continues to be a highlight.

At Moorak Primary and Preschool we are committed to providing:

- a balanced and relevant curriculum, promoting life long learning
- a safe and caring learning environment
- learning opportunities that cater for individual needs
- opportunities for community involvement

Our values are:

### **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION, PERSISTENCE, RESILIENCE**

- We respect ourselves, others and the environment around us.
- We take responsibility for our actions, learning and behaviour.
- We are honest and demonstrate a considered sense of fairness.
- We cooperate and work collaboratively, leading or following as the situation demands.
- We remain focused and look for ways to reach our goals. **NEVER** giving up!
- We manage and learn from difficulties and mistakes, bouncing back and being self-reliant.

## 1. General information

- School Principal name: Emma Hayward (acting)
- Deputy Principal's name, if applicable: NA
- Year of opening: 1912
- Postal Address: PO Box 961, Mount Gambier 5290
- Location Address: 171 Yells road, Moorak, 5291
- DECD Region: Limestone Coast
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 7kms
- Telephone number: 08 8726 6261
- Fax Number: 08 8726 6225
- School website address: <https://web.moorakps.sa.edu.au/>
- School e-mail address: [dl.0279.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0279.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: Yes
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Preschool	25	21	14	16	20
Reception	22	24	17	15	14
Year 1	14	22	8	12	14
Year 2	10	16	20	16	13
Year 3	13	11	18	18	15
Year 4	12	11	12	12	17
Year 5	13	11	8	8	10
Year 6	13	12	10	8	11
Year 7	17	11	11		
Total	139	139	118	105	114
% school card	30%	27%	17.5%	23%	29%
% ATSI	6%	7%	9%	9%	10%
% disabilities	8%	6%	4%	3%	4%

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Since Year 7's moved to high school in 2022, Moorak's school numbers dropped significantly. They have steadied and range between 90-100 students at current. With the enrolments increasing in the preschool (with the addition of mid-year intake in 2023) it is predicted that school enrolments will follow suit.

- **Staffing numbers (as at February census):**

There are 5 full time teachers, 1 Preschool teacher. This also includes a 0.1 provision for an Autism Inclusion Teacher and 0.2 provision for an Aboriginal Education Teacher. There is 1 permanent full-time SSO undertaking the administration and finance position. There are 2 permanent part-time SSO's and 5 temporary part-time ancillary staff who undertake learning and inclusion support. There is 1 permanent part-time SSO undertaking an IT support position. The principal has responsibility across the school.

- Public transport access: None
- Special site arrangements: NA
- Part of the Small Schools Learning Improvement Cluster (SSLIC) with 7 other small schools around Mount Gambier which involves staff in working collaboratively throughout the year on various inquiry projects and professional development.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **Class Structure:**

Preschool - Monday and Tuesdays - odd weeks. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays - even weeks

Classes – We have 4 classes made up as follows:

Reception, Year 1/2, Year 3/4, Year 4/5/6

- **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, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION, PERSISTENCE and RESILIENCE**. 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.

- **Student wellbeing programs**

The school offers numerous wellbeing programs including (but not limited to) Zones of Regulation, What's the Buzz and the Child Protection Curriculum. Teachers are all trained in the Berry Street Education Model, supporting trauma informed practice.

- **Student support offered**

Specialised programs are in place for students with identified needs. There is a particular focus on literacy and numeracy intervention and ensuring students are supported in this area. Some of these programs include MiniLit and QuickSmart.

- **Student management**

Behaviour Management Policy is reflective of the school values and is supported by staff's training in the above wellbeing programs.

- **Student government**

Student consultation occurs in all classes. SRC is active and involved in relevant school based decision making issues and initiatives. The specialist teacher currently facilitates and manages the SRC. We have an active student leadership program in our Year 4/5/6 class that drives various activities throughout the year.

## 3. Key School Policies

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

Site priorities are:

To increase the number of students at SEA or above and to increase the number of students in the higher bands in numeracy.

- **Recent key outcomes:**

Individual student data is collected from school based standardised tests in the areas of reading, spelling and maths.

In school based assessments the data shows that growth has been made across all three areas.

2022's Progressive Achievement Test data demonstrated growth in reading across years 3-6, however not in mathematics. This has informed our 2023 focus on Numeracy.

#### 4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**

Reception – Year 6: Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Health & P.E.

Preschool – The Early Years Framework and the Indicators of Preschool Numeracy and Literacy.

2023 Specialist lessons include: The Arts and History & Social Sciences (HASS).

- **Open Access/Distance Education provision:**

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 SSO hours. Specific literacy programs include MiniLit, InitialLit and QuickSmart. Student progress is monitored and early Intervention programs are developed for identified students.

- **Special curriculum features:**

Students from Preschool – Year 6 are involved in a concert 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 the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre.

- **Teaching methodology:**

Teachers use a variety of approaches based around the Australian Curriculum and ensure that the individual needs of students are met.

The primary staff are guided by the TfEL document to implement the Australian Curriculum.

Preschool staff are guided by Respect, Reflect, and Relate document to implement the Early Years Framework.

Teachers plan using Learning Design guided by the TfEL document.

The Middle and Upper Primary staff make use of Google Classroom to support student learning and the Junior Primary and Preschool staff make use of the Seesaw platform.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

The school endeavours to provide parents/caregivers, staff and students with an ongoing record of what students know, can do and understand. As a school staff we are committed to

- Reporting to parents/caregivers on their child's progress and achievements throughout the year.
- Providing accurate assessments with relevant feedback.
- Encouraging open communication between teacher/parent, and parent/teacher.

Reporting includes written reports (Term 2 and Term 4), parent teacher interviews, acquaintance night, assemblies (twice per term) and fortnightly newsletters.

Teachers and parents are encouraged to make contact at mutually agreeable times to discuss queries or concerns.

- **Joint programmes:**

Moorak is part of the Small School Learning Improvement 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 through the use of teaching sprints. 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 the small schools surrounding Mount Gambier. 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 Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre, usually at the beginning of the year.

#### 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

The annual school concert is a highlight of the year, with students working towards this outcome during Terms 3 and 4.

Assemblies 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 assemblies which provide

students, staff and parents with an opportunity to see all classes across the school and observe the learning that has occurred.

An end of year celebration combines the Year 6 graduation with a social event.

Year 6s combine with students from other small schools to attend a camp in Adelaide. Years 2-5 students are offered a school camp opportunity on a bi-annual basis.

As part of the Reading Mentor program, younger and older students are buddied and meet regularly (twice per week) to read together.

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 captains.

## **7. Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile:**

Staff changes over the last few years have seen some changes but should be quite stable into the future as there are currently only 2 temporary teaching positions, the remaining 5 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 (1.0)

Preschool Lead Teacher (1.0)

Aboriginal Education Teacher (0.2)

Autism Inclusion Teacher (0.2)

All staff take on aspects of leading in curriculum or other identified staff support systems. These staff ensure action plans are in place for their designated area and meet regularly with the site leader to implement this plan. Additionally, we work collaboratively as a whole site to form our site improvement team which monitors all school improvement.

The school composition, processes and priorities naturally lead to a strong team ethos. The Principal and Site Improvement Team facilitate and support the professional development of staff.

- **Performance Management:**

Teachers meet with leadership 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 current site priorities.

- **Staff utilisation policies:**

Each year utilisation depends on staffing. The enrolment distribution determines class compositions. One SSO is responsible for finance and statistics. Remaining SSO positions support classroom work, ICT, individual students and maintain the library.

- **Access to special staff:**

Our closeness to Mount Gambier ensures access to a full range of specialist staff and regional support personnel.

An IMS teacher attends each week to work with students from Years 4-6.

## **8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

- **Complexity placement points**

None

- **Isolation placement points**

2

- **Shorter terms**

No

- **Travelling time**

10 minutes drive from Mount Gambier. No public transport

- **Housing assistance**

A range of housing in Mount Gambier can be accessed with help from Government Housing.

- **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 23 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. An outdoor classroom area comes off 3 of the classrooms. An 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.

- **New Developments**

Our new purpose built preschool building and outdoor environment were completed in 2022. The new facilities allow for increasing enrolments in our preschool as the surrounding population increases. The preschool also facilitates a weekly playgroup where families from the local and wider communities attend.

- **Heating and cooling**

All rooms and buildings have reverse cycle air conditioning.

- **Student facilities**

Students have ample outdoor space including a large oval and playground. 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 administration area provides a pleasant working environment.

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

Access is provided for disabled students with railings and ramps being added providing access to all classrooms and admin building.

## 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

Consultation and review processes in place for policies and procedures.

Site improvement plan available.

- Twice termly 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.

- **School financial position**

Good

- **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, 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 outcomes. Parent Club and Governing Council are active and productive groups.

- **Feeder or destination schools**

Most of our students enter school from our site-based preschool. Upon graduation, most Year 6's go to Mount Gambier High School or Grant High School. Some attend Tenison Woods College.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

A variety of childcare, preschool and primary situations are available, with the majority of these being Mount Gambier based. Within Mount Gambier there are two public high schools and two private schools. TAFE and University facilities are also available.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

A variety of commercial, industrial and shopping facilities exist within Mount Gambier area.

- **Other local facilities**

A full range of health, sporting and theatre facilities exist in Mount Gambier area. Specialists visit from Adelaide.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Government housing provides a range of rental properties in Mt Gambier.

- **Accessibility**

Daily bus and air services to Adelaide and Melbourne. Public bus transport available around Mount Gambier but not in Moorak.

- **Local Government body**

District Council of Grant