



Coomandook Area School

"Striving To Make The Difference"

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 6/20

1. General information

Contact Details

Principal: Mr John Sutton
 Deputy Principal: Mr Jacob Dawson
 Postal Address: P/O Coomandook 5261
 Location Address: 3275 Dukes Highway Coomandook 5261
 School Number: 0729
 Partnership: Coorong & Mallee
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Enrolments

(Feb Census Figures)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Pre School	na	na	na	5	7
Rec	5	9	6	7	5
Year 1	6	6	10	5	7
Year 2	11	6	7	13	2
Year 3	9	11	8	6	12
Year 4	8	11	9	7	7
Year 5	8	6	10	9	8
Year 6	11	6	8	11	13
Year 7	6	11	7	5	10
Year 8	15	13	20	9	8
Year 9	14	15	12	17	9
Year 10	17	12	14	14	14
Year 11	11	14	12	11	10
Year 12	14	12	13	8	12
SP	2	2	2	0	1
TOTAL	<u>137</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>126</u>

February 2019 total FTE Enrolment

Male FTE 78

Female FTE 48

School Card Approvals (Persons) 29(as at March, 2020)

NESB 0

Aboriginal FTE Enrolment (Feb 2018) 4

Principal: John Sutton
 Governing Council Chairperson: Louise Pitt
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Government of South Australia
 Department for Education

Respect
 Honesty
 Persistence

- **Enrolment trends**

Student enrolment numbers are relatively steady, with additional students in Pre School due to the amalgamation with the Coomandook & Districts Kindergarten. The size of individual year levels varies from year to year. Students in Secondary School from Year 10 are offered broader curriculum options through programs such as Vocational Education and Training (VET).

Staffing numbers

Teachers: 16 Ancillary Staff: 10 GSE:2 (Part time)

Christian Pastoral Support Worker : 0 (Position to be filled)

Special arrangements

The school consists of three broad sub-schools: Early Years including Pre-School, Primary (Reception – Year 6) and Secondary School (Years 7 – 12).

Classes are vertically grouped in the Primary sector and for some subjects in Secondary. Classes are generally small and allow for individual support of students.

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.

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 and MYTERN principles form the basis of support. Support programmes for individuals and groups are augmented by the Youth Worker and Pastoral Support Worker. In 2020 the school had enough enrolments to warrant a school based preschool. These enrolments look stable for the next 2 years.

Intervention Support

Students with special needs are identified and supported through appropriate interventions.

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 supports learning. Students are supported individually or in small groups with teachers or SSOs. 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.

Student management

The school has zero tolerance to Bullying and Harassment. 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. Students receive appropriate consequences for breaches of the Behaviour Code



Student voice

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.

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

The school is committed to Vocational Education

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.

Kitchen Garden and a "Masterclass" programme exists to cater for student areas of interest.

3. Curriculum

Coomandook Area School offers a wide range of different subjects through creative timetabling and vertical grouping of classes across the school. Our core business is providing maximum learning opportunities through relevant curriculum opportunities, with a particular focus on both Literacy and Numeracy. The Australian Curriculum provides the basis of all learning.

4. 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

USESAs: Year 8/9 9-a-side football (boys and girls).

SSSSA: basketball; cross country; cricket (boys and girls); netball; football; soccer

Lunch-time Sports Competitions

These activities depend on staff and parental support.

Joint programmes

Upper South East Sports Association (USESAs): organises interschool sports and carnivals.

Curricular

Agriculture

Kitchen Garden

Performing Arts

Choir

Recorder Years

Instrumental Music

Extra Curricular

Bookweek

Coonalpyn / Murray Bridge Show Displays

Led Steer and Goat Competitions at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Pedal Prix

5. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile

The teaching staff consists of 16 members: 9 female and 7 male: Six teaching staff are part time, with the remainder being full time.

Ancillary staff: 10

The Ancillary staff consists of Administration, Finance, Receptionist, Student Support, ICT, Science, Youth Worker and Community Library Support.

Groundsperson and a Grounds Support Person via sub contracting conditions.

A grant finances the Christian Pastoral Support Worker, who works 2 days per week, yet to be employed in 2020.

- Leadership structure

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

The Deputy Principal manages Daily Operations and TRTs; the Coordinator manages Transitions, SACE and VET; Careers Counselling and the Administration Officer manages all Ancillary Staff, all Administrative matters relating to the school and is the Principal's PA.

- Staff support systems

Staff induction procedures

Release days for Professional Development or site based delivery

Staff Association

Policies and Procedures

WHS Policies/Procedures

Performance Management

Performance Management is a two way process of support and appraisal. Performance plans based on the school's SIP are expected twice per term.

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

The Administration Officer Line manages all 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

Youth worker and PCW

6. 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.

7. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds:

The grounds are spacious and well maintained with play and 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 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. There is a school pool and swimming lessons are provided to primary students in Term 1 & 4. Computer suites are well equipped with computers, Internet access, and smart TVs. Administration and Curriculum computers are networked and 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.

8. School Operations

Decision making structures

The school operates clear decision-making structures including Leadership and PAC. 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. The school has a Facebook page which is used as communication for parents/caregivers. The school uses the Daymap system within the school, with plans for it to be accessed externally asap.

- **School financial position**

The school is in a balanced financial position with a very informed and active Financial 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.

9. 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 at times has experienced financial hardships. A large percentage 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, 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 6 to 8 is in place with neighbouring Primary Schools.

Other local care and educational facilities

Occasional Care is provided on Tuesday morning.

A Playgroup takes place on Wednesdays at the local hall 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.

10. SUMMARY

Coomandook Area School has some complexities due to being a small, School based Pre School to Year 12 school with a high percentage of students with disabilities. Our learning priorities from our SIP are Reading, Writing and Numeracy so all teachers teach Literacy and Numeracy across the curriculum.

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

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

