MELROSE PRIMARY SCHOOL
EST 1879

RESPECT HONESTY RESPONSIBILITY EXCELLENCE

Where *remarkable* journeys begin.

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: October 2026

School number: *0253*

School name: *Melrose Primary School*

School Profile:

School Values:
Respect ~ Honesty ~ Responsibility ~ Excellence

School Motto:
Where remarkable journeys begin.

School 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

Our School

Melrose Primary School is a small yet vibrant learning community with 21 student enrolments from Reception to Year 6 in 2026. The students are divided between two full time classes: Reception – Year 2 (10 students) and Years 3 - 6 (11 students). Located 23 kilometres south of Wilmington and 21 kilometres west of Booleroo Centre, Melrose provided a nurturing educational environment. Reception students typically attend preschool where students attend in either Wilmington or Booleroo Centre, while older students transition to the local government high school in Booleroo Centre.

Melrose Primary School is a Category 5 school on the Department for Education Index of Educational Disadvantage. As of this report, 28% of our school population comprises of students with disabilities, reflecting our inclusive approach to education.

As part of the Flinders Partnership, Melrose Primary School collaborates with the various schools and preschools in the region including Peterborough High School, Peterborough Primary School, 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. Together, the Flinders Partnership strives to enhance educational outcomes for all students across the region.

Our school curriculum is underpinned by the eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum, ensuring a comprehensive and balanced education for all students. These include: Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, Languages – Auslan: Sign Language, The Arts and Technologies.

29 Stuart Street, Melrose (08) 8666 2154

dl:0253.info@schools.sa.edu.au https//melrsoeps.sa.edu.au

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Parent involvement is a hallmark of Melrose Primary School, with most families actively participating as member of the Governing Council. Throughout the school year, all families contribute supporting the school, staff, and students in some way, by assisting with various special activities and events held, fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration.

General information

School Principal name:	Maggie Slattery
Year of opening:	1879
Postal Address:	23 Stuart Street, Melrose, SA, 5483
Location Address:	As above
Dept for Education Region:	Flinders Partnership, Port Augusta 2
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)

Enrolment History

Year Level	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Reception	5	2	0	3	3	6	4	3	3
Year 1	4	5	2	1	4	4	3	3	3
Year 2	4	4	5	2	0	4	3	4	3
Year 3	4	6	4	6	3	0	3	2	5
Year 4	3	4	6	3	5	2	0	2	4
Year 5	2	6	4	6	4	5	1	0	2
Year 6	4	3	6	4	5	3	4	0	1
Year 7	0	5	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
Total	26	35	30	30	24	24	18	14	21

Student enrolment trends: It is anticipated numbers will remain at current levels.
School Card student percentage 2026 1
Non-English Speaking Background enrolment – Nil (2026)
ATSI student enrolment – Nil (2026)

Staffing 2026

Principal Band A-2	1.0 FTE (Wellbeing Leader, Autism Inclusion Teacher & Classroom teacher)
Teachers	1.8 FTE Teachers; 3 Teachers; 1 x 1.0 (Room 1), 2 x 0.4 (Room 2)
	3.5 hours Playcentre Leader
Admin and finance	15hours SSO
Student Support	3 x SSO's
Grounds person (GSE)	5 hours per week
ICT Support	Regional Support program offered by the Department for Education.

Special site arrangements

Melrose Primary School is an integral part of the Melrose Community, alongside Melrose Rural Care and Melrose Playcentre. The school maintains strong collaborative relationships with other schools through its active participation in the Flinders Partnership.

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 wellbeing programs

At Melrose Primary School, student wellbeing is a core priority underpinning our focus on building positive staff-student relationships and enhancing student engagement in learning. We are committed to maintaining a positive and supportive learning environment through school-wide initiatives. These include the use of Regulation Stations, Morning Circle session, regular Check-ins, Interoception activities and Student Voice in wellbeing support practices.

Key programs and policies supporting student wellbeing include:

- *Berry Street Education Model*: A suite of trauma-informed, strengths-based strategies for engaging all students with learning.
- *The Bullying Prevention Policy:* A vital component of the Safe Schools Framework, ensuring a safe and inclusive school environment.
- *The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum:* Serving the foundation of our Social Emotional Learning program, this curriculum equips students with essential skills to support their safety and wellbeing.

Student support offered

At Melrose Primary School, all staff play an active pastoral support role, fostering a caring and supportive environment for every student. Additionally, a dedicated Pastoral Care Worker is available on Mondays and Fridays in supporting and caring for students at our site.

Student management
Melrose Primary School ensures a consistent and transparent approach to student management through the annual review of the School's Code of Conduct and Complaint Resolution Process. As part of the Safe Schools Framework, the Bullying Prevention Policy has been implemented to promote a safe and supportive environment for all students.

Student government
In 2025, all students at Melrose Primary School are encouraged to actively participate in decision-making through whole-school. SRC meetings are held at least twice a term. Minutes are taken for these sessions, ensuring transparency and accountability. All students are provided the opportunity to be leaders.

Students also play a key role in supporting and leading community charities, special events, and school activities. The oldest students in the school become student leaders. Year 3 and 4 students join the Chief Executive Student Voice Forum, which convenes online termly and connects schools across South Australia to integrate the Public Education strategy.

Public transport access
The school is serviced by two DfE school buses – the Wilmington secondary students' bus to Booleroo Centre District School via Melrose catering for students to the north of Melrose.

Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan (SIP)
In 2026, Melrose is aligning their practices with the SA Education Strategy.

A copy is included on the Melrose Primary School website.

All students are represented to thrive and grow in their learning.

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.

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.
This report was presented at Annual General Meeting for the Governing Council and school community (March 2026) where it was discussed and ratified.

Curriculum

Subject offerings
Melrose Primary School provides core subjects Mathematics, English and Science across all year levels. In conjunction with a broad range of other subjects to varying year levels, including Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), Health and Physical Education (HPE), The Arts; Visual, Drama, Dance & Media Arts, Technologies; Design and Technologies & Digital Technologies, and Languages; Auslan.

Special needs

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

Special curriculum features

Brightpath writing program, Sounds-Write phonics program to increase students' phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and their phonics knowledge are the focus areas for the school. Berry Street Education Model has been delivered amongst the 2024 Flinders partnership and was implemented into a whole school approach from 2025. The school continues to use QuickSmart program to improve mathematical problem solving and Big Ideas in Number to assess termly.

The **Instrumental Music** Branch has supported the school to implement an Instrumental Music Programme. Students are also involved in practical and theory-based lessons. The school along with other Flinders partnership schools are lucky to have a specialist music teacher who provides instrumental music lessons to students from year 4 – 6 on site each week.

Teaching methodology

In 2026, Melrose Primary School teachers use the SA Curriculum Framework and adapt their teaching practices to align with subject-specific pedagogies. This is to empower all our learners with the knowledge, skills and capabilities they need to become fulfilled individuals, active, compassionate citizens and lifelong learners.

All classrooms have interactive smartboards. All students have access to iPads or laptops and computers. 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 yearly 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 afternoon 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 the teacher and their child's classroom and school.

Week 10, Learning Conversations 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 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 their goals.

Term 2:

A written report is sent home in the beginning of Week 10, containing subject overview with strengths and identified learning goals in English and Mathematics. Parents have the opportunity to clarify information from the report with their child's teacher during the final week of the term.

Term 3:

Week 8, a second Learning Conversation is held to discuss the progress of the student throughout the year and to show evidence of student learning and achievement of learning goals.

Term 4:

Week 8, the final 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 term.

One Plan meetings take place annually with goal progress shared regularly, including a summary in alignment with semester written reporting. Opportunities for Team Around Students meetings are made available on need basis.

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

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. 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.

Other Co-Curricular Activities

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

A wide range of excursions, significant cultural days i.e. Reconciliation Week, Harmony Day and NAIDOC Week and events; CBCA Book Week, R U Ok? Day. The SRC plays a role in our special events throughout the year. This year saw '100 Days of School', 'Pyjama Day', and 'Mini Sports day with Wilmington Primary and School of the Air'.

The school has integrated gardening and cooking learning. An end of year performance at the Town Hall in the evening for all community to support and share our students' achievements.

There is a transition program with Booleroo Kindergarten for new Reception students and Booleroo Centre District School for our Year 6 students.

Our school actively participates in the Premier's Be Active and Reading Challenges.

Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile
The 2026 teaching positions – 1.0, 0.4, 0.4 and 0.2 (Principal) and 4 x SSO's to help cater for the two composite classes.

Leadership structure
Sole Principal. The principal has a 0.2 teaching role, includes Autism Inclusion Teacher role and Student Wellbeing roles.

Staff support systems
At Melrose Primary School, our small and dedicated staff fosters a supportive and caring team environment. Team members actively encourage collaboration, both within our school and with colleagues from neighbouring schools. Staff are also supported to participate in professional and development opportunites locally and beyond our partnership.

Staff are committed to weekly professional development staff meetings based on our School Improvement Plan.

Performance Management
At Melrose Primary School, performance management is collaboratively planned between the Principal and staff, adhering to the guidelines established by the Department for Education. Formal and informal meetings are held, with all staff meeting at least once per term. These discussions encompass role expectations, professional and personal needs, performance feedback, and other position-related matters.

All staff, including teachers and SSOs (School Support Officers), participate in a structured Performance Development Program. Teachers are encouraged to pursue accreditation as Higher Ability Teachers or Lead Teachers to advance their professional growth.

Performance management discussions for teachers are guided by the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (AITSL Standards), ensuring alignment with best practices in education.

Staff utilisation policies
Staffing allocations at Melrose Primary School are determined based on the needs and priorities of the school and in the Site Learning Plan.

Access to special staff
Additional support is provided through the Department for Education Port Pirie Regional Office. This includes access to Interagency Behaviour Support Coaches, Speech Pathologists, Inclusion Leaders, Attendance Counsellors, Educational Psychologists and Social Worker, ensuring a range of services to meet student and staff needs.

Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

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.

Cash in lieu of removal allowance

Teaching staff at Melrose can claim this allowance

Locality allowances

Non metro award applies at Melrose Primary School

Relocation assistance

Applies to teachers at Melrose Primary School

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 area for the Arts, on-site therapy sessions and a space for Playcentre.
- Single wooden classroom - Library with 3D printer and desk top computers for students. There is a staff office and preparation area.
- Toilet block that includes separate staff toilets.
- Sports shed.
- Cleaners shed.
- Combination grounds person'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 veranda 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 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 (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. Other facilities in the school grounds are: a lawn area, a raised garden beds space, 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 iPads in the Junior Primary class. There are also several desktop computers in the library.

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.
For excursions the school is able to access departmental buses from Booleroo Centre District School when available and hire coaches for camps and excursions.

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 through Microsoft Sway and emailed to families and friends of the school three times a term. A hardcopy can be available upon request. 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 TEAMs page 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. The school uses ClassDojo to communicate as an option for student learning and events.

School financial position
The school is in a sound financial position.

Local Community

General characteristics
Nestled beneath the breathtaking backdrop of Mount Remarkable, the charming settlement of Melrose, offers a tranquil, rural lifestyle. This growing community thrives on tourism, with the area renowned for its popular mountain bike trails and diverse walking tracks, attracting visitors year-round.

Melrose boast a vibrant commercial hub featuring two hotels, a coffee shop, a well-stocked general store with cafe, a brewery, a bike hire business, multiple accommodation providers, a garage, a chiropractor and a post office.
While enjoying its rural charm, Melrose remains connected to larger regional centres with Port Pirie and Port Augusta are both approximately 50 minutes away in opposite directions. The closest medical services, including doctor, hospital and chemist, can be found in nearby Booleroo Centre.

Community Focus and Voice
At Melrose Primary School, we deeply value and encourage community participation.
Regular school assemblies provide an opportunity for parents, families and friends to engage with student achievements. These assemblies are planned and presented by our student leaders, fostering leadership skills and a sense of ownership.

The Governing Council, which meet twice per term, plays an integral role in shared decision-making. This includes contributing to the school's strategic direction of the school, policies development, budget oversight, and coordinating community events.

Additionally, the school is supported by an active parent body that communicates regularly to organise community initiatives, social gatherings, and fundraising events.

Melrose Primary School remains committed to welcoming the community as partners in driving the continuous improvement of our educational programs.

Playcentre Program

The Playcentre program caters to children from birth until they begin formal schooling. Currently, the Playcentre operates on Wednesdays from 9am to 12 noon, offering a play-based educational program. Parents play an active role by participating in the organised activities.

There are strong links between Playcentre children and the Junior Primary students, with regular visits scheduled for collaborative activities. These sessions include shared storytelling, art activities, and outdoor play fostering socialisation and building relationships. This interaction forms the foundation of a transition program to school, benefiting all children as they prepare their educational journey.

Families can access preschool programs 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 Carvan 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 from Melrose, with travel along a sealed major highway providing a comfortable journey. While the 3.5-hour travel time makes reasonable access to the city, it can present challenges to attend after school training and development activities held in Adelaide. In such case, staff often arrange overnight accommodation if attending conferences or events.

Local Government body

Mt Remarkable District Council

Further Comments

Melrose Primary School offers a welcoming and enriching environment for prospective teachers. The classrooms cultivate a positive atmosphere that supports teaching and learning, while delightful student behaviour in outdoor spaces further enhances the school culture. Teachers benefit from the strong backing of the local community, fostering a sense of connection and shared purpose

Melrose combines the best of both words – city amenities accessible in nearby Port Augusta and Port Pirie, alongside the charm of rural living in Melrose. This unique blend created an exceptional place to teach, live and thrive.