



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Warooka Primary School and School-Based Preschool

Updated Term 3, 2026

School context

Warooka Primary and School-Based Preschool is a small, connected rural school with a strong commitment to providing engaging, relevant and inclusive learning experiences. The School-Based Preschool is an integral part of the school and operates as part of the wider learning community. Students are organised across four classes: Preschool, Reception–Year 2, Years 3–4 and Years 5–6. Approximately 80% of students travel by bus from Marion Bay, Corny Point, Point Turton, The Pines and surrounding areas.

The school places a strong emphasis on belonging, student voice, agency and leadership. Students are encouraged to contribute ideas, make decisions, lead initiatives and have an active role in shaping their learning and school environment. The school values—Belonging, Inventiveness, Courage, Respect and Compassion—underpin relationships, learning and decision-making across the site.

Teaching and learning are supported by contemporary technologies, including tablets, laptops, cameras, robotics, VR headsets, digital design and 3D Printing equipment. Students use technology to solve authentic problems, create digital products and connect their learning with the wider community.

Student wellbeing, engagement and achievement are central to the school's improvement work. Current priorities include strengthening numeracy teaching and engagement through explicit instruction, problem-solving and Building Thinking Classrooms, and developing a consistent whole-school approach to wellbeing, belonging, voice, self-regulation and agency.

Warooka maintains strong connections with families and the wider Southern Yorke Peninsula community. Playgroup, Playcentres and the School-Based Preschool allow relationships with children and families to begin well before school. Partnerships with local organisations, clubs, artists, businesses and community members enrich students' learning and strengthen their connection to place.

The School-Based Preschool operates in accordance with the National Quality Framework and is embedded within the life of the school. Preschool children participate in whole-school activities while engaging in a play-based program guided by the Early Years Learning Framework.

Students enjoy extensive indoor and outdoor learning environments, including natural play spaces, a fire pit, gardens, mud kitchen, cubby house, play equipment and Gaga ball pit. Environmental responsibility remains an important feature of learning and student-led action.

General information

School name	Warooka Primary School
School number	0467
Principal	Beth Purdy-Dart
Postal address	PO Box 186, Warooka SA 5577
Location address	Main Street, Warooka SA 5577
Courier	Minlaton Region
Telephone	08 8854 5034
Email	dl.0467.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Website	www.warookaps.sa.edu.au
Partnership	Kadina Portfolio
Distance from Adelaide GPO	Approximately 225 kilometres
School-Based Preschool	Attached

February FTE enrolment

Year level	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
School-Based Preschool	4	4	4	8	19
Reception	10	4	3	6	10
Year 1	4	9	4	3	3
Year 2	9	5	6	4	3
Year 3	7	9	5	6	4
Year 4	12	11	8	5	5
Year 5	10	9	5	8	5
Year 6	9	9	9	5	8
Total primary	61	56	40	37	38

Enrolment trend: Enrolment patterns reflect fluctuations in local birth rates, with smaller cohorts currently moving through the upper primary years. Strong recent birth numbers, including 19 preschool enrolments in 2026 and high numbers anticipated in preschool again in 2027, will create a significantly larger early-years cohort and a bottom-heavy school profile.

2026 student profile

School Card	4
Students from a non-English-speaking background	1
Born overseas and in Australia less than one year	0
Aboriginal FTE enrolment	4

School profile

- **Deputy Principal:** Nil
- **Staffing:** 3.8 FTE teachers (six teachers), 86 hours of SSO time per week and eight hours of grounds and maintenance support per week.
- **OSHC:** Nil
- **Year of opening:** 1879
- **Public transport access:** No local public transport.

Students and their welfare

- **General characteristics:** A strong family atmosphere exists across the School-Based Preschool to Year 6 setting. There is a well-established culture of care, cooperation and inclusion, with formal whole-school activities fostering positive relationships and interaction across all year levels.
- **Pastoral care:** The school employs a dedicated Pastoral Care Worker who provides additional wellbeing support to students and families and complements the pastoral care embedded within classroom and whole-school practices.
- **Student support:** Students can access support through school staff and Department for Education Student Support Services personnel according to individual need.
- **Student management:** Consistent whole-school expectations have been developed and are strongly supported by families. The school maintains a continued focus on recognising and reinforcing positive behaviour.

Key school policies

Vision

At Warooka Primary and School-Based Preschool, every learner belongs and is empowered to grow with courage, think with inventiveness, act with respect and lead with compassion. Together, we create confident learners who make a positive difference in their community and beyond.

Values: Belonging, Inventiveness, Courage, Respect and Compassion.

Warooka is committed to providing engaging, relevant and high-quality learning from preschool to Year 6. Student voice, agency, wellbeing and strong partnerships with families and the wider community are central to the school's work.

2026 Site Improvement Plan priorities

- Improve student engagement and achievement in numeracy through evidence-informed teaching, including Building Thinking Classrooms, explicit instruction and purposeful problem-solving.
- Strengthen consistent assessment, goal-setting and the use of whole-school data to monitor growth and inform differentiated teaching.
- Develop a shared whole-school wellbeing approach that strengthens belonging, student voice, self-regulation and agency.
- Build staff capability through professional learning, collaboration, observation and feedback.

The School-Based Preschool's Quality Improvement Plan complements these priorities through a focus on strengthening children's agency, voice and active participation in their learning.

Curriculum

Subject offerings: The Australian Curriculum and the SA Curriculum are used for teaching and learning from Reception to Year 6, while the Early Years Learning Framework guides teaching and learning within the School-Based Preschool.

Open Access: Nil.

Students requiring additional support: Differentiated teaching, targeted intervention and individual support programs are provided for identified students, including students with disability. The school works with families, Department for Education Student Support Services and other professionals to plan and monitor appropriate adjustments.

Special curriculum features: Student voice, agency, digital technologies, environmental education and community-connected learning are embedded across the school. Spanish is taught from Reception to Year 6 as the school's Languages program. Students have access to laptops, iPads, robotics, design technologies and multimedia equipment. Programs such as Makers Empire, Sporting Schools and community projects provide authentic, creative and collaborative learning opportunities.

Staff learning: Staff are supported to develop their professional knowledge and practice through professional learning, collaboration and performance-development processes. Staff have access to laptops and other digital resources.

Assemblies: Whole-school assemblies are generally held once per term, with classes taking turns to host and share their learning and achievements.

Assessment and reporting—preschool: Preschool educators work with children and families to establish learning goals and share information about children's progress throughout the year. A Statement of Learning is provided when each child completes preschool.

Assessment and reporting—primary: Primary students participate in ongoing assessment and goal-setting. Student-led conferences provide opportunities to share their learning, progress and goals with families. Written reports are provided at the end of Terms 2 and 4.

Joint programs: The school participates in joint learning, sporting, arts and environmental programs with other Southern Yorke Peninsula schools.

Transition: Transition programs support Year 6 students as they prepare to move to their chosen secondary school.

Sporting activities

- Students participate in a broad range of school sporting activities, including clinics, competitions, Sporting Schools programs and SAPSASA events.
- Local clubs provide opportunities in sports such as basketball, football, tennis, cricket, golf and futsal.
- Warooka Sports Day and the Southern Yorke Peninsula Combined Primary Schools Sports Day are held annually. Warooka Sports Day focuses on participation, enjoyment and sportsmanship, with students selected to represent the school at the combined interschool event.
- Many students participate in recreational activities connected to the local coastal environment, including swimming, surfing, fishing and other water-based activities, as well as dance, art, drama and other creative arts opportunities.

Other co-curricular activities

- Warooka maintains a strong commitment to the Sporting Schools program, with students from the School-Based Preschool to Year 6 participating in a variety of sporting opportunities.
- The school has a strong partnership with Ballara Art and Lifestyle Retreat, providing opportunities for students to work with visiting artists and participate in creative arts experiences.
- Instrumental music lessons are offered weekly, with students able to learn a brass or woodwind instrument.
- Students participate in committees each fortnight, choosing from gardening, social and community, sports or art. These committees strengthen student voice, leadership and involvement in the school and wider community.
- A daily breakfast club offers toast and spreads to students, supporting those who have early starts because of bus travel.

Staff and their welfare

- **Staff profile:** Warooka has a combination of long-term and contract staff. A strong culture of teamwork, collaboration and shared leadership is encouraged across the School-Based Preschool and primary school.
- **Leadership structure:** The Principal leads both the primary school and School-Based Preschool and is the Preschool Director and Nominated Supervisor. The preschool teacher supports day-to-day leadership and management of the preschool program. The Principal is supported by the Personnel Advisory Committee and staff with designated leadership responsibilities.
- **Performance and development:** The Principal oversees performance and development processes. All staff develop an annual performance and development plan and participate in ongoing professional conversations, professional learning, classroom observation and feedback. Staff are encouraged to seek support, raise concerns and contribute actively to whole-school improvement.
- **Staff wellbeing:** Staff wellbeing is supported through open communication, collaborative decision-making, regular check-ins and access to Department for Education wellbeing and employee-assistance services.
- **Access to specialist staff:** Specialist advice and support are accessed according to need through Department for Education support services and relevant regional personnel.

Incentives, support and award conditions for staff

- **Isolation placement points:** 3.5
- **Cooling for school buildings:** Refer to the School Facilities section.
- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance:** Yes.
- **Medical and dental treatment expenses:** Some assistance with travel is available under the Non-Metropolitan Award.
- **Relocation assistance:** As provided under current Department for Education policy.

School facilities

Buildings and grounds: The school has two historic stone buildings, one used for administration, offices and staff facilities and the other as a classroom. Four timber buildings accommodate classrooms, the School-Based Preschool, Resource Centre and music room. Teaching spaces include a three-classroom open-plan area, a single classroom and a double classroom. A full-sized gymnasium was constructed in 2011. The grounds include extensive outdoor play and learning areas, a playground, swings, Gaga ball pit, cubby house, mud kitchen, shaded areas, gardens and sporting facilities. Recent improvements include new fencing, signage and play equipment.

Heating and cooling: Classrooms, the Resource Centre, preschool and administration and staff areas have reverse-cycle air conditioning.

Student facilities: Classrooms and the preschool provide comfortable, carpeted and air-conditioned learning spaces. Students have access to indoor and outdoor learning areas, digital technologies, sporting facilities and the Resource Centre.

Staff facilities: Staff have access to a comfortable staffroom, work areas, preparation spaces and digital resources.

Disability access: Ramps provide access to several buildings, and an accessible toilet is available. Individual accessibility needs are considered and supported as required.

Bus transport: The school is serviced by three bus routes from Marion Bay, Corny Point and Point Turton, including surrounding communities such as The Pines. Bus transport can also be arranged for excursions and school activities.

School-Based Preschool: The preschool operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 3:45 pm, providing two full days of preschool education each week.

School operations

- **Decision-making structures:** Effective communication, collaborative decision-making, delegated responsibility and shared leadership are central to the school's organisational structure. Governing Council oversees school governance and is supported by the Finance and Parents and Friends Committees, comprising parent and staff representatives. Committees report regularly to Governing Council. Whole-staff and preschool staff meetings are held regularly for operational planning, professional learning and continuous improvement.
- **Regular publications:** A school newsletter is published in Weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term and includes school and relevant community information. The school also maintains a Parent Information Handbook, Staff Induction Folder and regular digital communication through Facebook and Seesaw.

- **Other communication:** The Parents and Friends Committee meets once each term. Families receive information through newsletters, Seesaw, Facebook, email, telephone contact, meetings and informal conversations.
- **Financial position:** The school maintains a sound financial position through careful budgeting, regular monitoring and oversight by the Finance Committee and Governing Council.

Local community

- **General characteristics:** The school serves Warooka, Marion Bay, Corny Point, Point Turton, The Pines and surrounding rural and coastal areas. Families are involved in farming, fishing, tourism, local businesses, trades, self-employment and fly-in fly-out work. Many students live outside Warooka and travel by bus to school.
- **Parent and community involvement:** Families and community members support the school through Governing Council, Parents and Friends, classroom and event support, volunteering, fundraising, sports coaching and school and community projects. The school values strong partnerships with local organisations, businesses, clubs and community members.
- **Transition and secondary education:** The School-Based Preschool provides a transition program to support children moving into Reception. Most students transferring to secondary education attend Yorketown Area School, approximately 21 kilometres from Warooka, while some families choose other secondary schooling options.
- **Early childhood services:** School-supported Playcentres operate weekly at Point Turton and Marion Bay. The school also offers a local Playgroup, strengthening connections with children and families before preschool enrolment.
- **Commercial, shopping and health facilities:** Warooka has an IGA supermarket, pharmacy, hotel, post office, garage and a range of local businesses, trades and services. Hospital and medical services are available in Yorketown, with additional medical services and more extensive shopping in Yorketown and Minlaton.
- **Community and recreational facilities:** Local facilities include the town oval and clubrooms, bowling green, tennis, netball and basketball courts, playground and barbecue facilities, an 18-hole golf course, Town Hall and Ballara Art and Lifestyle Retreat. The community is also supported by local sporting and recreation clubs, churches and volunteer organisations.
- **Staff housing:** Government employee housing is not available in Warooka, with the nearest options in Yorketown or Minlaton. Private rental accommodation is limited.
- **Local government:** Yorke Peninsula Council.