

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: July 2023



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

School number: 0253

School name: Melrose Primary School

School Profile: School Values

Respect ~ Honesty ~ Responsibility ~ Excellence

Vision

Melrose Primary School empowers students to excel in learning and in life.

We nurture relationships that challenge and support students to contribute to a more just and compassionate world.

A Culture of Learning - Keys to Success – Learner Dispositions:

Persisting – You displayed a never give up attitude

Listening with Understanding and Empathy – You made a difference

Taking Responsible Risks – You took a chance to learn something new

Managing Impulsivity – Stop, Think, Act

Striving for Accuracy – Check it again.

Remaining Open to Continuous Learning – Learn from experiences!

Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations – Use what you learn!

Finding Humour – Laugh a little!

Creating, Imagining, Innovating – Try a different way!

Thinking Flexibly – You worked at it another way

Use your 5 Senses – You gathered data through all your senses

Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision

Thinking Independently – Working together for success

Responding with wonderment and awe

Questioning and posing problems

Open to Continuous Learning

Our School

Melrose Primary School is a small school with 24 student enrolments in 2023 from R–6. The school population is divided between two full time classes, Reception – Year 3 (14 students) and Years 4 – 6 (10 students). Numbers are remaining relatively stable to 2024.

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 attend preschools in either 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

Preschool and Rural Care, Orroroo Area School including Site-based Pre-school, Wilmington Primary School including Site-based Pre-school, Booleroo Centre District School and, Booleroo Centre Kindergarten - Rural Care and Melrose Rural Care.

As schools and pre-schools the partnership works 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, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, Languages -German, The Arts and Technologies/STEM.

Parent support is a strong feature of the school, with most families represented through membership on Governing Council. All families provide support to the school, staff and students in some way during the school year through the many special activities and events held.

1. General information

- School Principal: Murray Koster
- Year of opening: 1876
- Postal Address: 23 Stuart Street, Melrose, SA, 5483
- Location Address: As above
- Dept for Education Region: Flinders Partnership, Port Augusta2
- Geographical location: 274 km north from GPO
- Telephone number: (08) 8666 2154
- 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 Fulltime student enrolment:

Year Level	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reception	3	4	5	2	0	3	3	6
Year 1	4	4	4	5	2	1	4	4

Year 2	2	4	4	4	5	2	0	4
Year 3	3	3	4	6	4	6	3	0
Year 4	5	2	3	4	6	3	5	2
Year 5	1	5	2	5	4	6	4	5
Year 6	1	3	4	2	6	4	5	3
Year 7	2	0	0	4	3	5		
Total	21	25	26	32	30	30	24	24

Student enrolment trends: It is anticipated numbers will remain at current levels into the foreseeable future.

School Card percentage 2022 – 35%

Non-English Speaking Background enrolment – Nil (2023)

ATSI student enrolment – Nil (2023)

Staffing numbers 2023

Principal Band A-2 1.0 FTE

Teachers 2.1 FTE

SSO 2 30 hours School Administrator (including Finance)

SSO 2 3.5 hours Playcentre Leader

Grounds person (GSE) 5 hours per week

ICT Support Part of the regional support network

SSO1 student support 1.8 FTE

Public transport access: No

The school is serviced by two DfE yellow school buses – the Wilmington secondary students' bus to Booleroo Centre District School via Melrose catering for students to the north of Melrose and the Port Germein Gorge/Melrose bus.

Special site arrangements

Melrose Primary School is an integral part of the Melrose Community, which also includes Melrose Rural Care and 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 maintaining a positive and supportive learning environment.

The Anti-Bullying Policy forms an important 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

All staff have a strong pastoral support role and are expected to contribute to caring for all students. The student leaders (all Year 6 students) have a role in supporting students through the Grievance Procedure process.

Student management

The School's Code of Conduct 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 the Student Representative Council, class meetings and in discussions with their teachers. The SRC comprises of– two representatives from the Junior Primary class and the Year 6 leaders. Applications are called for and formal interviews are conducted every semester for the Student Representative Council from the Junior Primary class as we believe all students have the right and be given the opportunity to be leaders. Students are involved in decisions about various programs and initiatives within the school. Students also support and lead local and

wider community charities, special days, and school events. All Year 6 students in the school become student leaders.

Special programmes

Playcentre

Instrumental Music Program (flute, saxophone, and clarinet)

Gardening Program

Brightpath writing program

QuickSmart (maths)

STEM 500

Premiers Reading Challenge

Premiers Be Active Challenge

Primary Maths Association Maths Investigation Competition

Combined schools' sports day with Booleroo Centre DS and Wilmington PS

Upper Primary Aquatics Day in Port Augusta with Wilmington PS

Whole school camp

Harmony Day activities

Aboriginal Education Day activities

SAPSASA activities including cross country, tennis, netball, athletics and soccer

Sports carnivals – Tag rugby, tennis, and soccer

Participated in the East of the Ranges Combined Choir at Port Pirie

Book Week parade and activities

Fortnightly visits from the Flinders Mobile Library

Participation in the Australia wide Simultaneous Story-telling

End of Year Presentation/Concert and Twilight Picnic held at the school

Year 6 Graduation Dinner

Whole school transition program spanning late Term 3 and Term 4 for new Reception students.

Year 6 transition program at Booleroo Centre District School

Annual Melrose School Literacy Competition

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan (SIP)

The current School Improvement Plan (SIP) is based on the two Directions of the school's external review conducted in November 2020 and the current needs of the school.

Direction 1

School context statement 2023.docx

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To gain high yield learning outcomes for all students, strengthen the consistent commitment to the improvement model with specific reference to sustaining high achievement in literacy and numeracy.

Direction 2

To meet the learning needs of all students continue developing high-impact teaching and learning strategies, aligned to the school's pedagogical framework with a focus on high learning bands.

Other key statements

A strong focus on achieving the Standards of Educational Achievement (SEA) and increasing higher Literacy and Numeracy outcomes continue to be a priority for the school. Individual students are supported through revised levels of achievement and one on one or small group intervention work. In 2020 an additional 0.4 teaching position was appointed to the school to add impetus to achieving the above priorities and goals.

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.

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings

Melrose Primary School offers all subject areas through the Australian Curriculum. German is the school's language of study.

Special needs

Staff regularly meet to discuss individual students to ensure their learning and wellbeing needs are met. One Child One Plans are developed to target specific learning needs for targeted students. Teachers are encouraged to attend professional learning opportunities to further develop their teaching practices.

Special curriculum features

Special curriculum features: Brightpath writing program, mathematical problem solving, and increasing students' phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and their phonics knowledge are the focus areas for the school in 2023 as highlighted in the School Improvement Plan 2023.

The **Instrumental Music** Branch has supported the school to implement an Instrumental Music Programme. The school along with other Flinders partnership schools currently do not have a specialist music teacher.

Teaching methodology

Melrose Primary School teachers use the Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL) document to support their teaching practices 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. The school has a well-established annual assessment schedule.

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 adheres to the following:

- Term 1, Week 3, we hold a parent information night which involves teachers presenting information to parents about their programs, routines, practices, school and home communication, school structures, and expectations. Parents are invited to ask questions and to form a connection with their child's class teachers and school.
- Term 1, From Week 7 to 10, parent teacher meetings are held. Learning goals are reviewed and developed collaboratively between teachers, parents, and students. The goals detail specifically the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing. These learning goals 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 their goals.
- Term 2 a written report is sent home in Week 9. Parents can clarify information from the report with their child's teacher during the final week of the term.
- Term 4, Week 8, the End of Year written report summarising student achievement for the year is sent to parents. Again parents have the opportunity to clarify information from the report with their child's teacher during the final week of the school term.

Joint programmes

We have a working relationship with Wilmington Primary school often combining for Arts performances and teacher professional learning programs.

5. Sporting Activities

Melrose Primary School is a member of the Northeastern 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.

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 annual Melrose Agricultural and Horticultural Show and the annual Melrose Strawberry Fete.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

The 2023 teaching positions –

Junior Primary class 1.0,

Upper Primary class 0.6 and 0.4,

Library, Autism lead, Special Needs, STEM 0.5 - catering for the two composite classes.

Leadership structure

Sole Principal. The principal has a 0.5 teaching role.

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 School Improvement Plan.

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. Staff members meet 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 position is presently unfilled.

Support staff such as Interagency Behaviour Support Coordinators, Speech Pathologists, Disability Coordinators, Attendance Counsellors, Educational Psychologists and Social Workers are provided from the DfE Port 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 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. Housing availability is currently very tight.

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 – Multi-purpose room – used as learning and resource space and as the Playcentre room

Single wooden classroom -Library and staff 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.

The original stone classroom 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 various learning activities.

The school's Community Room overlooks the magnificent Mt Remarkable National Park. This building provides kitchen facilities and an open space area that is used for whole school assemblies and performances, choir training, cooking lessons and music and drama activities. The Community Room is also used for conferences and is available for community functions.

The school yard has a small oval and a large adventure playground. The yard is shaded by a number of stately redgum eucalypt trees. Other facilities in the school grounds are: a lawn play area, raised garden beds, tennis court/basketball court 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 an envious 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 iPads 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 both classrooms are equipped with an interactive smart board.

The staffroom is in the main Admin building adjoining the front office.

Teaching staff are provided with a laptop computer and are able to access the internet and the department's intranet and email on and off-site.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

All buildings have wheel chair access.

Access to bus transport

A school bus services students along the Melrose to Wilmington Road. Another from the Port Germein Gorge through to Melrose.

For excursions the school can access departmental buses from Booleroo Centre District School when available.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

The school has a very active and supportive Governing Council. The Governing Council meets twice a 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 newsletter is published three times a term and emailed to families and friends of the school with a hardcopy also sent home to families. Newsletters are left at the local Store 54 and at Melrose Rural Care.

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, its 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

School diaries are used by both classes for regular communication between the family and school. Both classes also use the Seesaw App to regularly communicate with families.

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 having many walking trails to explore. The town has two hotels, two cafes, a well stocked general store, a number of accommodation businesses, a bike hire business, garage, chiropractor and post office making the commercial area of the town a busy place to be. Port Pirie and Port Augusta are both approximately 50 minutes away – in opposite directions. The closest doctor, medical facilities, hospital and chemist are located 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 school assemblies twice a term.

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 community to be partners in the continuous improvement of the school and its long term viability.

Playcentre Program

The Playcentre program caters for children until school entry. Currently Playcentre operates on Wednesdays from 9am—12 noon and is an educational play-based program.

Parents support the program by being actively involved in the organised activities. There are strong links with the Playcentre children and the JP children. Visits are organised for the children to get together. They are involved in combined lessons of sharing stories, art activities and outdoor play. This practice constitutes 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 and can be sustained the preschool may reopen. Preschool programs can be accessed at either Wilmington or Booleroo 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 Caravan Park and Camping Grounds, CFS and the Melrose Town Hall.

Availability of staff housing

There is one government house located in Melrose.

Accessibility

Adelaide is approximately 274km away. The road is a sealed highway and provides comfortable travelling to Adelaide. The 3.5 hours travel time makes it difficult to attend after school training and development activities held in Adelaide and requires staff to find overnight accommodation if attending conferences.

Local Government body

District Council of Mount Remarkable

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, together forms a unique and very special place to teach and live.