

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: 05/16

**School number: 0479**





**School name: Memorial Oval Primary School**

## 1. General information

### Part A

School name : MEMORIAL OVAL PRIMARY SCHOOL  
School No. : 0479 Courier : R21/7  
Principal : Mrs Tracey Ward  
Postal Address : PO Box 408, Whyalla 5600  
Location Address : Bradford Street, Whyalla 5600  
District : Eyre and Western  
Distance from GPO : 380 kms Phone No. : 08 8645 7991  
CPC attached : NO Fax No. : 08 8645 1812  
Current enrolments: 294 students

### Part B

-  Principal  
: Mrs Tracey Ward
  
-  E-mail address  
: [Tracey.Ward912@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Tracey.Ward912@schools.sa.edu.au)
  
-  Website  
: [www.mops.sa.edu.au](http://www.mops.sa.edu.au)
  
- Deputy Principal  
: Ann Fargher  
: [ann.fargher304@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:ann.fargher304@schools.sa.edu.au)
  
- Staffing numbers
  - We currently have 11 classroom teachers, 4 NIT teachers who also cover New Grad Release, a Deputy Principal and a Principal.
  - We have a number of part time staff on site. Our AET / NIT teacher works 0.4, as well as another NIT teacher who works 0.4. The Principal works 0.8 with the Deputy fulfilling the Principal role for the remaining 0.2.
  - There is a large support staff at the school. We have 9 SSOs, including an ACEO, a canteen manager and a groundsman.
  - Our OSHC is managed by a director who also employs a range of staff and support workers.
  
-  Enrolment trends

- Our numbers have steadily increased over the past 5 years. Since Term 3, 2013 our enrolments have increased by 54 students. As a result we have increased the number of classes from what used to be 8 and is now 11.
  - Our reception enrolments for the future look promising, with many families planning ahead in order to secure their position at the school.
- Memorial Oval Primary School opened in 1945 as the second school in Whyalla as Whyalla South Infant School. Children come to the school from all over Whyalla, some even from outlying stations. Some children are brought to school by a bus service from Iron Knob.
  - Year of opening  
1945
  - Public transport access  
There is a public bus route, which passes the school. Several students use this bus.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- ☑General characteristics  
We have a general ratio of 1:26 for JP and 1:30 as we are an Index of Disadvantage Level 5.
- (Pastoral) Care programs  
All classes are composite groups to provide some flexibility in student placement. We have some High Sustained Students with Disabilities mainstreamed across Junior, Middle and Upper Primary classes with SSO support.
- Support offered  
Our ACEO is employed for 15 hours a week. Our AET / NIT teacher is 0.4 (two days a week). Students with NEP's work with SSOs either one to one, or in small groups in the classroom. The support is mostly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- The school has a strong focus on data collection and analysis. This is currently heavily focused on Reading, but is being extended to other curriculum areas. These assessments are collected consistently across the school and a data collection schedule is in place to provide clear guideline on this.
- Behaviour Management  
We have recently completed a whole school and community review of our school values. Our new school values are respect, responsibility and resilience. These values are currently being focused on by staff and students

to develop a plan for how they will be implemented consistently across the school. Our behaviour management policy is also due for review and will be addressed in the near future.

- **Student government**  
A strong SRC exists in the school in which students are elected and voted in by their peers. Our year 6 / 7 students form an Executive Group and have specific roles within this team. The SRC meets once a fortnight and discusses issues to take back to classes or develop a plan of action for. Our Executive Students take on a range of leadership roles in the school, such as delivering morning messages to classes, supporting Breakfast Club, running lunch time activities for younger students and fulfilling a role as an attendance monitor.

### 3. Key School Policies

- **Moral Purpose:** To prepare children to be inclusive, well-educated and active citizens who are socially, emotionally and physically healthy. We aim to develop self-motivated, resilient, life-long learners who can be successful in life.
- **Vision:** To have high quality teachers delivering effective literacy programs with skills that are transferable across the curriculum, resulting in students who meet or exceed the state average in NAPLAN and Running Records.
- **Values:** Respect, Responsibility & Resilience
- **Subject offerings**  
We cover all curriculum areas in accordance with the Australian National Curriculum. This includes Languages, which we formally began this year. Our language is Spanish. Currently we have Science and HASS covered as a NIT subject, as well as Dance and Drama for the primary students and Health and Drama for the junior primary students. Specialist music teachers from the Music Branch offer instrument lessons for students from year 5 and up. There is also a Whyalla Schools Band.
- **Special needs**  
There are several students with special needs attending the school. We work with DECD support services, as well as outside agencies, to support these students. SSOs work collaboratively with teachers to provide 1:1 and small group programs for these students.
- **Special curriculum features**  
Class teachers work in a cluster which promotes shared expertise. We strongly encourage collaboration between teachers and have structured the classrooms in a way which will allow this to occur easily. All classrooms are equipped with interactive smart boards, which are used to enhance learning opportunities for students.

- **Teaching methodology**  
Teachers use a range of teaching methodologies to cover all curriculum areas to the highest standard possible. Teachers use explicit teaching to explicitly teach and model reading skills at least three times a week. Explicit teaching is also used to teach vocabulary and increase the students' word bank. Problem solving and open ended questions are methodologies used frequently in Maths, as well as explicit teaching where required. Each Maths lesson includes a component dedicated to improving the students' fluency and automaticity of number facts.
- **Assessment procedures and reporting**  
We have a clear assessment and reporting schedule. This includes a Meet and Greet Family Night, informal interviews, formal reports, formal interviews, an open morning and parent information sessions.
- **Joint Programs**  
Instrumental music tuition by specialist teachers is available and we have a year 4 recorder programme when it is available.

## **5. Sporting Activities**

- The school takes part in all Inter-School Carnivals and SAPSASA. We have Coaching Clinics and are part of Be Active and OPAL.

## **6. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- **General**  
The school is regularly represented in the Combined Schools' Choir performances and the instrumental music students are members of the Combined Schools Band.
- **Special**  
Each year we hold several events which are significant for the school. This includes our Carols Night, which is held out on the lawns and includes performances from every class. We also have an annual Awards Night, which began in 2014. This event showcases students who have met criteria in a range of areas and are eligible to win a school award of excellence.

## **7. Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile**  
The staff members are changing from an experienced group who had been teaching for over 10 years, to more teachers who have been teaching for less than 6 years and new Graduates.

- **Leadership structure**  
Our leadership structure comprises of a 0.8 Principal and a Deputy Principal, who takes on a Principal role of 0.2. The Deputy Principal is responsible for the managing of Students with Disabilities and contributes to site decisions and processes.
- **Staff support systems**  
Staff work closely together and are often involved in whole school activities. The Eyre Western Region offers options at various sites through the year
- **Performance Management**  
The Performance Management / Development processes for teachers are varied and include a range of strategies to ensure that teachers are receiving benefit from these processes. P.D. includes leadership observations and coaching sessions, P.D. meetings with plans developed in line with the AITSL Professional Standards for Teachers, as well as peer observations and regular surveys throughout the year.
- **Access to special staff**  
There are Support Services Personnel based locally and access to visiting Support Officers from Adelaide.

## 8. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**  
Decision making structures are documented in the administration folder, which together with a Staff Share Curriculum Policy Folder are available on the Curriculum Server accessible to every staff member.
- **Regular publications**  
The school newsletter is published once every two weeks with a Bulletin if needed in between. Teachers also send home individual class newsletters. There is an information book in the staffroom for daily notes and term planner whiteboards for forward planning and information. There is also a web site and an Induction package accessed via the Curriculum Server.
- **Other communication**  
An information brochure is available for parents new to the school and all relevant policy documents are aligned with DECD policy on the DECD website to sight. Parents/Caregivers often request informal interviews and formal interviews are held twice a year. We have a web page, which is available on: <http://www.mops.sa.edu.au/>
- **School financial position**  
The school is in a sound financial position. The Governing Council are

regularly informed on financial matters and have a good understanding of financial affairs.

## 9. Local Community

- **General characteristics**  
Parents of students attending the school work in various industries in the town; some own or manage local businesses. English is the predominate language spoken at home.
- **Parent and community involvement**  
There is a strong commitment from parents to the school supporting school activities. Parents/caregivers expect to be consulted and are encouraged to express their opinions. Concerns are acted upon promptly.
- **Feeder schools**  
The students come from a number of kindergartens around the town.
- **Other local care and educational facilities**  
Pre-School Centres are available as well as Child Care Centres which cater for babies as well as children.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**  
Whyalla is serviced well by department chains such as Target, Harris Scarfe, Harvey Norman and Spotlight. There is a selection of supermarket and take-away chains and many local businesses.
- **Other local facilities**  
There are a number of local doctors and dentists with specialists visiting regularly from Adelaide. Whyalla offers wide variety of sport and recreational activities for the community. There is a twin cinema and theatre complex, parks and a new Civic Library. University of South Australia (Whyalla Campus) and TAFE run many courses in the evening and on weekends.
- **Availability of staff housing**  
Housing is available through REM and local estate agents. Housing costs are reviewed and long and short-term rentals are available.
- **Accessibility**  
Whyalla is approximately a four-hour drive to Adelaide. The road is very good with many passing lanes. Stateline Bus Company frequently run buses to and from Adelaide at a reasonable cost. Rex and Qantas Link fly planes between Whyalla and Adelaide several times daily.
- **Local Government body**  
The local governing body is the Whyalla City Council (phone 8640 3444).

## 10. Further Comments

- Memorial Oval Primary is a school with extensive parental support and the school has a continuous improvement ethic about academic excellence, community involvement and student behaviour.
- Mr Rob Harkin is the Education Director for Whyalla. There is a DECD office on Nicolson Avenue. Contact Number 08 8645 6568