



Coomandook Area School

"Striving To Make The Difference"

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 6/17

1. General information

Contact Details

Principal: Ms Kaye Fitton
Deputy Principal: Miss Madelaine McGinty
Postal Address: P/O Coomandook 5261
Location Address: 3275 Dukes Highway Coomandook 5261
School Number: 0729
District: Murray & Mallee
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)

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Rec	9	13	7	5	9
Year 1	6	8	11	6	6
Year 2	10	7	6	11	6
Year 3	10	10	7	9	11
Year 4	8	9	9	8	11
Year 5	10	6	9	8	6
Year 6	11	8	5	11	6
Year 7	12	9	10	6	11
Year 8	18	15	12	15	13
Year 9	26	17	15	14	15
Year 10	13	20	13	17	12
Year 11	17	10	19	11	14
Year 12	10	14	10	14	12
SP	0	0	0	2	2
TOTAL	160	147	133	137	134

February 2017 total FTE Enrolment

Male FTE 76

Female FTE 55

School Card Approvals (Persons) 29(as at April, 2017)

NESB 0

Aboriginal FTE Enrolment (Feb 2017) 8

Principal: Kaye Fitton
Governing Council Chairperson: David Peter
Phone: 85 733007 Fax: 85 733185
www.coomyas.sa.edu.au
dl.0729.info@schools.sa.edu.au



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Respect
Honesty
Persistence

Enrolment trends

Student enrolment numbers are relatively steady. 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: 16 Ancillary Staff: 11 GSE:1
Pastoral Care 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)

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 Murraylands Interagency Support team.

Support offered

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 One Plan 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 site provides additional intervention funding where possible and students identified with special needs are often provided with additional funding from the Regional Disabilities Office.

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 cultivated 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.

MYTERN – Taking Emotional Responsibility Now :

MYTERN is an extremely powerful skill that teaches how to take control of responses to everyday stresses and challenges, improving mental, emotional and physical health.

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 Australian Curriculum is the basis of all curriculum.

Learning Area	Subjects	Year Levels
The Arts	Drama Music Dance Visual Arts	R - 11 R - 10 R - 10 R - 12
Design and Technology	Home Economics Technical Studies Information & Communication Technology	Yr 5 - 12 Yr 5 - 12 R - 12
English	English	R - 12
Health and Physical Education		R - 12
Language Other Than English	German	R - 7
Mathematics	Mathematics	R - 12
Science	General Science Specialist Science areas	R - 10 Yr 11 & 12
	Agriculture	Yr 2 - 12
Humanities and Social Science	HASS Personal Learning Plan History Geography	R - 10 Yr 10 Year 11/12 Year 11/12

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 Murray Bridge and Coorong 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 Pedagogy

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 – 12: Descriptive Reports end of Term 2
Term 3	Year 12 Final School Report
Term 4	R – 12: Descriptive Report

6. Co-Curricular Activities

Sporting Activities

Interhouse and Interschool swimming and athletics carnivals

Aquatics camp (Yr 9)/Canoe Camp (Year 8)

SAPSASA

USE

SSSSA

House Cup Sports

These activities depend on staff and parental support.

Joint programmes

Upper South East Sports Association (USES): organises interschool sports and carnivals with Coonalpyn, Coomandook, Keith, Karoonda, Meningie and Tintinara Schools.

Curricular

Agriculture (Rec – 12)
Kitchen Garden (Rec – 7)
Specialist Performing Arts (Rec – Year 11)
Choir (Yrs 4 – 7)
Recorder Years (2 – 4)
Instrumental Music (5 – 12)

Extra Curricular

Carols by Candlelight
Coonalpyn Show Displays
Led Steer, Pigs, Sheep and Goat Competitions at the Royal Adelaide Show.
Pedal
R – 12 Production

Prix

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff Profile

The teaching staff consists of 16 members: 12 female and 4 male: Three teaching staff are part time, with the remainder being full time.

Ancillary staff: 11

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 Pastoral Care Worker, who works 2 days per week.

Leadership structure

The Leadership Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Coordinator and Administration Officer.

The Deputy Principal manages Daily Operations, TRTs and the Primary School; the Coordinator manages the Secondary School, SACE/VET; and the Administration Officer manages the Ancillary Staff and all Administrative matters relating to the school.

Staff support systems

Staff induction procedures

Release days for Professional Development or site based delivery

Staff Association

Policies and Procedures

WHS Policies/Procedures

Performance Development

Performance Development is a two way process of support and appraisal.

Principal line manages the Deputy Principal, Coordinator, Administration Officer and teaching staff. All Leaders have management responsibilities.

The Administration Officer Line Manages all Ancillary staff

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

Tailem Bend Community Centre

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. Four 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 Gymnasium, which was achieved under the BER funding.

Issues around WHS are continually being addressed across the school. The school has a Community Meeting Room attached to the Library, which has up to date facilities which can be used by school and the community.

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 4, Secondary students have swimming during Terms 1 and 4. Administration and Curriculum computers are networked and the technical support is provided. The school has two computer suites and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is in place for students Years 10 – 12.

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. The school has a Facebook page and a School Stream App which is used as communication for parents/caregivers.

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 second-hand uniforms store and other fundraising. The local shop 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. Occasional Care is provided through the Kindergarten on certain days.

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, and they use the Library for Baby Bounce.

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 percentage of students with disabilities or under the Guardianship of the Minister. Teachers are required to teach in multiple areas across the school. It is also necessary that teachers ensure that the curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of the students. Our learning priorities are Student Wellbeing, Powerful Learners and Quality Teaching and Learning.

Our school has a very pleasant environment in which to work. The school is well resourced and the grounds and buildings provide a pleasant place 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.

