

School Context Statement

Updated: 10/2015

School number: **0756**
 School name: **Karoonda Area School**

1. General information

Part A

Schoolname : KAROONDA AREA SCHOOL
 School No. : 0756
 Principal : Mr Daniel Rankine
 Postal Address : Karoonda SA 5307
 Location Address : North Terrace, KAROONDA SA 5307
 Region : Murray and Mallee
 Distance from GPO : 145 kms

Phone No.: 08 8578 1120
 Fax No. : 08 8578 1078

School Based Preschool attached: YES

February FTE Enrolment Preschool	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	15	17	16	10	16	11
TOTAL	15				16	11

February FTE Enrolment	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Primary						
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.						
Reception	7	10	6	17	8	16
Year 1	12	8	13	10	18	7
Year 2	11	12	7	14	11	19
Year 3	11	13	12	7	12	11
Year 4	13	14	11	13	8	13
Year 5	8	12	14	10	13	8
Year 6	11	8	10	15	9	14
Year 7	8	12	10	13	16	9
Secondary						
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.						
Year 8	10	8	12	10	11	13
Year 9	8	11	8	14	10	9
Year 10	7	7	12	9	14	10
Year 11	11	6	8	12	10	10
Year 12	9	9	6	8	11	8
TOTAL	126	130	127	152	151	147

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
School Card Approvals (Persons)	44	35	48	51	52	50
NESB Total (Persons)	0	3	3	7	5	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	0	0	0	0	0	0

Part B

Deputy Principal: Jaslyn Hocking
School Website: www.kas.sa.edu.au
School E-mail Address: dl.0756.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Staffing numbers

13.8 FTE, 13 teachers in total comprising of Principal (Male), Deputy Principal (Female), Secondary Senior Coordinator (Female), Inclusion Coordinator (Female), Primary Counsellor (Female), 7 full time teachers and 4 part time teachers. Within the FTE are 0.2 Counselling time, 0.4 Library time, 0.2 Tech Studies position and 0.5 Preschool teaching time.

110 permanent and 165 temporary ancillary hours/week are shared between 12 people including 25hrs GSE and Agriculture Support, 21hrs Community Library Assistant, 16.5 hrs Preschool Support, general student support and administration.

Enrolment trends

2004 – 174; 2005 – 166; 2006 – 149; 2007 – 139; 2008 – 127; 2009 – 126; 2010 – 126; 2011 – 130; 2012 – 127; 2013 – 152; 2014 – 151; 2015 – 147.

The school has undergone a significant decrease in student enrolments, to a low of 126 at the beginning of 2010. During the second half of 2012 the school saw an influx of students reaching 152 students in 2013 and the school has since remained reasonably steady at the 145-150 enrolment mark.

Special arrangements

The Coorong- Mallee Partnership

The group comprises of 16 sites – 6 Stand Alone Preschools (Geranium, Lameroo, Pinnaroo, Coomandook, Coonalpyn and Meningie) 4 Primary Schools (Geranium, Pinnaroo, Raukkan and Coonalpyn) and 6 Area Schools (Lameroo, East Murray, Karoonda, Tintinara, Coomandook and Meningie).

Adelaide Hills Murraylands Pathways – Murraylands Cluster

The Cluster comprises of Mannum Community College, Coomandook Area School, Tintinara Area School, Meningie Area School, Murray Bridge High School, Unity College and Karoonda Area School. Principals meet each term with the Industry Skills Manager and the Trade School for the Future Apprenticeship Broker to discuss Industry Skills Programs, Lower Murray Trade Training Centre courses, Trade School for the Future, ICAN and AHMPs VET courses. The school uses a variety of these courses to expand the options for senior students.

Year of Opening

Karoonda Area School became the first area school in the state when it was established in 1941. Unlike Oakbank Area School, established in the previous year, Karoonda Area School was formed when primary schools from the surrounding district were closed and consolidated into the one school offering both primary and secondary education.

Public transport access

A community transport bus is based at Karoonda.

This service is a government subsidised privately owned bus service run by Link SA.

The current schedule is as follows:

Thursday: Karoonda to Berri (via Lameroo – Pinnaroo) and return.

Every six weeks the bus extends the run from Berri to Renmark.

Friday: Karoonda to Murray Bridge (via Tailem Bend) and return.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

Karoonda Area School has a homogenous student population and although there is some German heritage, this is not a dominant factor. The majority of students come from farming families. The school, like many other rural schools, has School Card recipients reflecting fluctuations in income on many farms.

Pastoral Care

Class teachers in Preschool – Year 6 and Home Group teachers in Years 7 - 12 support this in a caring environment. The Year 7 - 12s have a common lesson per week of Pastoral Care, which is used to cover, the Australian Curriculum General Capabilities and Cross Curriculum Priorities. This is further supported by a strong involvement from the primary and secondary student counsellors.

Support Offered

12 SSOs work with students identified as having special needs programmes.

Course / career counselling and general student counselling is offered to students. A Coordinator who has the responsibilities for VET works closely with students and coordinates with outside agencies to increase the subject offerings to senior secondary students.

Student Management

Common expectations are published. The school has published its Student Behaviour Management policy, which is well supported by parents. An Anti-bullying policy and program and a Bully Audit continues to be a vital part of our school ethos.

For the purpose of managing student behaviour, the school is divided into two sub schools, each with its own behaviour coordinator.

Student Government

The Student Representative Council is an important body within the school. It has representation on Governing Council and many school committees. The SRC provides advocacy for the students and plans social activities and fundraising functions. The representation is from Year 4 - 12.

There is a system of elected House Captains and Vice Captains who coordinate all intra-school athletics and swimming carnivals.

Special Programmes

Early Intervention and an Independent Learning Program have been established to support students with special needs.

The school places a high priority on supporting these programs through the provision of SSO time as resources allow.

Christian Pastoral Support Worker and Primary Counsellor work closely together to provide additional support to staff, students and parents through a range of initiatives.

3. Key School Policies

The KAS Site Improvement Plan 2015 focuses on:

Literacy Numeracy Whole School Well Being Curriculum Development
Implementation of National Quality Standards for Preschool, Australian Curriculum and SACE

Recent Key Outcomes

Students at KAS consistently achieve higher in their SACE than their counterparts in the state and like schools.

Students at KAS leave or complete their studies and go on to secured employment and / or further training.

KAS currently has 4 Australian School Based Apprenticeships as well as 5 students who are currently or have completed, VET qualifications as part of their SACE studies.

In Running Records, students from KAS achieve higher than their counterparts in similar schools or the state.

4. Curriculum

Cross year level classes are utilised throughout the school due to low numbers and as a means to increase the subject offerings at senior levels. Seven of the SACS learning areas are offered to Reception – Year 10 at KAS. Home Economics and Agriculture are also offered.

Students in Year 11 & 12 are offered a range of SACE subjects that meet their needs through:

- Face-to-face teaching
- VET courses
- Participation in Australian School Based Apprenticeships
- Distance Education.

Students can access Stage 1 and 2 subjects through Open Access and Mallee Local Delivery. They are supported by a contact teacher at school and work in other classes. Although we generally have the teacher expertise, we are not able to timetable classes of one or two students regularly.

The school's senior school curriculum offerings result in the maintenance of senior student enrolments. The school will continue to explore further ways to include VET modules within the senior curriculum.

Special Needs

SSOs work with special needs students in a number of Primary and Secondary classes. An Early Intervention program is maintained.

Special Curriculum Features

- 1 Choir is offered to students in Years 4-7. In 2015, students will participate in the Murraylands Music Festival and the SA Primary Schools Music Festival in Adelaide.
- 2 Compulsory Work Experience at Years 10.
- 3 An emphasis on integrating ICT within the learning areas.
- 4 Technology in Reception – Year 12.
- 5 Civics and Citizenship, student leadership and community involvement play an important part across many curriculum areas.

Teaching Methodology

Our school has full ICT curriculum networking that allows for the use of ICT in all learning areas.

Parents see access to high quality education, performing arts, technology (ICT) and sport as most important and essential ingredients of an excellent school. Karoonda is a Country Area Program school and funding is used to address the areas of concern:

- 1 Performing Artists are brought to the school and students visit various performances during the year.
- 2 Access of all students to the curriculum and to major cultural activities, specialist centres and programs.
- 3 Provision of up-to-date hardware and software and technological expertise.
- 4 Students are subsidised and parents are supported with funding for travel to a wide range of activities.

Assessment Procedures and Reporting

Preschool students receive feedback about their progress throughout the 4 terms at Preschool. This includes information about achievement of the Essential Learnings and culminates in a summative report at the conclusion of preschool.

A Reception – Year 12 interview evening occurs towards the end of Term 1 and formal written assessments are forwarded to families at the end of Semester 1 and 2.

5. Sporting Activities

The school actively participates in a wide range of intra-school and inter-school sporting competitions including swimming and athletics.

Students are given the opportunity to represent the school and the district in both SAPSASA and SSSSA competitions. These include swimming, cricket, football, softball, golf, tennis, netball, basketball, etc.

Opportunities to have students experience a variety of other sports through coaching and participation are embraced when they occur.

General country sports facilities exist at our school and town:

Football, netball, tennis, basketball, bowls, cricket and golf are played regularly in our community.

Karate, Yoga, PT Sessions and the Local Gym are also offered to members of the community.

A Little Athletics group uses the school after hours in Terms 1 and 4.

Community members volunteer their assistance in the above activities providing much needed expertise.

A school community pool exists and is supported and valued by the community.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Special

Karoonda Farm Fair

The school has strong links with the annual Karoonda Farm Fair and is very active in its support of this community activity. A full day closure is arranged for one of the two days and this event is also used as the major fundraiser of the year. Staff, parent and student participation levels are high.

Arts Showcase/Market Day (alternate Years)

The school holds an Arts Showcase in Term 3. It is an opportunity for students to showcase the school's performing and visual arts programmes. Market Day is an opportunity to develop enterprise skills and create a "carnival" atmosphere to raise funds for camps and excursions.

Presentation Night

The school celebrates students' academic, leadership and sporting achievements at Presentation Night at the end of each school year.

Civics and Citizenship

The school has won state and national awards for its Civics and Citizenship programmes in the past and continues to focus on Civics and Citizenship through the curriculum, the Karoonda Drop In Centre (a student managed youth centre), River Murray Youth Council, SRC activities and representation on all school committees.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff Profile

Other than the data presented earlier: there is stability amongst staff, with relatively little annual staff turnover with many staff being here well in excess of ten years.

Leadership Structure

The School Management team consists of Principal, a Deputy Principal, Senior Years – VET/SACE Coordinator and Inclusions Coordinator.

Each Management team member has the responsibility to line manage staff within the school through the school Performance Management structures.

All staff members are supported through regular meetings with line managers.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Country Incentives allowance (in first 5 years)

Travelling time

1¾ hours from Adelaide (GPO)

¾ hour from Murray Bridge

1½ hours from Riverland (Berri)

Housing assistance

Small rent reduction

9. School Facilities

Buildings and Grounds

The Preschool–Year 6 classes of the school are housed in a main stone building and a collection of older style prefabricated wooden buildings, all of which were substantially refurbished between 2011 and 2014. The main brick section of the school was opened in 1972 and is used predominantly by the Years 7-12 section of the school. Significant renovations to this building occurred in 1997 to accommodate an upgraded administration facility, with further renovations throughout 2013 and 2014 to decommission one science lab to add another standard classroom and upgrades to the corridor. The Demac library building was added in 1978. Through the 'Building the Education Revolution' works programme a new hall was constructed in 2010-2011 and became available for use in October 2011. The grounds are well cared for and a Grounds committee meets regularly.

Cooling

All stand-alone buildings have reverse cycle split system heating and cooling units. The main brick building has reverse cycle heating and cooling throughout.

Specialist Facilities

The school library became a joint use School / Community Library in 1986. Community groups use the library for public meetings as required.

A one-third size Olympic swimming pool is situated on school grounds, which is currently awaiting departmental approval for replacement. It is well kept, has adequate shade and a very pleasant lawned areas within the fenced complex. It is used as a community pool after hours and on Sunday afternoon during the summer. VacSwim lessons are held at the pool in early January each year (when operational).

A community organised Little Athletics programme is available to students after school in Terms 1 and 4. Community education (TAFE and the like) courses operate at the school during the evening as deemed necessary.

The local Cricket Club uses the school oval for several cricket matches during the season and the school nets for practice weekly.

The school hall is used by various local sporting groups for junior programs such as Net-Set-Go and basketball minis.

Student facilities

A canteen is provided on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday staffed by volunteers and the SRC offer the canteen service during recess times on Monday and Wednesday. The canteen has successfully adopted a healthy eating menu in line with the state government's requirements.

Year 12 students have their own work area.

Sports equipment is provided for lunchtime use.

Shade facilities are provided in the yard and over most playground equipment.

Internet access is available across the school ICT curriculum network.

Students have secure computer storage for their work files on a network server.

Staff Facilities

Workspace is available for staff in private offices, the Resource Centre and the staff room. Access to the Internet is available on the curriculum and administration networks. Secure storage space for staff files is available on both networks.

There is access for students and staff with disabilities.

Wheelchair access is available to the secondary block.

Access to Bus Transport

A shared CAP bus is available amongst the Mallee Schools Group. One DECD bus is available to the school. Management of shared Country Areas Programme (CAP) resources was the initial purpose for forming the group. Currently the group has joint ownership of a 24 seater bus and trailer that is shared amongst the schools and managed by Lameroo Regional Community School.

Other

Preschool

The school has a Preschool that is an integral and important part of our school. It operates for five sessions per week (being two full days and one half day). We pride ourselves on being a Preschool to Year 12 School.

Playgroup

A funded Playgroup is run on site once a week by a qualified early childhood educator.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

The school has a decision-making policy, which seeks consultation with the school community in reaching decisions. The following committees exist: Governing Council, Personnel Advisory Committee, Bus, Canteen, CAP, Preschool Discussion Group, Finance Advisory, Fundraising, Pool Grounds and Agriculture, Policy Review, School/Community Library, Sports, WHS, SRC and Uniform.

Regular Publications

A Newsletter is produced and distributed weekly. It is available to non-school community members at a small cost. It is also available for distribution via Email.

A Parent Information book is available.

Daily notices are electronically distributed and circulated to all staff and classes. Two sections are developed - one for staff only notices and one for student notices.

A school magazine is published at the end of each year.

Other communication

Preschool-Year 7 class teachers provide information to each home at start of the school year detailing teacher expectations and an outline of their programmes.

School Financial Position

The school finances are sound and the budget processes work well. The Finance Advisory Committee performs an important role in ensuring decisions are made based on good advice.

Special Funding

An allocation of funds in accordance with the Rural and Isolated Students Index is allocated to CAP funding each year. Processes for accessing these funds are well known and used effectively. A representative committee sets the criteria and agenda for access to these funds.

11. Local Community

General Characteristics

There is little work available in the town on a permanent basis. Some seasonal work exists. Farming is the main function of the community. Outside of the rural industry, the main employing organisations would be the local hospital, local government and the school.

Parent and Community Involvement

Parents are involved in school activities such as fundraising and committees.

The Preschool is well supported by parents who are rostered to assist teaching and learning within the centre. This support continues into the Junior Primary and lower Primary classes through parent volunteers who assist regularly with learning.

The Governing Council plays a very active role in school decision-making and currently has 14 members.

A separate Fundraising Committee carries out fundraising during the year. There are many sub-committees and there is parent representation on each committee (see 10. Governance – Decision Making Structures).

Parent and community support for the school is strong. Large numbers of parents, grandparents and community members attend intra-school and inter-school sports events.

Feeder Schools

The school has a school – based Preschool attached to it. This is the only feeder option.

Other Local Care and Educational Facilities

Community and educational groups, such as church groups and sporting bodies, use the school's facilities occasionally.

The Community Library is well patronised and enjoys strong District Council support.

Commercial / industrial and Shopping Facilities

A well-equipped hospital exists. There is currently no resident doctor in Karoonda with SA Country Health currently providing a 3 day service with locum doctors. SA Country Health is actively seeking to appoint a resident doctor to the town. Limited visiting specialists and para-professional services are available. Basic shopping facilities exist within the town.

See also www.dckem.sa.gov.au for further information.

Other Local Facilities

There is a good range of service clubs, such as Lions, State Ambulance Service, CFS and the Karoonda Development Group.

See also www.dckem.sa.gov.au for further information.

Availability of Staff Housing

Government Employee Housing has six houses in the town. There is limited local housing in the town as an option.

Accessibility

Centrally located to access riverine leisure activities and Murray Bridge (65km) and Loxton (110km) regional facilities and services.

Local Government Body

The Administration Centre for the District Council of Karoonda - East Murray is situated in the main street.

12. Further Comments

Karoonda was originally referred to as 40-mile bore. The town was founded in 1910 and grew as a railway centre and rural service town over the years. The town of Karoonda is situated in the Murray Mallee 145 kilometres east of Adelaide. The community is mainly involved in the farming industry, either working the land itself, or in supporting and service industries. The District Council of Karoonda-East Murray is located in the town and services approximately 1250 people. (The East Murray Area School is also located in the District Council of Karoonda - East Murray.) The area, like many other rural communities, is suffering the effects of the general decline in rural industry, a loss of population and in recent years of drought.

A childcare service operates on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays within the town.