

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 10/21

**School Name: Mulga Street Primary School**

**School Number: 1650**



School name : MULGA STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 School No. : 1650 Courier : R26/14  
 Principal : Mrs Mardi McClintock  
 Postal Address : Mulga Street, Mount Gambier  
 5290 Location Address: Mulga Street, Mount Gambier  
 5290 District : South East  
 Distance from GPO : 460 kms Phone No. : 08 87259955  
 CPC attached : YES Fax No. : 08 87250080

February FTE Enrolment		2020	2021	2022
Primary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.			
	Reception	49.0	26.0	21.0
	Year 1	41.0	48.0	24.0
	Year 2	43.0	35.0	46.0
	Year 3	37.0	43.0	29.0
	Year 4	45.0	31.0	38.0
	Year 5	40.0	39.0	26.0
	Year 6	46.0	40.0	35.0
	Year 7	44.0	48.0	00.0
TOTAL		345.0	310.0	221.0
School Card Approvals (Persons)		145.0	127.0	
NESB Total (Persons)				
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		19.0	21.0	16.0

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.

**School Web Page**

[www.mulgaps.sa.edu.au](http://www.mulgaps.sa.edu.au)

**Address**

[dl.1650.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.1650.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

Staffing numbers

Tier 1 17.8 FTE (including Pre School Staff)

There are 13 School Service Officers on our site.

There is a 0.8 Well Being Leader salary.

Specialist subjects include French which is taught is from Foundation to Year 6 and is supported by a 0.8 LOTE teacher, Physical Education 0.8 which is taught Foundation to Year 6 and is supported by a teacher, Arts which is taught Foundation to Year 6 and is supported by a 0.6 teacher.

There is strong leadership in English and Well Being with all having successfully running PLC'S.

**Out Of School Hours Care**

Out of Hours Care provided by a neighbourhood school (children delivered daily by taxi)

**Enrolment Trends**

Enrolment have declined over the last 4 years. As we move towards 2022 and year 7 transitioning to high school we expect the decline to continue. New land sections continue to be opened for future housing allotments and we are hopeful that the enrolments will increase.

**Year of opening**

Mulga Street Primary School opened in 1983. It is an onsite preschool-Yr6 campus with the Mount Gambier Children's Centre on site, which serves the North West sector of Mount Gambier. It is a growing residential area, approximately 7 km from the city centre. It is served by the City bus service and school buses.

**Public transport access**

Mount Gambier, has a population of approximately 24,000, is 460 km from Adelaide GPO, served by daily bus services and a commuter air service to both Adelaide and Melbourne. By car it is approximately five hours from either city.

# Students (and their welfare)

## General characteristics

School Card – approximately 42%

Aboriginal students – approximately 7.2%

Children with special needs – 12%

The February 2022 enrolment started on 221. The Children's Centre started with 34 enrolments in 2022.

## Support offered

A supportive learning environment is provided for students through an emphasis on positive student and staff relationships, a meaningful education programme which meets the individual needs and the provision of comprehensive student support services, both internal and external.

## Student management

All classes have developed their codes of conduct to ensure consistency and fairness throughout the school with a focus on our core school values of "Safety, Trust and Respect". Our vision for all children is to be supported to learn in a safe, supportive environment. Programs exist to support students who are having difficulty and these are often formulated in conjunction with Special Educators and other agencies such as SASVI or Autism SA. Intervention Programs such as "Mini Lit and QuickSmart Maths" are run by trained Student Support Officers and are overseen by the Deputy Principal.

## Student Voice at Mulga Street

Each year four student leaders are selected from the Year 6 students.

One or two Principal Representatives and an Indigenous Representative are also selected as part of the Student Executive.

The Captains and Vice Captains play a vital role in leadership in the Student Council and also form the Student Executive.

Each Primary class nominates a representative to attend the Student Council. The Wellbeing Leader coordinates the Student Council and the Student Executive.

Class meetings are an integral part of Student Voice and underpin the success of the student council. All classes are expected to hold a class meeting once a fortnight, on the alternate week to the Student Executive and Student Council meetings. In this way all students are given the opportunity for their voice to be heard whether it be in class meetings or by representation at the Student Council/Executive meetings.

## Behaviour Management

An emphasis on positive behaviours and positive relationships has been a clear focus. The majority of students behave in a responsible manner with learning, not disruptions as their focus. A preventative and known developmental approach to behaviour management is in place as reflected by the Regulation and Engagement Policy. Procedures for managing harassment and counselling students are in place.

A student Wellbeing Leader supports the National Safe Schools

## Framework 2010

An ACEO is employed to support the community connections of our Aboriginal students. We have an Aboriginal Education Teacher support for the site who is released to work collaboratively with the ACEO.

The wearing of school uniform is supported by a Dress Code Policy and a SunSmart Policy which means hats are worn in Terms 1, 2 and 4.

Buddy classes are established at the beginning of the year when an older year level class and younger year level class are paired together for activities and social interaction.

## Staff Support Systems

Grievance Policies are in place and Staff are made aware of support personnel both within and outside the school. eg Personnel Counselling Services, Harassment contact persons. Our team structures and the School's Performance Management program also support staff. Ancillary Staff meet regularly and classroom based SSO's are involved in planning of student learning programs with the class teacher.

The School's management structures include teams which includes a representative from each of the groups across the site, Junior Primary, Middle Primary, Upper Primary and Specialist Teachers. This combined group meets three times per term to discuss issues and concerns and to share information about current events in the school. Representatives consult with their Team members in regard to issues and concerns and relay information to their groups.

Staff report directly to the Governing Council and are required to contribute as a member of their team at least twice a year. The PAC meets with the Principal at least twice a term and the WHS representative provides advocacy for staff. The WHS Committee meets at least twice a term.

A comprehensive professional development budget is provided for staff and funded through project funds and targeted school resources which is linked to our Site Improvement Plan.

Whole site decisions are made at staff meetings often with consultation through Teams. All staff are required to contribute to the site by committing to a specialist learning area or special events planning and implementation such as School Concert Committee, French Day Committee, Book Week Committee etc.

## Teaching Methodology

The architecture of the School allows in many areas, for both traditional and team teaching approaches. Collaboration within teacher teams is promoted to enable planning, moderation and implementation of the Curriculum.

With a continued Site Improvement focus in literacy from 2022 across the site, all staff will be working in teams to implement best practice methodologies in a targeted teaching and learning cycle and gather evidence of their impact. Initialit is mandated in F-2/3 classes.

Consistency across year levels and continuity of the Curriculum (Pre-School – Yr 6) continues to be a priority in reference to the Australian Curriculum.

## Key School Policies

Our School Values are:

RESPECT  
SAFETY  
TRUST

Current Priorities

- English – Literacy

## **What we Teach**

Our school provides a high quality educational program for all students. Students engage in a broad and balanced curriculum that covers:

### **English and Mathematics**

Strong literacy and numeracy skills are vital for student success in other areas of study, forming the basis of the curriculum. We are committed to ensuring students reach the highest standards in these areas and we support students in a range of ways to achieve at their highest possible level. We have introduced Initialit, Bookmaking and the writing of explicit texts types across the site. Targeted intervention programs include Mini Lit, Heggerty, Maqlit and Quick Smart Maths.

### **Design and Technology**

Technology is a very important part of the curriculum; students have access to 115 Windows devices both mobile (wireless) and hard wired. Devices are connected to a high speed, reliable, secure network and the internet. Students begin learning mouse skills, internet browsing and producing word documents during their first term in Foundation year. Students are issued with unique individual log on ids in Year 3. By Year 6, students are prepared for high school with a set of ICT ready skills including file management, safe and productive internet browsing, send and receive email, printing, saving data and presenting work digitally.

### **Health and Physical Education**

All students access a specialist HPE teacher. We have a hall with markings for several court games and practice boards for basketball/netball. The facility enables us to have both indoor and outdoor programs all year. Swimming lessons are included in the Physical Education program for all children and the Yr 6 Students participate in Aquatic activities during their camp in Term 1.

### **The Arts**

The Arts are represented in the daily program at Mulga Street. There is a well-equipped Performing Arts Hub with a piano and a variety of musical instruments and costumes for performances. All classes showcase aspects of the arts and other curriculum areas at assemblies throughout the year.

Students in Years 5-6 have the opportunity to be involved in the school choir, with performances in Adelaide at the Festival of Music and locally at the South East Primary Schools' Music Festival.

Our school concert is held annually. This is a night of celebration for the whole school community and we celebrate the success of our choir as they are invited to perform.

Instrumental music is offered in Strings, Brass and Woodwind from Year 4/5 from specialist teachers once a week. All students in Middle Primary

have a term learning the recorder.

### **Humanities and Social Sciences**

This includes studies of history, geography, civics and citizenship, economics and business and is known as HASS.

The humanities and social sciences provide an understanding of the world in which we live, and how people can participate as active and informed citizens with high level skills needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **National Safe School Framework**

The leadership team work with staff, students and their families to support a safe, caring, orderly and productive school community especially in the development of responsible actions and responses.

Each class develops their class learning plan and within that are agreed behaviour codes developed in partnership between students and staff. These are highlighted on Acquaintance night in Term 1 in the “Class Learning Plan” which outlines key concepts and agreed behaviours for a successful, safe, supportive classroom.

Staff critically reflect on practices and develop the knowledge and skills needed to manage response change successfully.

Quality Start is a productive start to the year in providing opportunities for students to develop decision-making skills which enable them to recognize that their responses are their choice and that different responses result in different consequences. We will strive to create within the safe orderly and productive learning in classrooms the right of all students to learn and all teachers to teach. In order to support and protect these rights, school staff will manage aspects of the school environment, including sexual and racial harassment and bullying, so that students learn to respect rights and fulfil responsibilities.

With the implementation of a Wellbeing Dog at Mulga Street Primary School we are being guided by research to improve the wellbeing of the whole school community

## **Sustainable Practices**

### **Energy**

Solar panels have been installed on Unit 3 and the Learning Centre The panels help cut the school’s energy costs and also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Water**

Good practice, commonsense water use is encouraged at all times. Security taps, (taps you need a key to turn on) have been replaced to ensure there is not indiscriminate use of outside watering areas these have significant water savings.

### **Landcare**

We are fortunate to have a well-established Landcare Yard. The facilities enable students to plant and grow produce for use in our canteen and it has been set up to cater for chickens. Compost from the classrooms help the soil remain fertile.

## **Curriculum**

## **Specialist Subject Offers**

Specialist Teachers in 2022:

- Language Other Than English, French, Foundation – Yr6
- Physical Education, Foundation – Yr 6
- Music, Foundation – Yr 6

## **Extra Curricula Activities and Resources**

Special Activities at the school includes Sports Day, Book Week, French Culture Day, Reconciliation Week, after school sport and SAPSASA involvement.

Information Technology/Computing, our computer room has 30 desktops PCs, plus we manage 115 mobile devices to support the implementation of an ICT skills continuum (Foundation – Yr6 ).

### **Information Technology/Computing.**

Mulga Street staff and students connect to the Internet and Network using 145 devices, a combination of mobile and hardwired on the Admin and Curriculum networks. High speed internet provides a reliable connection to the Internet to support Classroom learning and access in the Computer Room.

Foundation students begin an introduction to ICT skills in their first term at Mulga Street. We prepare students for high school by establishing ICT skills including File Management, Printing, Information Sharing, Safe and productive Internet research and browsing using Windows Desktop and Notebooks.

### **Speech Program**

Students with identified Speech needs are supported through the implementation of a Speech program provided by DFE Speech Pathologists.

## **Performance Management**

All Staff, negotiate their Performance Development Plan by the end of Term 1. Focus is placed on performance development in relation to school priorities and their own individual personal direction.

“Prochats” are conducted twice a year using the PDP as a basis for professional dialogue. The Performance Management Plan for SSO staff is a continuous process.

## **Sporting Activities**

The school caters for most sports and parents are able to be involved in coaching and managing teams. The school is an affiliate member of SAPSASA.

Out of Hours Sports program is promoted and supports Netball, Football, Cricket, Basketball and Tee-Ball teams. The ethos of these teams is to promote participation and self-development. The school participates in swimming, athletics and other sporting carnivals with SAPSASA to provide students with a variety of experiences. Foundation -5 swimming classes are undertaken annually and year 6 students attend aquatics sessions at the Murraylands Campsite in Murray Bridge.

## **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

## **Special**

Activities include Book Week, Student Discos, one visiting performance per term, special days organised by The Student Council eg. Bad Hair Day, a Year 6 Graduation, school concert, Move it, Choir, French Day and Book Week.

## **School Facilities**

### **Building and Grounds**

Mulga Street School's facilities are, well kept, with ongoing improvement being identified and actioned within budget constraints. The Resource Centre is well resourced and has implemented the AMLIB management system. There is an assembly hall, art room and small withdrawal and teacher preparation rooms. A Canteen services the school each day.

The School Council and Parent Club are active in upgrading and improving the grounds, playground and resources.

The Children's Centre currently provides nine sessions per week for approximately 44 children.

### **Student facilities**

Two ovals, Junior Primary/Primary Playground equipment, 2 Hard court play spaces, Canteen.

### **Staff facilities**

Staff Lounge and Meeting room, Shower, access to Internet, e-mail.

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

Wheelchair access to all areas of the school.

## **School Operations**

### **Decision making structures**

Decision making policy and grievance procedures are inclusive and representative of all groups within the school community.

Parents are actively involved in school life and decision making. Parents are also encouraged to assist in classrooms, helping with camps, excursions and electives and volunteering for canteen duty.

Most decision making and action planning occurs through sub-committees with membership drawn from the wider school community. The School Council's Finance, Grounds and Buildings, and Canteen sub-committees are particularly active.

The other parent group is the School Parent Club. The Parent Participation Policy involves parents in decision making in appropriate areas at every level of the school's activities and management. Their views are canvassed through newsletters, sub-committees, class meetings, School Council and Parent Club.

School Council has adopted a compulsory school uniform policy, encouraging all students to wear uniform and further promote the school's identity. The wearing of hats is mandatory in terms 1,2 and 4.

The Governing Council meets twice a term and makes recommendations to the Principal and/or makes decisions relating to the operation of the school.



There are weekly staff meeting on Tuesdays which focus on an area of professional development or “Teams” time. Individual staff members chair, take minutes and/or lead the area for discussion.

### **Regular publications**

A school newsletter is published on a fortnightly basis providing both curriculum and organisational information. Staff have access to a digital policy/school information folder, which is updated annually. A range of curriculum support materials published by the school are available to staff.

A variety of communication methods are used including:

- an electronic day book and file sharing platform, that is available via 0.365 from site and home.
- Class/home Communication books
- Class newsletters
- Staff and parent information packs
- TRT's are provided with an information pack
- School Facebook page, updated with latest school information
- School Stream
- Seesaw

### **School financial position**

The school operates a consolidated account - budgets support Pre School - Yr 6 activities. Major commitments are to Information Technology/ Computing, Intervention and Support.

## **Local Community**

### **Feeder Schools**

Almost all of the students in Foundation come directly from our Pre School. The Year 6 students generally move onto the local High School – Mount Gambier High School.

### **General characteristics**

The district depends heavily upon agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries. The parent population of the school reflect this, the service and retail industries and professions which support primary production.

### **Parent and community involvement**

Parent involvement comprises of a small but dedicated group who make up our Parent Club. An informed and active Governing Council operates and Council Sub-Committees are also active and have high levels of decision making power. Parents are actively encouraged to participate in classrooms. Parents are encouraged to attend assemblies and participate in community events. Each year staff arranges Acquaintance Night early in Term 1.

### **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Mount Gambier is well served by a large shopping centre and numerous smaller regional shopping centres. Its sporting facilities are very highly regarded and outstanding for a city of its size. Cultural activities are catered for by visiting performers, exhibitions and some local groups. Most religious denominations are well catered for.

### **Availability of staff housing**

There is an office for Government Housing based in Mount Gambier

providing Officer of Government Employee Housing.

### **Other local facilities**

Mount Gambier is a well known tourist centre. A number of medical clinics, a new public and private hospital, cinemas, theatre and library are amongst the facilities available.

### **Accessibility**

Mount Gambier is easily accessible from major cities, with daily bus and air services available.

### **Local Government body**

The local council is The City of Mount Gambier Council. Their offices are located at the Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, Phone (08) 87212555. Information about Mount Gambier and District is also available from "The Lady Nelson" Tourist/Interpretive Centre, Jubilee Highway (East). Phone 87249750.

## **Further Comments**

Mulga Street Primary School is set in attractive grounds with extensive lawn and oval areas. There is a shared whole school community pride and commitment to the school. The Staff is caring, supportive professional dedicated and committed to improving the life chances of every child. Students are positive, cooperative and proud of their school.

“I certify that this is a true and accurate statement.”

Mardi McClintock  
Principal 02/03/2022