Coomandook Area School

Striving to make the difference

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 5/15

1. General information

Contact Details

Principal: Mrs Kath Macalister
Deputy Principal: Miss Madelaine McGinty
Postal Address: P/O Coomandook 5261
Location Address: 3275 Dukes Highway Coomandook 5261
School Number: 0729
District: Hills/Murraylands
Distance from GPO: 140 kms
Phone No.: 08 85733007
Fax No.: 08 85733185
Email address: dl.0729.info@schools.sa.edu

Enrolments (Feb Census Figures)

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February 2015 total FTE Enrolment 132.16

Male FTE 66
Female FTE 67

School Card Approvals (Persons) 30 (as at May, 2015)

NESB 0

Aboriginal FTE Enrolment (May 2015) 5
• **Enrolment trends**
  Student enrolment numbers are relatively steady, although there was some further reduction in numbers this year. The size of individual year levels varies from year to year but Senior Secondary options are very viable. Students from Year 10 are offered broader curriculum options through programs such as Vocational Education and Training (VET), Australian School Based Apprenticeships (SBNA), Open Access and TAFE.

• **Staffing numbers**
  Teachers: 13       Ancillary Staff: 9       GSE: 1
  Christian Pastoral Support Worker: 1 (Grant funded)

• **Special arrangements**
  The school consists of two sub-schools: the Primary School (Reception – Year 7), Secondary School (Years 8 – 12).
  Classes are vertically grouped in the Primary sector and at times for subjects in the secondary sector. Classes are generally small and allow for individual support of students.
  A very effective Kindergarten - Reception transition programme exists.

• **Year of opening:**
  1961. Before the opening of the Area School, many small primary schools were situated in the towns around the district. Students who wanted a secondary education travelled to Murray Bridge or Adelaide. After much discussion, it was decided to close five of these small schools and to build an Area School at Coomandook to provide secondary education. Sherlock Primary School closed later.

• **Public transport access**
  No local service
  Public service to (in morning) and from (in afternoon) Murray Bridge daily.
  Stateliner run a daily service to and from Adelaide.

2. **Students (and their welfare)**

• **General characteristics**
  Coomandook Area School is located 140kms East of Adelaide, adjacent to the Dukes (Adelaide to Melbourne) Highway, on the outskirts of a small rural township. Coomandook School is not situated in a large town but rather it forms a focal point for the surrounding rural communities with such facilities as the Community Library, Gymnasium, Swimming Pool and Oval. Students come from the towns or communities surrounding Coomandook and mainly come from farming families or from agriculturally based businesses. There is a strong sense of community in the school and district.
  Five school buses transport students to and from school.
  Students are organised into smaller Pastoral Care groups for support and daily routines. A Pastoral Care program runs weekly. Support programmes for individuals and groups are augmented by the Youth Worker and Pastoral Support Worker with the assistance of the the Murraylands Interagency Support team.
• Support offered

Students are assessed on entry to school and any students with special needs are identified.

Literacy and Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing from Reception to Year 12 are school and partnership priorities.

The school receives money through Rural and Isolated funding and this is used to subsidise travel and accommodation, performances and technology.

• Special needs

Currently the school caters for students with special needs within mainstream classes. When students are identified through an intervention process, a Negotiated Education Plan (NEP) or Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed. Students with special needs (R – 12) are supported individually or in small groups with the teachers or SSO. An Early Intervention program supports Junior Primary classes. This sit eprovides additional intervention funding.

• Student management

Students are generally well behaved and parents supportive of the School Behaviour Management Policy. A Code of Behaviour ensures that students understand the school rules and expectations. Counselling and support services assist us in our management of student behaviour. Student Development Plans are developed for students needing support with Behaviour Management.

• Student government

A Student Representative Council (SRC) works enthusiastically to improve the school environment and to provide amenities for students. The SRC is part of the decision-making structure and representatives attend Governing Council and Committee meetings.

• Special programmes

The Quicksmart Maths Programme is undertaken by an SSO where students work in pairs on a regular basis for thirty minutes per session. The programme aims to develop basic maths skills and students are identified for the programme via specific testing. The programme is used for students who do not qualify for an NEP.

Multilit and Beat Dyslexia are also available to students within the school. These programmes are delivered by an SSO trained in the specific programmes.

The school is committed to Vocational Education and to school clustering to increase student curriculum options and to add relevance to the curriculum.

Pedal Prix is available for students and outside school hours training is involved. The school has a Performing Arts programme, choir and instrumental music available.

The school has extensive Agriculture facilities and specific Agricultural programmes are available. The site also has an Agricultural/Trade Skills Centre.
3. **Curriculum**

Coomandook Area School offers a large range of different subjects from Reception to Year 12, through creative timetabling and vertical grouping of classes across the school. Our core business is providing teaching and learning opportunities through the curriculum. The South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework is the basis of all curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Area</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Year Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>R - 11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>R – 8</td>
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<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>R – 12</td>
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<td>Home Economics</td>
<td>Yr 6 – 12</td>
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<td>Technical Studies</td>
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<td>Information &amp; Communication Technology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Work Education / Personal Learning Plan</td>
<td>Yr 10</td>
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Within these curriculum areas staff are constantly developing structures which allow for individual interest and growth. Literacy, Numeracy and Information and Communication Technologies are integrated within all the Learning Areas. Enterprise is integrated within Agricultural and Horticultural Studies as well as within Business Studies; it is now a feature of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Programme.

**Senior Secondary Options**

Senior Secondary (Yr 10 –12) students have a wide choice of curriculum. Not all curriculum options are listed on the chart above. In Year 11 and 12, students study for the South Australian Certificate of Education and we try to cater for individual needs within specialist subjects.

Most subjects are taught face-to-face depending on subject choice and teacher expertise available. Further curriculum options are made available through other agencies such as Open Access and by Local Delivery.
Course and career counselling is provided through the Secondary School Manager.

- Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Coomandook Are School is a member of the Bridge, Coorong and Mallee Cluster of Schools, which runs numerous courses, offering student support and vocational curriculum. Students undertaking VET courses may study for Certificate courses and gain recognition for the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

- Open Access

Students may study through Open Access/Local Delivery to improve curriculum options. Study through either methodology requires good organisation, initiative and independent learning skills.

- Teaching methodology

A wide range of teaching methodologies and strategies are employed to engage and involve students. Generally the emphasis is placed on the student, their learning style and their needs so many approaches will be used within each class grouping and by each teacher.

- Assessment procedures and reporting

The school uses the Australian Curriculum and SACE for planning and assessment. The Standards and Outcome levels in each curriculum area are reported to parents.

Reporting to parents:

Term 1 & 3  R – 12: Interim Reporting
            Parent/Teacher Interviews

Term 2  R – 2: Descriptive Reports end of Term 2

Term 3  Year 12 Final School Report

Term 4  R – 2: Descriptive Report
6. Co-Curricular Activities

- Sporting Activities
  - Interhouse and Interschool swimming and athletics carnivals
  - Aquatics camp (Yr 9)
  - SAPSASA: basketball, cricket, football, netball, tennis, softball, soccer, swimming
  - USESA: Year 8/9 9-a-side football (boys and girls).
  - SSSSA: basketball; cross country; cricket (boys and girls); netball; football; soccer
  - Lunch-time Winter Sports Competition: Middle and Senior Schools
  - These activities depend on staff and parental support.

- Joint programmes
  - Upper South East Sports Association (USESA): organises interschool sports and carnivals with Coonalpyn, Coomandook, Keith, Meningie and Tintinara Schools.

- Curricular
  - Kitchen Garden (Yrs 4 – 7)
  - Pedal Prix (Yr 7 – 9)
  - Choir (Yrs 4 – 7)

- Extra Curricular
  - Bookweek
  - Connecting Spirits (Overseas Trip – commemorating War Veterans)
  - Junior School Drama Performance
  - Coonalpyn Show Displays
  - Led Steer and Goat Competitions at the Royal Adelaide Show.
  - Glee Club

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
  - The teaching staff consists of 13 members: 9 female and 4 male: Two teaching staff are part time, with the remainder being full time.
  - Ancillary staff: 9
  - The Ancillary staff consists of Administration, Finance, Receptionist, Student Support, ICT, Science, Youth Worker and Community Library Support.

- Groundsperson: 38 hours per week
  - A grant finances the Christian Pastoral Support Worker, who works 3 days per week.

- Leadership structure
  - Principal; Deputy Principal and 2 Coordinators (Sub-School Coordinators).
  - The Leadership Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Coordinators and Administration Officer.
• Staff support systems
  Staff induction procedures
  Release days for Professional Development or site based delivery
  Staff Association
  Policies and Procedures
  OHS Policies/Procedures

• Performance Management
  Performance Management is a two way process of support and appraisal.
  Principal line manages the Coordinators and some teaching staff. All Leaders have
  management responsibilities.
  The Principal, Deputy Principal and Administration Officer Line Manage Ancillary staff

• Staff utilisation policies
  All members of staff R-12 are encouraged to explore teaching options outside their
  areas of expertise as a professional development activity. All staff have access to
  decision making forums and grievance procedures.

• Access to special staff
  The school enjoys a very close supportive relationship with Murraylands Regional
  support staff and the interagency referral team. Support staff are quick to respond to
  student and staff needs.

• Other
  Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)
  Immunisation service at school for students
  Mallee Health Service
  Murray Bridge Headspace

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

• Complexity placement points: 0.5
• Isolation placement points: 1.5
• Location Allowance: Zone 2 allowance
• Housing assistance:
  A range of Government Housing is available either Coomandook or Coonalpyn
  Private rental is possible, may be on farms or in one of the towns.
9. **School Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds:**
  The grounds are spacious and well maintained with play or fitness equipment for all students.
  Two large water tanks collect the stormwater run-off to irrigate some of the lawned areas, which allows the grounds to be in excellent condition.
  There is a new Gymnasium, which was achieved under the BER funding.
  Issues around OHS&W are continually being addressed across the school.

- **Specialist facilities:**
  The school has a School/Community Library and a Kindergarten is located on school property. There is a school pool and swimming lessons are provided to primary students in Term 1 & 4. Business Studies and Computer suites are well equipped with computers, Internet access, and an interactive whiteboard projector. Administration and Curriculum computers are networked and the technical support is provided.

- **Student facilities**
  The SRC constantly upgrade and purchase equipment for student use. Students have extensive grounds and a variety of playground equipment as well as access to the latest technology.

- **Staff facilities**
  There is a comfortable staffroom with many facilities and all school resources are available to staff.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
  There is ramp access to most areas and a disabled person’s bathroom is available.

- **Heating and Cooling**
  All school buildings have reverse cycle air conditioning.
10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
  The school operates clear decision-making structures. Governing Council is responsible for governance and local policy. Governing Council consults widely with the staff, students and parents/caregivers. Influence on decision-making is possible through a number of forums: Governing Council and its sub-committees; whole staff meetings; sub-school meetings, SRC and student forums.

- Regular publications
  A Newsletter is produced fortnightly to provide school and community information. Other communication includes the use of the Daily Notices to all staff and staff notice boards. Staff meetings are held weekly from 3.30pm – 4.30pm, with voted extensions to 5pm, as required.

- School financial position
  The school is in a sound financial position with a very informed and active Financial Advisory Committee meeting approximately three times a term to budget and monitor all school expenditure.

- Special funding
  The Financial Advisory Committee manages the distribution of most school funds and additional grants. The Governing Council, Parents & Friends and SRC raise money for a variety of school projects.
  The Rural and Isolated funding provides monies to overcome isolation through distance.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
  The School is the hub of a large area. Coomandook Area School forms a focal point for the surrounding rural communities with such facilities as the Community Library, oval, gym, swimming pool, activity room and meeting rooms being available.
  The area served by the school is very closely tied to rural industry and has experienced financial hardships. Approximately 30% of students are on school card.

- Parent and community involvement
  Parents/caregivers and the community are actively involved in all aspects of the school with parent/caregiver participation being very high and meaningful. All parents/caregivers are encouraged to join the committee structures and are canvassed for ideas and opinions.
  The Parents & Friends Committee provides an informal forum for parents to gain information and to be involved in the school. Members are responsible for running the Tuckshop one day per week, second-hand uniforms store and other fundraising. The local shop also services the lunch programme.

- Feeder schools
  Coonalpyn Primary is the major feeder school with some students from other areas choosing to attend because of the curriculum offerings and alternative curriculum options. Tailem Bend students may attend CAS from Year 8, but must apply for permission to access the school bus. Geranium Primary students can choose between CAS and Lameroo Regional Community School. A strong Transition program for Years 7 – 8 is in place with neighbouring Primary Schools.
• Other local care and educational facilities
  A Kindergarten is located on the school grounds and operates for 3 sessions a fortnight. Occasional Care is provided through the Kindergarten on Tuesdays. The Kindergarten shares our grounds and facilities but is managed independently with a Director and its own Governing Council. A Playgroup takes place on Wednesdays in the Kindergarten building.

• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  The Coomandook General Store provides most household grocery and hardware needs. Other shopping facilities are available at local towns with Murray Bridge being the main retail service provider.

• Other local facilities
  Hospitals are situated in Meningie, Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge. Medical Centres are based in Coonalpyn, Meningie and Tailem Bend. The local Hall and tennis club, run by the Coomandook Pastimes Club. SwimSA coaching provided at the School/Community Swimming Pool. Football, netball and tennis clubs are based in the local towns of Coonalpyn, Peake and Tailem Bend.

• Accessibility
  The school is situated on the Dukes Highway and is very accessible. Parking is available at the front of the school or on Parkin Hall Road. There is limited public bus transport from Adelaide and Murray Bridge.

• Local Government body
  The Coorong District Council has offices based in Meningie, Tintinara and Tailem Bend. The Council is responsible for part funding of School Community Library and has a representative on the Library Board.

12. SUMMARY

Coomandook Area School has some complexities due to being a small, combined R – 12 school with a high percentage of students with disabilities or under the Guidance of the Minister. Teachers Secondary years are required to teach in more than two subject areas, across Years 8 -12 and sometimes R – 12. It is also necessary that teachers ensure that the curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of the students. Our learning priorities are Literacy and Numeracy so all teachers teach Literacy and Numeracy across the curriculum.

Our school has a very pleasant environment in which to teach. The school is well resourced and the buildings and grounds are being upgraded to make them even more pleasant places in which to work and play. We have a most supportive staff, the students are generally well behaved and courteous and the parents very supportive of the school.

The school and the local community welcome new students and teachers and invite you to visit.