



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: July 2017

School number: 0253

School name: Melrose Primary School

School Profile:

‘Reaching new horizons’

Vision

To create powerful lifelong learners and active citizens, capable of critical and creative thinking in order to solve problems, deal with events and competently cope with the dynamics of life.

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 2017 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 (12 students) and Years 3 – 6 (13 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 and District Kindergarten.

As schools and pre-schools we are working together to improve learning outcomes for all students across our partnership.

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: 21 Stuart Street, Melrose, SA, 5483
- Location Address: As above
- DECD Region: Flinders Partnership, Pirie Portfolio
- 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
Reception	8	2	4	3	4
Year 1	7	6	2	4	4
Year 2	3	5	5	2	4
Year 3	2	2	5	3	3
Year 4	3	1	2	5	2
Year 5	4	2	1	1	5

Year 6	4	3	2	1	3
Year 7	2	4	2	2	0
Total	33	25	23	21	25

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

School Card percentage 2017 – 8%

Non-English Speaking Background enrolment – Nil (2017)

ATSI student enrolment – Nil (2017)

Staffing numbers (as at February 2017 census):

Principal Band A-2 1.0FTE

Teachers 1.6 FTE

SSO 2 3 positions 28 hours Administration and Finance

21 hours Classroom Support and Library

3 hours Playcentre Leader

ICT Support 5 hours per fortnight

Grounds person (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.

The School's Behaviour Guidelines and Complaint Resolution Process are reviewed annually. The Anti-Bullying Policy (Well Being Procedures) has been implemented 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 (Well Being Procedures) 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.

Special programmes

SAPSASA

Youth Environmental Leaders (YEL) Programme

Whole School Recorder Music Program

Environmental Gardening Programme

East of the Ranges Choir

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan (SIP)

In February 2017 the SIP was developed based on the recommendations of the school's external review conducted in September 2016. It has since been ratified by the Governing Council.

Priorities for 2017 are:

Embed the Australian Curriculum, TfEL and the Assessment Standards at our site and collaboratively with like schools.

For teaching staff - the mapping of the Australian Curriculum into learning continuums in all learning areas and subsequently the practice of learning intentions and success criteria in lesson delivery.

For students to achieve an understanding of where they are at in their learning, and where they need to go to progress their learning, and to be active participants in setting their personal learning goals.

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 all. 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 also offered as a Language Other Than English, on site through face to face engagement.

Special needs

Staff regularly meets to discuss individual students to ensure their needs are met. SSO time is allocated to classes to support the programs for individual students within the classroom. 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 2017 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 Programme. 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 generally 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 devised collaboratively between teachers, parents and students and these detail specific goals in 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 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.

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, 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 face to face lessons on Tuesdays.

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 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 over the course of the year. 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 Step 9 as they become eligible.

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 and Social Workers is 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 exists in Melrose. Private rental is available from time to time with some opportunity for some short-term rental of units at our local caravan park. Some staff have lived in neighbouring towns' government housing.

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 Napperby 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 Art room and resource storage for art, music, board games etc. and consumables

Single wooden classroom (Library and staff office)

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 Teacher's Residence.

This building was extended with a light weight timber-framed room added in the 1970s. This extension houses the Upper Primary classroom. 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 art activities.

The school's Community Room overlooks the magnificent Mt Remarkable 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 school's CD player, large screen television, microphone and speakers, as well as a piano are housed here. 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 red gum eucalypt trees. There is also a lawn area, a raised garden beds space, and a cubby (which is currently being further developed by the Governing Council).

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

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 tops in each classroom for students to use as well as iPads.

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 redeveloped recently (including the provision of split system heating & cooling) and provide a welcoming atmosphere.

All staff have access to computers 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 the families and 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 with two hotels and two coffee shops 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. Booleroo centre 10 minutes away has a larger grocery store and also a hospital. The closest doctor/medical facilities 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 and Play Group Programs at the Melrose Early Learning Centre:

The Melrose Early Learning Centre and Rural Care is next door to the school and is part of the original school building, the other half being the Melrose Primary School's JP classroom. A 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. 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

In Melrose, other major facilities are the two hotels, two coffee shops, mountain bike riding business, 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 in Melrose

Accessibility

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