



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 05/03/2020

School number: 0740

School name: Orroroo Area School

School Profile:

- We are a Preschool to Year 12 site, with Occasional Care offered.
- Orroroo Area School strives to develop lifelong learning and citizenship through our core values of:
Respect, Responsibility, Excellence, Tolerance and Honesty
- Our learner qualities are:
Perseverance, Inquisitive, Connected, Courage and Self-Awareness
- We focus on Literacy, Numeracy and SACE Improvement and this is reflected in our school improvement plan
- Our students strive to achieve their best, with supportive, dedicated staff and close family support
- Students are keen to be involved in their learning and participate eagerly in extra-curricular activities such as: Cows Create Careers, the Royal Adelaide Show (participating in the cow and sheep sections), getting involved in community through cooking and serving local food at events such as the Small Halls dinner
- Staff and students take up the challenge when STEM events present themselves and co-construct learning in an annual 'Amazing Race'
- Senior students avail themselves of opportunities within school-based apprenticeships, VET and Work Experience to support their pathway beyond school choices

1. General information

- School Principal name: Jenny Stringer
- Deputy Principal's name, if applicable: n/a
- Year of opening: 1880 – Orroroo Primary, 1923 – Orroroo Higher Primary, 1961 – Orroroo Area School, 2017 – amalgamated with Preschool
- Postal Address: 4 West Terrace, Orroroo SA 5431
- Location Address: 2-4 West Terrace, Orroroo SA 5431
- Department for Education Region: Flinders
- Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km): 244 kms
- Telephone number: 08 86581100
- Fax Number: 08 86581309
- School website address: www.orrarooas.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0740.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: N/A
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: N/A
- February FTE student enrolment:

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Primary	Preschool	10	15	11	11	12
	Reception	10	6	15	11	10
	One	11	10	8	17	4
	Two	12	11	11	9	16
	Three	10	12	13	11	10
	Four	8	10	12	11	12
	Five	8	9	10	11	13
Middle/Secondary	Six	11	8	10	8	8
	Seven	18	11	8	10	8
	Eight	13	20	15	9	13
	Nine	13	14	20	14	6
	Ten	5	15	13	19	12
	Eleven	7	6.83	15	13	17
	Twelve	6	7.8	6	13	11
	Total	142	155.63	167	167	152
School Card Approvals (Persons)		13	19	32	27	28
NESB Total (Persons)		2	2	1	2	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		3	8	8	8	10

- Student enrolment trends: Previous to this year our numbers have increased.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

We have 15.4 FTE teachers and leaders, 12 SSO's and 2 GSE's.

- Public transport access: Bus service twice a week, to and from Adelaide
- Special site arrangements: Member of the MNSEC Local Cluster sharing delivery of curriculum. Some students also access curriculum through Open Access.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
 - Friendly, responsive and well behaved. Sports enthusiasts. Respect the school rules and community involvement. Support the wearing of the recommended School Uniform.
- Student well-being programs
 - In the Middle School (7-9) and the Senior School (10-12). Home Groups established with a wellbeing focus.
- Student support offered
 - Students with special needs are supported with strategic programs offered by trained SSOs (School Service Officers); WRAP (Writing Road to Reading – currently R-6); provides a systematic, phonics-based literacy program; daily reading support programmes, Quicksmart (Numeracy) and Multi-Lit. Course and Career Counselling is given to all Year 10 and 11 students in the third term each year.
- Student management
 - Well defined school Student Behaviour Management Policy and Student Code of Conduct for behaviour in the yard. All classrooms have student negotiated class/home group rules. Counsellor time incorporated into the Senior Secondary Coordinator's role.
- Student government
 - Student Representative Council (7-12) and Crunch (Junior SRC: R-6) hold regular meetings. Represented on Governing Council, Finance, Grounds, IT, Sports, Canteen and (currently) Uniform committees. Student bodies can make decisions affecting the policies of the school and negotiate for changes through staff and Governing Council meetings.
- Special programmes
 - Leadership skills training and development for R-6 students; student leadership camp (Year 7-12) elected students); major musical production/performance in alternate year; Special Education support time, WRAP R-6, Music, Quicksmart, Multi-Lit, Pre-lit.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Our long-term objectives are to guarantee curriculum delivery for the Senior Secondary students at Orroroo Area School

To provide the latest technology for students studying by Distance Education.

To continue the school's active involvement and support of the MNSEC Local Network of curriculum delivery and sharing.

- Recent key outcomes:

The SACE results measured against the school improvement goals and targets were outstanding. For a measuring tool we reviewed the target and looked at using a Grade Point Average (GPA). Throughout the year student outcomes were converted to a GPA and shared back with individual students for them to make improvement. There was student lift in outcomes throughout the year at a SACE level. The final SACE Stage 2 results were an improvement on the 2018 SACE Stage 2 results. 78.2% of the SACE Stage 2 grades were a B grade or better, compared to 69% the year before. Orroroo Area School met the 2019 target recorded in the School Improvement Plan, through the fantastic work of the Senior School Coordinator and all staff over time and in specific delivery within SACE Stage 2 curriculum.

As a school often with fewer than 20 students eligible to sit NAPLAN in each year level, the small changes in number of our students Improvement Planning Outcomes can cause large changes in the percentages shown in previous years. This makes it more difficult to use those percentages to draw reliable comparisons and conclusions about changes in performance from year to year.

Our year 5-7 and 7-9 student progress over time in the upper bands in numeracy is sitting on 62% and 42% respectively which is well above the State average. Such positive progress in the upper bands is what we strive for in terms of student outcomes. In the lower group progress from year 7-9 comes in at 0% which compared to the State average of 25% which also is indicative of positive results within that group of students. The middle to upper progress groups have 58% and 42% progress respectively which is above the State average.

Conversely in our NAPLAN Reading results there is concern in the progression of our year 3-5 student group with 0% change in the upper progress group compared to the State average of 25% and 44% of OAS students in the lower progress group compared to the State average of 25%. This is echoed through our review and evaluation: to maintain high focus on literacy and work with students using multi-lit interventions.

What would be especially welcome, would be parent volunteers to come in and listen to reading by our junior primary students as we have students who need to progress in their Running Records to meet the DfE Standard of Educational Achievement.

Orroroo Area School continues to provide seamless transition for all points of change in a student's life: from Preschool to Junior Primary, Primary to Middle School and into SACE. With the transition to life beyond school, whether it be to work, an apprenticeship, TAFE or university our students are well placed through the counselling, support and guidance of all teachers. The work of the Senior School Coordinator with students and families at counselling is tantamount to this success.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings:

School Based:

The school provides the core subjects of Mathematics, English and Science across the year levels. In conjunction to this, a broad range of other subjects are offered to varying year levels, including Humanities and Social Science (HASS), Home Economics, Technologies and Tech Studies, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Music, and Agricultural Studies. As well as school-based apprenticeships for the higher Secondary year levels. Stage 1 & 2 SACE face-to-face subjects also include Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Food & Hospitality, Community Studies, Child Studies, Personal Learning Plan (PLP), and Research Project.

Local Delivery: The local MNSEC cluster is utilised for local delivery of some curriculum at Year 11 and 12 levels. Staff at this school may also teach subjects to other MNSEC students as required.

- Open Access/Distance Education provision: Some students may utilise subjects offered at the Open Access College if they are not available locally.

- Special needs:

Our students' special needs are supported through Student Services based out of Port Pirie, with School Support Officers working closely with students on recommended speech programs, behaviour programs and supporting physical requirement needs.

- Special curriculum features:

LOTE (Spanish) taught in R-6; and WRAP R-6 (currently).

- Teaching methodology:

Preschool learning is play based using the Early Years Learning Framework. Innovative, child-centred, and teacher facilitated at the Junior Primary levels. Strong emphasis upon group work and individual learning programmes in the Years 3-6. Middle schooling methodology in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Sequential development of independent learning strategies through Years 11 and 12. Year 10 is the bridging year between Middle Schooling methods to independent learning styles, associated with the post-compulsory years in Stages 1 and 2 of SACE. SSOs provide classroom support where required. SSOs also work with students with One Child Plans within their classes.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting

Assessment follows Department for Education policy and reflects the Early Years Learning Framework, Australian Curriculum subjects, as well as SACE. It is outcomes based and reported in terms of levels of achievement. Reporting to parents for students in Reception to Year 11 occurs three times a year with interviews for parents in Term 1 and detailed, comprehensive written reports in Terms 2 and 4.

Year 12 teachers report four times each year, with a written report at the end of Terms 1, 2 and 3, as well as the interviews with parents.

Three-way conferences were introduced in 2014; these occur in the first few weeks of each school year. The meetings occur with each student, parents and secondary home group teacher/s. They are designed to build relationships early, identify learning goals, areas of strength and areas to develop.

Primary have a modified version of these in the later part of Term 1.

- Joint programmes:

Flinders Partnership – Pichi Richi Trade Training.

Curriculum delivery in the Senior Secondary is across a local network of six secondary schools known as Mid North Schools Education Cooperative (MNSEC). Sharing of personnel, resources and training and development programmes occurs as well as a MNSEC Showcase and a shared Formal for senior students. Sporting involvement with MNSEC is in Swimming, Athletics and Knockout competitions.

5. Sporting Activities

- **School based:** Swimming, track and field athletics; basketball, netball, football (Aussie Rules), tennis, cricket, badminton, softball, hockey, volleyball, gymnastics and Annual Sports Days in swimming and athletics involving all students divided into two house teams.
- **Inter-school:** Interschool track and field athletics and interschool swimming (7-12 in MNSEC); MNSEC swimming and athletics selection to participate in SASSA Championships, SAPSASA District team selection in whole host of sports. 9-a-side Football Carnival (Yrs. 8, 9, boys and girls), MNSEC Knockout netball & Yr. 8/9 footy, Tag Rugby and Cricket.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- School Choir (Yrs. 5-6); School Bands (Secondary Groups); Major School Production (biannual when staffing allows), Arts Assembly (biannual), major fundraiser (biannual).
- The school participates in an International program each year, where a student visits America for 4-6 weeks.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
Stable staff with a few contract positions each year, depending on student subject choice and staff leave requests. Several staff have been at Orroroo for lengthy periods of 10 years or more.
- Leadership structure
A Leadership team of four, consisting of the Principal and three coordinators.
- Staff support systems
The school operates in three sub-schools: Primary School Preschool-6; Middle School Years 7-9 and Senior School Years 10-12.
- Performance Management
Performance Management of staff is currently managed by the Leadership team.
- Staff utilisation policies
There are a number of specialist teachers on the staff whose teaching skills have had to extend across faculties and subjects, as the school cannot afford the luxury of having full time appointments in one specialist teaching area.
- Access to special staff
An instrumental music teacher works 0.2 in the school with individual students, currently from Years 4-10. Currently guitar-based music is provided on another day each week.
Regional Office support is accessed in the areas such as Inclusion and Wellbeing and Student Behaviour Management.
- Other
:

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Isolation placement points
Yes
- Housing assistance
: Yes
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
: Yes
- Relocation assistance
: Yes
- Principal's telephone costs
: Yes

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
All general teaching areas are in the pre-fabricated buildings of varying standards of quality. There is a SAMCON dual room Home Economics building, refurbished and modernised Commercial training kitchen in 2012. A multi-purpose gymnasium, built in 1987/88, serves as a community sports centre as a joint use facility. A new primary building for R-6's was supplied under the BER scheme in 2011. A very old student building (the original school in the 1880's) has been upgraded to provide offices, staffroom, sick room, staff toilets, and a joint use Community School Library. The library and offices are all under size for a school of our enrolment. The grounds are very extensive (over 17 hectares) but have been developed with a beautification programme involving native tree planting, setting up garden beds, ground covers, native bushes and shrubs. An oval, synthetic courts, some lawns and an Agricultural Studies farm, storage sheds and pasture plots make up the remainder of the very large, well-developed grounds area.
- Heating and cooling
Almost all buildings, except the gym (which has fans), are airconditioned, most of the units providing heating and cooling.
- Specialist facilities and equipment
The specialist teaching and learning facilities in the school include; Home Economics, Technology Studies, Art suite, Computing Centre, LOTE, Special Education, Gymnasium equipped with a large screen and projector, Community Library and audio-visual and science laboratories. The Technology Studies and Science buildings were upgraded in 2003, with the

Home Economics Centre being upgraded to commercial kitchen level in 2012 as part of the Pichi Richi Trade Training Consortium.

- Student facilities
Year 12 Home Room, Senior Study room and Community Library are used by students during the lunch breaks, with teaching staff rostered to supervise the Community Library during lunch times.
- Staff facilities
The staffroom was enlarged in January 1998 and is now an excellent, but small facility. Offices/work spaces are provided throughout the school. Teaching staff have their own laptops and other school staff can access computers, Internet and photocopier/printer in the Primary Tech and staffroom.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
Ramps; with support rails, have been provided to the majority of teaching areas. The Administrative building and Community Library have ramps and automatic sliding doors. There are only two general teaching areas which do not have ramps.
There is a disabled toilet on the school grounds.
Upgrading of some teaching areas have occurred over the past few years.
- Access to bus transport
Three school buses operate in the Orroroo district. Bus drivers from within the community drive all. Approximately 30% of the school's enrolments use the school bus system to commute to and from the school. School buses, as well as the CAP bus and an Orroroo Community bus, are used for school excursions and class camps for all students in Preschool-12.
- Other
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10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
There is a school decision-making policy in place. A structure outlining the processes of decision-making involving all the groups, committees and sub-committees has been in operation for many years. The Governing Council has a key responsibility to represent the views of all parents and to make decisions or endorse recommendations impacting on daily operation, the buildings, grounds maintenance and development; the operation of the Canteen; the school's financial management and curriculum development in close collaboration with the Principal. The Staff, the SRC and Crunch have the right to make decisions without prior consultation with the Governing Council (but involving the endorsement of the Principal). A Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) operates in the school, meeting regularly.

- Regular publications

A newsletter, with community news and notices included, is published every Thursday afternoon and distributed to all families online and hard copy. It is also made available free of charge to all community members. There is usually a school report in the local community newspaper, “Goyder’s Line Gazette”, which is published monthly by the District Council. A school magazine is published annually in December.
- Other communication

We use a Sentral administration program that allows us to communicate in numerous ways with parents, and gives them a secure platform to communicate with staff as well
- School financial position

Financially stable.
- Special funding

Rural and Isolated funding

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

The school community is a friendly, very supportive, progressive and caring one. Parents are genuinely interested in the educational programme provided by the teaching staff and supported superbly by the ancillary staff, with both groups being prepared to work hard to achieve the best possible outcomes for the students. Orroroo is a large farming and grazing area. Orroroo is a very sports-orientated community. The town provides a reasonable range of business and essential services. It has a doctor, resident police officer, a very well-equipped hospital, bank agencies, a post office, (daily mail service), community gymnasium and a passenger bus service. Its present population is approx. 1000 for the township and local government area.
- Parent and community involvement

We are fortunate to have a very high level of support from our parents. A very high percentage of parents contribute to working voluntarily in the Canteen. Our families are involved in the interviews with the teaching staff at the end of first term or beginning of second term. Parents and grandparents support our annual Sports Day and Swimming Carnival as both spectators and workers (times, recorders, etc). Our annual Presentation Night in mid-December is always well attended by parents and extended family members and there is very positive support from the school and local community for our major school musicals and Arts Assemblies. Secondary parents of Year 10 and 11 students give strong support to the course counselling interviews in the third term, each year. Meetings which deal with student related matters, such as Behaviour Management policy issues, are very strongly supported by parents.

Our parents genuinely take a strong interest in the education and wellbeing of their children and how things are run at the school

- Feeder or destination schools

As an isolated school, our students tend to start their schooling at the preschool level and complete their schooling with us.

- Other local care and educational facilities

RICE (Remote and Isolated Child Exercise) operates a Creche service at the Preschool on Mondays

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

The Orroroo Community has a well-equipped shopping precinct which include; IGA supermarket, café/takeaways, hairdresser, local butcher, greengrocer, hardware, Store on Second (clothing), newsagent, MJ Crafts, Elders Merchandise, Wesfarmers/Dalgety agency, Wholefood (health shop), Soil Management Systems, Orroroo Commercial Hotel, Orroroo Hotel, Maggie's Rendezvous Coffee shop, Pro Motors Garage, Electrical, Kangaroo Meat Processor, Bank SA Agency, Commonwealth Bank Agency

- Other local facilities

Orroroo & District Health Service Inc – includes a 20-bed hospital with emergency and outpatient services. Other visiting clinics include; Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Remedial Massage and Acupuncture. Other services include; dietician, Meals on Wheels, Domiciliary and HACC Services and Aged Day Care Services. SAAS Ambulance Service is a 24-hour volunteer service which welcomes new members and provides them with a comprehensive training program.

Orroroo Medical Centre – Visiting specialists include: Optician

Orroroo Pharmacy/Newsagency – open week days

Orroroo Community Home – is a modern age care facility

Police Station – with a resident police officer

Post Office – mail delivery daily

Churches – available include Orroroo Community Church, Uniting Church, Anglican Church, and Catholic Church

Service Clubs – Lions Club, Senior Citizens, CWA, CFS, Probus Club, RSL Branch
- Availability of staff housing

Orroroo has 5 government housing properties currently all occupied with teaching staff – both long and short term.

There are some private rental properties as well as housing for sale.
- Accessibility

Adelaide is 244 kms from Orroroo in a straight line, and an approx. 282 km 3 ½ hour road trip.
- Local Government body

District Council of Orroroo/Carrieton

Publications available (free) “Welcome to Orroroo” (tourist brochure) and general information brochure with the compliments of the District Council. The District Council has a close working relationship with the school, assisting with equipment and materials to improve and maintain the school grounds.

Phone 08 8658 1260

www.orraroo.sa.gov.au

12. Further Comments

- Orroroo is a safe environment for living and raising a family.
- Orroroo has a civic-minded community which takes a keen interest in all services which influence the wellbeing of the community and people are dedicated to participating on a voluntary basis.
- Sports are intensely played and supported.

- The school has a happy, friendly atmosphere. The staff are very committed to doing all they can to give the students every opportunity to do their best.
- Orroroo is located at the gateway to the Flinders Ranges and is developing a tourism focus.
- Larger towns are a 1-hour commute of Orroroo, supply/ing services currently unavailable in the township.