

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2015

**School Name:** Coonalpyn Primary School

**School Number:** 0730

## 1. General Information

### Part A

Schoolname : COONALPYN PRIMARY SCHOOL  
School No. : 0730  
Principal : Mrs Margret Elvey  
Postal Address : PO Box B932, Coonalpyn 5265  
Location Address : 4 Coombe Terrace, Coonalpyn 5265  
District : Murray-lands  
Distance from GPO : 163 kms  
CPC attached : NO

Courier : R33/2  
Coorong Mallee Partnership  
Phone No. : 08 85711019  
Fax No. : 08 85711284

### February FTE Enrolment

Primary	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reception	4	4	2	5	8
Year 1	7	4	6	4	6
Year 2	10	7	4	4	2
Year 3	5	9	7	3	5
Year 4	5	4	9	7	3
Year 5	5	5	4	6	7
Year 6	5	6	4	3	5
Year 7	4	5	4	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>

	2012	2013	2014	2015
October Exp. FTE Enrolment	46	44	34	40
Male FTE	30	28	22	19
Female FTE	16	16	13	21
School Card Approvals (Persons)	2	9	8	14
NESB Total (Persons)	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	1	1	1	5

### Staffing numbers

Principal-1.0  
4-7 teacher – 1.0  
R-3 teacher – 0.6

R- 3 teacher -0.6

Library/OHSW/ICT/Special Ed-SSO 1: 25hrs

Finance/Admin-SSO 2: 25 hrs

Class support/Admin-SSO 1: 22hrs

Classroom Support – 6 hours

Grounds-6 hours

- OSHC  
Not provided.
- Enrolment trends  
Enrolments seem to be reasonably stable – they range between high to mid 30s and are currently at 40. The local Kindergarten is situated next to the school site.
- Year of opening  
School was opened in 1889.
- Public transport access  
There is no public transport access, as such.

## **2. Students and their welfare**

- General characteristics  
The school has programmes for children with learning delays. These are provided by teaching staff and sometimes implemented by SSOs.
- Pastoral Care programmes  
The school teaches and practices various values supported by approval from the Governing Council. These underpin all learning. The school has Literacy, Quality Teaching and Learning and Numeracy on our Site Learning Plan as priorities. KidsMatter was introduced in 2013. Staff concentrate on supporting students with positive reinforcement and awards based on the school values.
- Support offered  
Through Murray Bridge Education Office support staff and Learning Support programs within the school.
- Student Management  
The school has a Behaviour Management Policy with clearly stated expectations and consequences and this code is based on the school's values.
- Student Government  
The Kids Council, with representatives from each class, meets regularly. It organises fundraisers, manages aspects of enterprise and contributes to the decision making of the school.

At Risk Learning Support is funded by the school. There is Early Intervention for Students at Risk. We participate in 2 Swimming Carnivals

and 3 sports days with other schools. There are strong learning ties with the Kindy and the school JP students, with our Transition Program working extremely well.

Links have been made with Geranium Primary School and Raukkan Aboriginal School with sports and camps being run together. The school also has a Festival Choir, instrumental music lessons (flute and clarinet ) a vegetable garden.. These activities are designed to improve the student's social skills.

### **3. Key School Policies**

- Current priorities  
Our current priorities are:  
Focus on Learning – Literacy and Numeracy  
Student Wellbeing

### **4. Curriculum**

- Subject offerings  
School provides a comprehensive R-7 curriculum in all learning Areas: English, Mathematics, Science, HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences) LOTE (Japanese) The Arts, Health and PE and Design and Tech.  
Extra Curricular activities include: Choir and Instrumental Music
- Special curriculum features  
Strong emphasis is placed on participation in a variety of health and sporting activities, visual and performing Arts experiences.  
Teaching methodology  
Emphasis is placed on the use of Information Technology in all classes. Interactive whiteboard technology is available in all classrooms. Staff use Teaching for Effective Learning as a basis of pedagogy.  
SSOs work with individuals and small groups for Literacy and Numeracy support and provide 1 to 1 support in accordance with Negotiated One Plans.
- Assessment procedures and reporting  
Student Assessment Portfolios are sent home each term to show student work samples and then a more formal end of term graded report in Term 2 and 4. In early Term 2, we offer 3 way interviews.  
Our formal data assessment map provides evidence of success and informs future planning. A mid year and end of year self review occur.
- Joint programmes  
School works with local schools accessing Aboriginal Learning Programs as HPI activities and works twice a term in cross age learning experiences with our Kindergarten.  
Swimming and Athletics carnivals with geranium Primary and Rakkaun Aboriginal Schools

OPAL Healthy Eating strategy – vegetable garden, March into May and Premier's Be Active Challenge.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Students have the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA football, netball, tennis, cricket, athletics and swimming teams. Local clubs cater for tennis, netball, football, golf, bowls and basketball. Coaching clinics, including Have-A-Go cricket and Auskick football are run by staff & parent volunteers.

All students participate in Footsteps Dance every September.

## 6. Staff (and their Welfare)

- Staff profile

There is an average stay of about 3 years for teachers. Teachers range from graduates to very experienced. The average age of staff is currently 46.
- Performance Management

A formal Performance Management programme operates using DECD policy and guidelines. Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and Principals for the basis of our work in performance and development. Clear induction processes exist for new staff. Staff are expected to have performance development conversations each term with the principal, with negotiated agendas.
- Leadership structure

We only have a Principal but leadership is shared among the whole staff. Additional responsibilities and opportunity for leadership are directed through curriculum area responsibilities and shared among staff. There is provision for interested staff to take turns in Acting Principal days when principal is at meetings etc.
- Staff support systems

The staff are cooperative, friendly and very supportive. We support each other to a high level, and also celebrate success. We have a staff social event each term. Staff have access to DECD Personnel counsellor services if they require professional support/counselling. The Principal supports staff through performance development, curriculum development and pedagogy.
- Staff utilisation policies

As we are a small school, responsibilities are shared amongst the staff, utilising individual skills/interests wherever possible.
- Access to special staff

When required, we have access to services based in the Education Office at Murray Bridge. Services such as Interagency Behaviour Support, Students with Disabilities, CAMHS etc.

## **8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

- Isolation placement points 3.5 points.
- Country Incentive Zone 2
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance Yes
- Relocation assistance Yes
- Principal's telephone costs Yes

## **9. School Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds

The facilities at Coonalpyn Primary School are excellent.

The grounds, which include a large oval, are paved, grassed or landscaped. Parents and the groundsperson have worked hard to ensure the grounds are well maintained and receive high praise on many occasions. In recent years an upgrade of the grounds and the classrooms, including the construction of a computer suite, a covered outdoor learning area, upgraded shade cloth by our shelter shed, improved paving in our vegetable garden, and the construction of a new front fence have occurred.

The main/original building houses Admin, staff room, school and Community Library, Teacher Resource Room and Principal's Office.

- There is a double building which houses our Upper Primary students as well as our computer suite.
- Another building houses two classrooms, the Junior Primary class and a space for small groups to work, teacher workspace and various storage areas.
- The toilet block has wheel chair access.
- Staff facilities
  - Staff have access to a Staff Room, a staff office and 2 computers linked to the administration network. Each classroom has an office space for each classroom teacher. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and laptop accessible per teacher.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
  - Wheel chair access is available to the disabled toilet, to the Administration building, the computer suite and the Library.
- Access to bus transport
  - The school has one bus route for students in the local area which services Coomandook Area School as well.
- Other
  - Student to computer ratio is currently almost 1:1. Each class has immediate access to the computer suite and a classroom bay of personal computers. There are 3 staff laptops for take home use. We have PC technology in our school.

The Community Library is co-located in the main administration building with the school library. It has 1 computer linked to Tintinara Community Library for inter-community borrowing.

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures  
Committees include School Governing Council, Policy and Planning, Finance, Bus, Grounds, Fundraising, Kids Council and Staff.
- Regular publications  
The School Newsletter is printed every two weeks, with a school magazine printed at the end of the year detailing the year's events.
- Other communication  
Staff communication book and white board is kept in the Staffroom for daily notices. Staff Information / Parent Information booklets are available. Weekly, Wednesday night staff meetings are held. Email delivery of the school newsletter occurs for most families.
- School financial position  
The financial position of the school is very stable.

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics  
Coonalpyn is predominantly a farming community. English is almost exclusively the language used at home. A large proportion of our students live in the town.
- Parent and community involvement  
There is a reasonable level of parental involvement. There is a small, but dedicated group of parents who meet regularly to fundraise, and support special events such as Family Fun Days, sports days and other events.
- Feeder schools  
Students usually attend Coomandook Area School, which is approximately 30 kms away for their secondary schooling.
- Other local facilities  
The Kindergarten also offers limited Occasional Care.  
A Community Health Centre, a hotel, a BP service station, a bakery/Post Office, Caravan Park and Swimming Pool are in the town. The town has excellent sporting facilities catering for tennis, football, netball, bowls, golf, cricket, swimming.
- Availability of staff housing  
Housing is available either through DECD or local rental.
- Local Government body  
Coorong District Council.

## 12. Further Comments

The Coonalpyn Primary School is proud of its achievements including

The grounds – which are spacious, attractive, well maintained and which cater for a wide range of activities.

The size of the school – which facilitates a ‘family’ feeling and a good deal of individual attention.

The staff – who are seen as hardworking, accessible and willing to develop and change. They are also perceived as working well together and see themselves as life long learners.

Communication – parents, especially appreciate the regular communication, especially in relation to student progress and achievement..

An ongoing instrumental music program that includes Festival Choir, Flute, clarinet and ensembles.

The Student Behaviour Management Code – which students see as reasonable, supportive and which staff see as congruent with contemporary teaching and learning processes and the school's values.

A most effective pre-school to reception transition program.

We have whole school agreements relating to

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- ICT
- Health and PE
- Early Intervention

The community sees a stable staff as desirable and of real benefit to the development of the school and the attainment of effective educational outcomes for its students.