



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: May 2018

School number:

0253

School name: Melrose Primary School

School Profile:

Respect ~ Honesty ` Responsibility ~ Excellence ~ Learning

Vision

Melrose Primary School is all about our children. We create and uphold a nurturing environment for our children, families, teachers, volunteers, and the wider community. We are a small rural school of educators and learners who strive for excellence in education, and are innovative and collaborative in our approach. We aim to maintain a sense of belonging for all our children encouraging them to reach their full potential.

School Values

Respect, Learning, Honesty, Responsibility, Excellence

Keys to Success:

Getting Along
Confidence
Organisation
Persistence

Melrose Primary School is a small school with 25 students in 2018 from R–6. Students are generally from farming or rural backgrounds with a stable school population.

The school population is divided between two full time classes, Reception – Year 2 (13 students) and Years 3 – 6 (12 students). Numbers are remaining relatively stable to 2020.

Melrose is located 23 kilometres south of Wilmington and 21 kilometres west of Booleroo Centre where students attend the local government high school.

Reception students have generally attended preschool in Wilmington or Booleroo Centre.

Melrose Primary School is part of the Flinders Partnership, joining with the following sites: Peterborough High School, Peterborough Primary School and Yunta Campus, Peterborough Community Preschool, Orroroo Area School, Wilmington Primary School, Booleroo Centre District School and Booleroo Centre District Kindergarten.

As schools and pre-schools the partnership is working together to improve learning outcomes for all students across our region.

The school curriculum at Melrose Primary School covers the 8 learning areas of the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics, English, Science, HASS, Health and Physical Education, Languages Other Than English (Japanese), The Arts and Design and Digital Technologies.

Parent support is a strong feature, with most families represented through membership on Governing Council. All families provide support to the school, staff and students in some way.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Murray Koster
- Year of opening: 1876
- Postal Address: 23 Stuart Street, Melrose, SA, 5483
- Location Address: As above
- DECD Region: Flinders Partnership, Port Augusta2
- Geographical location: 274 km north from GPO
- Telephone number: (08) 8666 2154
- Fax Number: (08) 8666 2001
- School website address: <http://www.melroseps.sa.edu.au/>
- School e-mail address: dl.0253.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Melrose Rural Care attached to school (administered by Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten)
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: at Melrose Rural Care (administered by Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten)
- February FTE student enrolment:

Year Level	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Reception	8	2	4	3	4	5
Year 1	7	6	2	4	4	4
Year 2	3	5	5	2	4	4
Year 3	2	2	5	3	3	4
Year 4	3	1	2	5	2	3
Year 5	4	2	1	1	5	2
Year 6	4	3	2	1	3	4
Year 7	2	4	2	2	0	0
Total	33	25	23	21	25	26

Student enrolment trends: Enrolments have declined since 2013, but remain steady. It is anticipated numbers will remain in the mid 20s until 2020.

School Card percentage 2017 – 35%

Non-English Speaking Background enrolment – Nil (2018)

ATSI student enrolment – Nil (2018)

Staffing numbers (as at February 2018 census):

Principal Band A-2	1.0FTE
Teachers	1.6 FTE
SSO 2	3 positions
	28 hours Administration and Finance
	18 hours Classroom Support and Library
	3 hours Playcentre Leader
ICT Support	5 hours per fortnight

Groundsperson (GSE) as required

Public transport access: No

The school is serviced by one DECD yellow school bus – the Wilmington secondary students’ bus to Booleroo Centre District School via Melrose catering for students to the north of Melrose.

Special site arrangements

Melrose Primary School is an integral part of the Melrose Community, which also includes Melrose Rural Care and the Melrose Playcentre. Melrose Primary School also works closely with other local schools as part of the Flinders Partnership.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

Approximately 50% of the students live on farms in the surrounding district while the remainder of students live in the township of Melrose.

Student well-being programs

Student Wellbeing, positive staff/student relationships and increasing the levels of student engagement for learning is a school wide focus. Emphasis is on a positive and supportive learning environment. Play is the Way is an important program run by the school.

The School’s Behaviour Guidelines and Complaint Resolution Process are reviewed annually. The Anti-Bullying Policy has been updated in early 2018 as part of the Safe Schools Framework. The Keeping Safe Curriculum forms the basis of the Social Emotional Learning program at Melrose Primary School.

Student support offered

Class teachers and support staff have a strong pastoral support role and are expected to contribute to caring for all students. The student leaders have a role in supporting students through the Grievance Procedure process.

Student management

The School's Behaviour Guidelines and Complaint Resolution Process are reviewed annually. The Anti-Bullying Policy has been implemented as part of the Safe Schools Framework.

Student government

Students are encouraged to participate in decision making through class meetings and meeting with the school's student leaders. We do not have an election of student leaders as we believe all students have the right and be given the opportunity to be leaders. Students are involved in decisions about rules, playgrounds etc at the site. They also support local and wider community charities, special days and school activities. The oldest students in the school become student leaders. A student leader's constitution was introduced to the school in Term 2, 2018.

Special programmes

SAPSASA

Youth Environmental Leaders (YEL) Program

Whole School Recorder Music Program

Environmental Gardening Program

East of the Ranges Choir

Play is the Way

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan (SIP)

In February the 2018 School Improvement Plan (SIP) based on the recommendations of the school's external review conducted in September 2016 and the current needs of the school was ratified by the Governing Council.

Priorities for 2018 are:

Review and determine an understanding of teaching and learning practices at MPS

Teachers articulate learning intentions and success criteria to students at the beginning of each lesson as an established teaching pedagogy

Staff develop competence in analysing multiple measures of learning data and use the data to provide greater congruence between cohort and classroom planning

Measuring student learning growth (Effect size). Measuring student learning growth (Effect size)

Students ability to articulate where they are at in their learning and are able to set their learning goals

All students learning will be directed by the ongoing development of Individual Learning Plans

Other key statements

A strong focus on achieving the Standards of Educational Achievement (SEA) and higher Literacy and Numeracy outcomes continue to be a priority for the school. Individual students are supported through: revised levels of achievement, one to one or small group intervention work.

Recent key outcomes

A copy of the Annual Report is included on the Melrose Primary School website reporting on all areas of management and development. The report highlights Literacy and Numeracy, student wellbeing and attendance outcomes.

It is also a part of the Annual General Meeting for the Governing Council and school community.

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings

Melrose Primary School offers all subject areas through the Australian Curriculum. Japanese is offered as a Language Other Than English, online through the Open Access College.

Special needs

Staff regularly meet to discuss individual students to ensure their needs are met. SSO time is allocated to individual students. Students who have verifications of disability have individual learning plans developed to target specific needs to enhance learning growth. Teachers are encouraged to attend professional learning opportunities to cater more effectively for students with special needs.

Special curriculum features

Special curriculum features: Individual Learning Plans and Numeracy are the focus for the school in 2018 as highlighted in the School Improvement Plan. The Numeracy focus also extends throughout the Flinders Partnership.

The **Instrumental Music** Branch has supported the school to implement a whole school Recorder Music Program. All students are involved in practical and theory based lessons.

Teaching methodology

Melrose Primary School teachers use the Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL) document to support their teaching and learning programs. TFEL is the pedagogy used for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. Teachers are expected to collect and use data from a range of sources to plan for individual student progress.

Being a small school we operate multi-year level classes and this requires teachers to be able to effectively modify teaching strategies and differentiate learning tasks to cater for an extended range of abilities.

Student assessment procedures and reporting

- Reporting to parents happens as follows:
- In Term 1, Week 3, we hold a parent information night which involves teachers presenting information to parents about their programs, procedures, practices, school and home

contact, school structures, and expectations. Parents are invited to ask questions and to form a connection with the teacher and their child's classroom and school.

- In Term 1, Week 8, Three Way Conferences are held. Individual Learning Plans (ILP) are developed collaboratively between teachers, parents and students and these detail specific goals in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and/or Wellbeing. These plans are modified, adapted or extended as necessary. There is ongoing communication between the teacher, parent and student to assess how the student is progressing towards achieving the learning goals. New goals are continually set as students achieve current goals.
- In Term 2 a written report is sent home in Week 10. Parents have the opportunity to clarify information with their child's teacher.
- In Term 3, Week 8, another Three Way Conference is held to discuss the progress of the student throughout the year and to show evidence of student learning and achievement of learning goals.
- In Term 4, Week 9, the final written report summarising student achievement for the year is sent to parents.

Joint programmes

We have been involved in a Nature Play programme with Wilmington Primary School in 2017. We are commencing to incorporate Nature Play into our school learning program.

5. Sporting Activities

Melrose Primary School is a member of the North Eastern SAPSASA zone and students are given opportunities to be school representatives in tennis, cricket, football, soccer, netball, golf and basketball teams. We are involved in the regional Cross-Country event held annually in May at Wilmington. The school participates in a combined Sports Day held at Booleroo Centre District School in April.

Melrose and the district have a strong sense of community sport and provide opportunities for student participation through golf, football, tennis, netball, cricket, table tennis, lawn bowls, basketball and mountain bike riding. The school has commenced to develop a community based sporting program commencing in 2017.

Whole school swimming lessons are held in Terms 1 and 4 at the Wilmington Primary School Pool.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

The school supports the major annual local festival, 'The Fat Tyre Mountain Bike Festival' and the annual Melrose Agricultural and Horticultural Show.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

Two 0.8 teaching positions cater for the two composite classes. Both teachers hold permanency – one at 0.5 and the other at 0.8. The teacher of Japanese provides online lessons on Wednesdays.

Leadership structure

Sole Principal. The Principal's role is both administrative and teaching.

Staff support systems

Melrose Primary School enjoys a small staff which forms a caring group prepared to support each other. Staff are encouraged to mix with their teaching peers in neighbouring schools and to attend training and development sessions both in and out of our partnership district.

Staff are committed to weekly professional development staff meetings based on our site foci.

Performance Management

Performance management is negotiated between the Principal and all staff to meet formally and informally as outlined in the Department for Education's guidelines. Formally, staff members meet at least once per term to discuss roles, professional and personal needs, feedback on performance, issues related to their position in the school etc.

All staff (teachers and SSOs) are involved in a formal Performance Development Program. Teachers are encouraged to apply for Higher Ability Teacher and/or Lead Teacher status.

The AITSL Standards form the basis of performance management meetings for teachers.

Staff utilisation policies

Access to special staff

Instrumental Music Service staff provides lessons to Melrose Primary School. The current music teacher travels from Peterborough.

Support staff such as Interagency Behaviour Support Coordinators, Speech Pathologists, Disability Coordinators, Attendance Counsellors, Educational Psychologists and Social Workers are currently provided from the Pirie Regional Office.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Complexity placement points

N/A

Shorter terms

N/A

Travelling time

N/A

Housing assistance

One Government house is located in Melrose. Private rental is available from time to time with some opportunity for some short-term rental of units at the local caravan park. Some staff have lived in neighbouring towns' government housing if they become available.

Cash in lieu of removal allowance

Teaching staff at Melrose can claim this allowance

Additional increment allowance

NA

Designated schools benefits

N/A

Aboriginal/Anangu schools

N/A

Medical and dental treatment expenses

N/A

Locality allowances

Non metro award applies at Melrose Primary School

Relocation assistance

Applies to teachers at Melrose Primary School

Principal's telephone costs

N/A

9. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds

All buildings have ramp access

Melrose Primary School is comprised of the following buildings and sheds:

Administration building - staffroom, front office and principal's office - housed in a small transportable building.

Wooden classroom – used as Multi-purpose room and resource storage for art, music, board games etc. and consumables

Single wooden classroom (Library and staff office/preparation area)

Toilet block that includes separate staff toilets

Sports shed

Cleaners shed

Combination groundsperson's and general storage shed.

The original stone school building at the front of the school is used as the Junior Primary classroom. The Melrose Rural Care adjoins the Junior Primary class was originally the Head Master's Residence.

This building was extended with a light weight timber-framed room in the 1970s. This extension houses the Upper Primary classroom. Building Education Revolution (BER) funding was used to build an extensive verandah decking area along the northern and western sides of the Junior Primary and Upper Primary classrooms. This area allows for an outdoor stage performance area and a sheltered area for art activities.

The school's Community Room overlooks the magnificent Mt Remarkable National Park. This building provides kitchen facilities and an open space that is used for whole school assemblies and performances, choir training, cooking lessons and classroom learning activities in areas such as music and drama. The Community Room is also used for conferences and is available for community functions (out of school hours).

The school yard has a small oval and a large adventure playground. The yard is shaded by some magnificent redgum eucalypt trees. There is also a lawn area, a raised garden beds space, and a cubby.

At the front of the school are two mature carob trees and the iconic Melrose 'horse/bullock cart' and tree stump.

The school is situated in a very picturesque setting.

Heating and cooling

Reverse cycle heating and cooling is available in all school buildings via split systems.

Specialist facilities and equipment

The school has laptops and desk-top computers in the Upper Primary class and desk-top computers and iPads in the Junior Primary class.

Staff facilities

Staff have access to a wide range of teaching resources and each classroom is equipped with an interactive smart board.

The staffroom is in the main admin building adjacent to the front office. The offices have been re-developed recently (including the provision of split system heating & cooling) and provide a welcoming atmosphere.

Teaching staff are provided with a laptop computer and are able to access the internet and DECD email.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

All buildings have access for the disabled.

Access to bus transport

A school bus picks up students along the Melrose to Wilmington Road.

For school excursions the school uses the departmental buses from Booleroo Centre District School and hires coaches for camps.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

The school has a very active and supportive Governing Council. The Governing Council meets twice per term.

Regular publications

Communication is important at Melrose Primary School and we offer various forums for families and the community to share their thoughts. A fortnightly newsletter is published and a hardcopy is sent home to families. Newsletters are also left at the local Store 54.

An electronic copy is available on our web site.

All families are presented with an enrolment pack which includes a handbook with important information about the school day, policies and enrolment forms and general consent forms.

There is a Staff 'Day Book' with day to day messages and the Staff Meeting agenda.

Other communication

Communication books and/or diaries are used by both classes for regular communication between the family and school.

School financial position

The school is in a sound financial position

11. Local Community

General characteristics

With the spectacular Mount Remarkable looming over the picturesque settlement of Melrose, this small growing community boasts a relaxed rural lifestyle. Tourism is becoming the main activity of the town due the area being a popular mountain bike riding venue as well as many walking trails to explore. The town has two hotels, three coffee shops, a well stocked general store and a bike hire business making the commercial area of the town a busy place to be. Port Pirie and Port Augusta are approximately 50 minutes away – in opposite directions. The closest doctor/medical facilities/hospital are at Booleroo Centre.

Community Focus and Voice

At Melrose Primary School we value community participation.

We hold assemblies for parents, families and friends to attend.

Student leaders organise and present the assemblies.

Our Governing Council meet twice a term and are active in shared decision making about the strategic direction of the school, developing policies, approving and monitoring the budget and supporting and coordinating community events.

We have an active parent body who communicate regularly to organise community initiatives, get together and fundraising events.

Melrose Primary School will continue to welcome the whole school community to be partners in the continuous improvement of the educational processes and programs in the school.

Playcentre Program:

The Playcentre program caters for children from the age of 3 until their school entry. Currently it operates on Wednesdays from 9am—12noon and is an educational play based program. Parents support the program by being actively involved in the activities and by helping with supervision of children on a rostered basis. There are strong links with the Playcentre children and the JP children. Regular visits are organised for the children to get together. They are involved in combined lessons of sharing stories and art activities or outdoor play. This strategy is the beginning of a transition program to school and particularly benefits all the children in socialising and making connections. Currently Melrose doesn't have an independent preschool due to insufficient numbers, however if numbers build again the preschool can reopen. Preschool programs can be accessed at either Booleroo Centre or Wilmington. Outreach Rural Care and OSHC are available at the Early Learning Centre.

Other local facilities

Other major facilities are the Mt Remarkable District Council Offices, Museum, Mt Remarkable Show Grounds, Netball Courts, numerous cabin and accommodation facilities, Tennis Club, Lawn Bowls, Melrose Carvan Park and Camping Grounds, CFS and the Melrose Town Hall.

Availability of staff housing

There is one government house in Melrose

Accessibility

Adelaide is approximately 274km away. The road is a sealed major highway and provides comfortable travelling to Adelaide.

The 3.5 hours travel time makes it difficult to attend after school Training & Development activities held in Adelaide and requires staff to find accommodation if attending conferences.

Local Government body

Mt Remarkable District Council

12. Further Comments

Melrose Primary School has much to offer any prospective teacher. Classroom atmosphere is conducive to teaching and learning and yard behaviour is delightful. Teachers feel the support of the community. Through the availability of city amenities at Port Augusta and Port Pirie and the feeling of country life one can experience by driving into beautiful Melrose a unique and very special place to teach and live.