



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: January 2015

School number: 0285 and 7967

School name: Mt Barker Primary School and Disability Unit

School Profile:

Mount Barker Primary School is a bright, inviting facility where students are self-motivated, enthusiastic learners. The school is a place where students are able to realise their potential in a safe, secure and caring environment which caters for their interests, abilities and learning styles.

Our three core values are Respect, Responsibility and Resilience and they are expected to be adhered to by all.

Our school has embedded Positive Psychology strategies as a means of supporting students to become positive, self-reliant and resilient learners. The majority of teachers are trained in the strategies of Positive Psychology based on the work of Professor Martin Seligman and are incorporating Positive Education into their classroom learning programs.

A strong teaching focus exists in relation to English, Maths and Digital Technologies. Student learning is supported through the use of interactive whiteboards, a new library and gymnasium and refurbished Early Years teaching facilities. French, Health and Physical Education, Music, Drama and Digital Technologies are taught from Reception to Year 7 by specialist teachers. We have a school choir which is facilitated by our Music specialist teacher.

Student voice is valued and students have a role in the school decision-making process. The Counsellor supports the formation of a School Representative Committee which allows classes to share their opinions on school based decision-making.

Support for students with learning difficulties is based on early assistance and intervention and the development of short-term learning plans (One Plans). Students requiring extension are also catered for using short-term learning plans.

A Disability Unit opened on the site in January 2012 catering for the needs of students (R-7) with multiple disabilities. Currently the Unit has 14 students enrolled.

A large section of native bushland is located on the school's picturesque grounds. This is an excellent resource for the teaching of sustainability and the study of local fauna and flora. Students also access this land during lunch breaks with the supervision of a yard duty teacher.

1. General information

- School Principal: Michele Duthy
- Deputy Principal: Jo Simpson (Acting for term 2, 2016)
- Year of opening: Original school opened in 1877 with the present site opening in 1967.
- Postal Address: 2A Dumas Street, Mt Barker SA
- Location Address: As above
- DECD Region: Adelaide Hills
- Geographical location – road distance from GPO (km): 34 kms
- Telephone number: 8391 1241
- Fax Number: 8391 4208
- School website address: www.mtbarkerps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0285.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes
- February FTE student enrolment:

Year	Feb enrolment	% School Card	% EALD	% ATSI
2016	421	14%	2%	1%
2015	422	26%	2%	2%
2014	394	27%	3%	5%
2013	310	30%	4%	4%
2012	310	35%	3%	5%

- Student enrolment trends: Mt Barker is growing in population. School enrolment trends are reflective of this and enrolment in the future is expected to continue to rise.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census):

- 23.2 FTE teaching staff including:
 - 0.2 AET
 - 2.6 Disability Unit Teachers

Non-Teaching Staff:

- 37.5 Hours Administration SSO per week
- 35.0 Hours Finance Officer per week
- 40.0 Hours ICT Tech and library support per week
- 264 Hours classroom support and Disability Unit support per week
- 12 Hours Grounds person per week

- Public transport access: Regular bus service to Adelaide.

- Special site arrangements:

- Mount Barker Primary School is part of the Heysen Partnership which consists of 16 schools and preschools in the Adelaide Hills region.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics:
 - Refer table above.
- Student well-being programs:
 - Positive Education was implemented across the school in 2013-14
 - Program Achieve is used to teach social skills
- Student support offered:
 - One Plans are developed for students requiring additional support.
 - Quick Smart Numeracy program to support acquisition of automaticity in Maths.
 - Levelled Literacy Intervention supports students to develop skills in reading and comprehension.
- Student Management:
 - The school's Student Behaviour Development Policy was reviewed recently to incorporate Restorative Practice strategies and to reiterate adherence to the school's values and behavioural expectations. A Student Grievance Procedure allows for classroom issues to be resolved in an appreciative and respectful manner. Social Skills are taught, reinforced and encouraged at all times in all classrooms. A No-Tolerance approach to bullying is consistently applied across the school.
- Student government:
 - An active SRC operates fortnightly with Student Executive meetings as required.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
 - 2016 – 17 Key Priorities include:
 - English
 - Maths
 - Digital Technologies
 - Building powerful learners

Key priorities for 2016-17 are detailed on the Site Improvement Plan on the school's website www.mtbarkerps.sa.edu.au

Recent Key outcomes:

- Successful implementation of Levelled Literacy Intervention program.
- Monitoring of student achievement using Scorelink to track achievement in a timely manner.
- Implementation of the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment system.
- Continual development of Digital Technology infrastructure.

4. Curriculum

Subject offerings:

- The school provides a curriculum in line with the Australian Curriculum.
- Specialist teachers in French, Music, Drama, Digital Technologies and Health and Physical Education.
- Quick Smart Numeracy Program.
- Levelled Literacy Intervention Program.

Special needs:

- A Disability Unit became operational at the start of the 2012 school year, catering for the needs of students with multiple disabilities.

Special curriculum features:

- Camps – Years 3 to 7 participate in a variety of outdoor education programs at venues including Illawonga and Aquatics Camp at Aldinga.
- Participation in Science Week
- Bi-annual swimming program

Teaching methodology:

- Assessment for Learning Strategies embedded across the school.
- Daily Literacy Block.
- Play Based program in Early Years incorporating outdoor learning.
- Positive Education philosophies and strategies incorporated into classroom learning.

Student assessment procedures and reporting:

- Student progress is assessed against the standards in the Australian Curriculum .

- Acquaintance Night and Interviews Term 1.
- Written formative Report Term 2.
- Optional Interview Term 3.
- Written summative Report Term 4.
- Interviews available by request throughout the year.

5. Sporting Activities:

- Participation in SAPSASA program.
- A number of sporting clubs operate in Mt Barker.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- A school Choir operates from Yr. 5 upwards.
- Taekwondo lessons are available from a private provider in the school gym after school hours.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile and staff support systems:

- A collegiate culture across the school is being continually developed with the emphasis on strong team work and reflection on practice. This culture of practice extends beyond Mt Barker Primary School into joint work with schools within the Heysen Partnership.
- A mix of experienced and new to the position teachers exists on the site.
- Teachers work in collegiate teams.

Leadership structure:

- Leadership includes the Principal, Deputy Principal, Coordinator Disability Unit, Coordinator of Digital Technologies and Counsellor.
- Leadership Team meetings are held weekly with a focus on student progress and Site Improvement Plan priorities.

Performance Management:

- Formal Performance Management Meetings are conducted throughout the year and are based on the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Complexity placement points

- Isolation placement points: N/A
- Shorter terms: N/A
- Travelling time: N/A
- Housing assistance: N/A
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance: N/A
- Additional increment allowance: N/A
- Designated schools benefits: N/A
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools: N/A
- Medical and dental treatment expenses: N/A
- Locality allowances: N/A
- Relocation assistance: N/A
- Principal's telephone costs: A departmental mobile phone is provided.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds:
 - The grounds are spacious and pleasant with a large oval, extensive new playground equipment and a large, open wooded space has been planted where environmental studies is undertaken.
 - A Multipurpose Hall was constructed in 2009.
 - BER funds provided a new library/computer suite, new staff car park and refurbished Early Years teaching area.
 - An upgrade to the administration area and staffroom was completed in 2014.
 - New signage across the school has been erected in 2013.

Heating and cooling:

- All classrooms are air conditioned.

Specialist facilities and equipment:

- Internet connection is via Wi-Fi in all areas and all teaching areas have Interactive White Boards. All teachers have an iPad and Lap Top computer.

- The school has extensive computers, i.e., Apple Macs and Laptops and large numbers of PC's.
- An Early Years Outdoor Teaching Area was constructed in 2014.

Student facilities:

- A Dental Clinic operates on the school site.

Staff facilities:

- All staff have iPads and Laptop computers.

Access for students and staff with disabilities:

- Extensive ramps have been developed to allow wheel chair access.
- Access to bus transport:
- A DECD bus operates to transport students to and from school and is used for excursions where appropriate.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures:

- An active Governing Council provides governance for the school.
- Governing Council committees comprise; Financial Advisory Committee, OSHC Committee, Fund Raising Committee.

Regular publications:

- School Newsletters are published in weeks 3, 6 and 9 termly and are posted on the school web site.
- Class newsletters are published at least twice per term.
- Staff Daily Notices are via Learn Link and email.
- The school web site contains information for families on a range of issues i.e. school policies, enrolment information.
- An electronic sign was erected at the front of the school in 2014.

Other communication:

- The school makes use of SMS messaging to alert families of important events, notifications etc.
- Parents can download the Skoolbag app to receive alerts their smartphone.

School financial position:

- The school is in a sound financial position.

Special funding:

- The school operates with two Resource Entitlement Statements – one being for the school and one for the Disability Unit.

11. Local Community

General characteristics:

- Mount Barker is evolving from a substantially rural area established in the 1840's to a rapidly flourishing residential area. People commute to the City via the South Eastern Freeway.
- Housing is available for rental or purchase with extensive new housing developments occurring.
- Mt Barker has a hospital and several medical and dental practices.
- A Park and Ride facility is across the road from the school. This provides 400 spaces for car parks and regular daily bus services to and from Adelaide.
- An extensive Retirement Village is due to open in 2016.
- Parents actively support the library, daily reading and with camps and excursions.

Feeder or destination schools:

- The majority of students enrolled at Mt Barker Primary School come from the two local kindergartens – Mt Barker and Willow Close Kindergartens.
- Most Year 7 students transition to the local high school, i.e., Mt Barker High School. A small percentage enrolls at other public high schools or into the private sector.

Other local care and educational facilities:

- A Community Library is situated adjacent to the school on the TAFE

Campus. Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:

- Mt Barker has extensive modern shopping facilities.

Other local facilities:

- Extensive sporting facilities cater for children's sporting interests.
- A Recreation Centre and Swimming Centres operate.
- Several large parks and bush land areas provide for further recreational activities.

Accessibility:

- Access to Adelaide is predominantly via the South Eastern Freeway.
- A bus service operates regularly to and from Adelaide.

Local Government body:

- The Mt Barker Council is the local governing body