

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 09/25

School Name: Mulga Street Primary School

School Number: 1650



School name : MULGA STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL
 School No. : 1650
 Principal : Mrs Keston Green
 Postal Address : Mulga Street, Mount Gambier
 5290 Location Address : Mulga Street, Mount Gambier
 5290 District : South East
 Distance from GPO : 460 kms
 CPC attached : YES

Courier : R26/14
 Phone No. : 08 87259955
 Fax No. : 08 87250080

February FTE Enrolment		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Primary Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.							
	Reception	49	26	21	22	26	23
	Year 1	41	48	24	20	21	24
	Year 2	43	35	46	24	23	19
	Year 3	37	43	29	46	20	16
	Year 4	45	31	38	36	45	17
	Year 5	40	39	26	37	31	43
	Year 6	46	40	35	23	39	30
	Year 7	44	38	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	345	310	221	186	205	172
School Card Approvals (Persons)		145	127	79	81	84	51
NESB Total (Persons)							
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		19	21	12	16	18	19

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.

School Web Page

www.mulgaps.sa.edu.au

Address

dl.1650.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Staffing numbers

Tier 1 15 FTE (including Pre School Staff)

There are 15 School Service Officers on our site.

There is a 1.0 Well Being Leader salary.

Specialist subjects include French which is taught is from Foundation to Year 6 and is supported by a 0.4 LOTE teacher, Physical Education 0.4 which is taught Foundation to Year 6 and is supported by a teacher, Health & Technologies which is taught Foundation to Year 6 and is supported by a 1.0 teacher.

There is strong leadership in English and Well Being.

Out Of School Hours Care

Out of Hours Care provided by a neighbourhood school (children delivered daily by taxi)

Enrolment Trends

Over the past few years, our enrolments have been steadily decreasing, particularly with the transition of Year 7s to high school. More recently, numbers have begun to stabilise, and with new housing developments in the area we are hopeful this will lead to future growth in our school community.

Year of opening

Mulga Street Primary School opened in 1983. It is an onsite preschool-Yr6 campus with the Mount Gambier Children's Centre on site, which serves the North West sector of Mount Gambier. It is a growing residential area, approximately 7 km from the city centre. It is served by the City bus service and school buses.

Public transport access

Mount Gambier, has a population of approximately 24,000, is 460 km from Adelaide GPO, served by daily bus services and a commuter air service to both Adelaide and Melbourne. By car it is approximately five hours from either city.

Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

School Card – approximately 24%

Aboriginal students – approximately 12.3%

Children with special needs – 10.5%

Support offered

A supportive learning environment is provided for students through an emphasis on positive student and staff relationships, a meaningful education programme which meets the individual needs and the provision of comprehensive student support services, both internal and external.

Student management

Our vision and pedagogy prioritise the holistic development of every child, with a strong focus on academic achievement, positive learning dispositions, and overall wellbeing. We are committed to nurturing all students through evidence-based literacy and numeracy practices, using the science of reading and inquiry-based approaches in mathematics to empower learners to solve real-world problems with creativity and critical thinking. In safe and supportive environments, we take the time to listen and build relationships based on honesty and trust, fostering a community of lifelong readers and learners. Through this focus on learning, wellbeing, and positive attitudes, we aim to prepare every student for success in all aspects of their lives.

Student Voice at Mulga Street

Student voice is a valued part of Mulga Street. Our leadership structure includes four student leaders - two School Captains and two Deputy Captains - who represent the student body and contribute to school decision making. Each of our three house teams also has two Sports Captains, fostering leadership in sport and team spirit across the school. In addition, our Student Representative Council (SRC) brings together a representative from every class. Classes hold regular meetings to share ideas and feedback, ensuring that all students have a voice in shaping our school community.

Behaviour Management

We use predictable routines and the Berry Street and Zones of Regulation frameworks to create a calm, supportive environment for all students. We set clear expectations for behaviour and encourage students to do their best, take responsibility, and show respect. Central to this approach is our strong partnership with families and the wider community, recognising that student success is best achieved when school and home work together to support every child.

An ACEO is employed to support the community connections of our Aboriginal students. We have an Aboriginal Education Teacher support for the site who is released to work collaboratively with the ACEO.

The wearing of school uniform is supported by a Dress Code Policy and a SunSmart Policy which means hats are worn in Terms 1 and 4.

Buddy classes are established at the beginning of the year when an older year level class and younger year level class are paired together for activities and social interaction.

Staff Support Systems

Grievance Policies are in place and Staff are made aware of support personnel both within and outside the school. eg Personnel Counselling Services, Harassment contact persons. Our team structures and the School's Performance Management program also support staff. Ancillary Staff meet regularly and classroom based SSO's are involved in planning of student learning programs with the class teacher.

The PAC meets with the Principal at least twice a term and the WHS representative provides advocacy for staff.

Whole site decisions are made at staff meetings often with consultation through Teams. All staff are required to contribute to the site by committing to a specialist learning area or special events planning and implementation such as End of Year Concert Committee, Book Week Committee etc.

Teaching Methodology

The architecture of the School allows in many areas, for both traditional and team teaching approaches. Collaboration within teacher teams is promoted to enable planning, moderation and implementation of the Curriculum. With a continued Site Improvement focus in literacy from 2022 across the site, all staff will be working in teams to implement best practice methodologies in a targeted teaching and learning cycle and gather evidence of their impact.

ICT

Mulga Street Primary School and Mt Gambier Children's Centre have invested in our ICT infrastructure over the last 5 years. Students in Years 1 - 6 have access to 130 Windows devices. Devices are connected to a high speed, reliable, secure network and the internet.

Students begin learning mouse skills, internet browsing and producing word documents during their first term in Foundation year. By Year 6, students are prepared for high school with a set of ICT ready skills including file management, safe and productive internet browsing, send and receive email, printing, saving data and presenting work digitally.

All teaching areas are fitted with LCD touch screens. We manage a set of 35 tablets for class work and individual apps to assist in building literacy and numeracy skills. Our ICT networks are managed by a dedicated on-site ICT technician with support from the department's Extended Support Program.

Key School Policies

Our School Values are:

RESPECT
SAFETY
TRUST

Current Priorities

- English – Literacy

- Maths - Numeracy

What we Teach

Our school provides a high quality educational program for all students. Students engage in a broad and balanced curriculum that covers:

English and Mathematics

Strong literacy and numeracy skills are vital for student success in other areas of study, forming the basis of the curriculum. We are committed to ensuring students reach the highest standards in these areas and we support students in a range of ways to achieve at their highest possible level.

We provide a structured, evidence-based approach to literacy from Foundation to Year 6:

PreLit (Foundation, Term 1): Builds phonological awareness and oral language through structured storybook reading.

InitialLit (Foundation–Year 1): A systematic phonics program developing early reading, writing, and spelling skills.

PhOrMeS (Years 2–6): A word study program focusing on spelling patterns, word parts, origins, and meanings.

Paired Fluency (Years 1–6): Daily partner reading sessions to strengthen fluency, accuracy, and expression.

Our Maths teaching is guided by the Big Ideas in Number framework, which outlines six key numeracy concepts that build strong number sense. Our curriculum ensures students not only develop accuracy and automaticity but also learn to think critically, apply strategies, and solve problems in real-world contexts.

Technologies

Through the Technologies learning area, students learn to design and create solutions to real-world problems that support the wellbeing of themselves, others, and the planet. Technologies empower learners to think critically, develop innovative ideas, and work together to shape positive futures.

Health and Physical Education

All students access a specialist HPE teacher. We have a hall with markings for several court games and practice boards for basketball/netball. The facility enables us to have both indoor and outdoor programs all year. Swimming lessons are included in the Physical Education program for all children and the Yr 6 Students participate in Aquatic activities during their camp in Term 4.

The Arts

The Arts are an important part of daily learning at Mulga Street Primary School. As part of our program, we offer The Song Room for our Children's Centre and Reception students. This program builds creativity, confidence, and a sense of belonging while supporting social, emotional, and academic growth. Teachers are also supported with professional

development to deliver quality music education, helping students engage more deeply in their learning.

Students in Years 4–6 can take part in our instrumental music program, learning brass or woodwind instruments with the option for families to hire through the school. They also have the opportunity to join our choir, which is part of the South Australian Festival of Music program.

Our End of Year concert is held annually. This is a night of celebration for the whole school community and we celebrate the success of our choir and IMS students who are invited to perform.

Humanities and Social Sciences

This includes studies of history, geography, civics and citizenship, economics and business and is known as HASS.

The humanities and social sciences provide an understanding of the world in which we live, and how people can participate as active and informed citizens with high level skills needed for the 21st century.

Student Wellbeing

At Mulga Street Primary School, we begin each year with our Quality Start program, designed to build strong relationships, establish clear routines, and set high expectations so that all students can learn in a safe and supportive environment. The program introduces key dispositions such as persistence, resilience, confidence, and organisation, alongside our core values of respect, responsibility, inclusion, and kindness. Quality Start is revisited at the beginning of each term to reinforce predictable routines, helping students understand their responsibilities, develop positive social behaviours, and feel supported to thrive.

We also support student and community wellbeing through the inclusion of a wellbeing dog. The wellbeing dog helps create a calm and welcoming environment, strengthens connections across the school, and supports students with engagement, regulation, and positive relationships.

Sustainable Practices

Energy

Solar panels have been installed on Unit 3 and the Learning Centre. The panels help cut the school's energy costs and also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Water

Good practice, commonsense water use is encouraged at all times. Security taps, (taps you need a key to turn on) have been replaced to ensure there is not indiscriminate use of outside watering areas these have significant water savings.

Gardening and Cooking

We have a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program where students are involved in the cycle of food production. They grow vegetables and herbs, harvest them, and use the produce in cooking sessions where meals are prepared and shared. We also have chickens and ducks that students help to care for, with their eggs collected and used in cooking. These activities provide practical experiences that link directly to sustainability,

food production, and the idea of using what is grown to support everyday needs.

Curriculum

Specialist Subject Offers

Specialist Teachers in 2025:

- Language Other Than English, French, Foundation - Yr6
- Physical Education, Foundation - Yr 6
- Health, Foundation - Yr 6

Extra Curricula Activities and Resources

Special Activities at the school includes Sports Day, Book Week, Reconciliation Week, after school sport and SAPSASA involvement.

Speech Program

Students with identified Speech needs are supported through the implementation of a Speech program provided by DFE Speech Pathologists.

Performance Management

All Staff, negotiate their Performance Development Plan by the end of Term 1. Focus is placed on performance development in relation to school priorities and their own individual personal direction.

“Prochats” are conducted twice a year using the PDP as a basis for professional dialogue. The Performance Management Plan for SSO staff is a continuous process.

Sporting Activities

The school caters for most sports and parents are able to be involved in coaching and managing teams. The school is an affiliate member of SAPSASA.

Out of Hours Sports program is promoted and supports Netball, Football, Cricket, Basketball and soccer teams. The ethos of these teams is to promote participation and self-development. The school participates in swimming, athletics and other sporting carnivals with SAPSASA to provide students with a variety of experiences. Foundation - yr5 swimming classes are undertaken annually and year 6 students attend aquatics sessions at the Murraylands Campsite in Murray Bridge.

Other Co-Curricular Activities

Special

Activities include Book Week, Student Discos, visiting performances, special days organised by The Student Council eg. Bad Hair Day, a Year 6 Graduation, school concert, IMS and Choir.

School Facilities

Building and Grounds

Mulga Street School's facilities are, well kept, with ongoing improvement being identified and actioned within budget constraints. The Resource Centre is well resourced and has implemented the AMLIB management system. There is an assembly hall, art room and teacher preparation rooms. A Canteen services the school each day.

The Governing Council are active in upgrading and improving the grounds, playground and resources.

The Children's Centre currently offers two sessions each on Monday and Tuesday, and again on Wednesday and Thursday, with additional sessions every second Friday. In total, the centre provides sessions each week for approximately 44 children.

Student facilities

Two ovals, Junior Primary/Primary Playground equipment, 2 Hard court play spaces, Canteen.

Staff facilities

Staff Lounge and Meeting room, Shower, access to Internet, e-mail.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

Wheelchair access to all areas of the school.

Library

Our school library is a welcoming hub for students, staff, and families to access a diverse range of fiction, picture books, graphic novels, non-fiction, and reference books whilst catering for diverse learning needs, interests and reading abilities.

Students from Mulga Street Primary School and the Mount Gambier Children's Centre have weekly allocated borrowing times and are also welcome to use the library when it is available at other times. Some of the ways we also promote reading are by participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge, Book Week, Scholastic Book Club and Scholastic Book Fairs.

Our library is staffed by a part-time library manager supporting literacy programs, access to all of our resources, offering assistance and ensuring smooth day to day running of the library.

School Operations

Decision making structures

Decision making policy and grievance procedures are inclusive and representative of all groups within the school community.

Parents are actively involved in school life and decision making. Parents are also encouraged to assist in classrooms, helping with camps, excursions and electives and volunteering for canteen duty.

Most decision making and action planning occurs through sub-committees with membership drawn from the wider school community. The School Governing Council's Finance, Grounds and Buildings, and Canteen sub-committees are particularly active.

Governing Council has adopted a compulsory school uniform policy, encouraging all students to wear uniform and further promote the school's identity. The wearing of hats is mandatory in terms 1 and 4.

The Governing Council meets twice a term and makes recommendations

to the Principal and/or makes decisions relating to the operation of the school.

There are weekly staff meeting on Tuesdays which focus on an area of professional development or “Teams” time. Individual staff members chair, take minutes and/or lead the area for discussion.

Regular publications

A school newsletter is published three times a term providing both curriculum and organisational information. Staff have access to a digital policy/school information folder, which is updated annually. A range of curriculum support materials published by the school are available to staff.

A variety of communication methods are used including:

- an electronic day book and file sharing platform, that is available from site and home
- Class newsletters
- Staff and parent information packs
- TRT's are provided with an information pack
- School Facebook page, updated with latest school information
- School website
- Seesaw
- EMS

School financial position

The school operates a consolidated account - budgets support Pre School - Yr 6 activities.

Local Community

Feeder Schools

Almost all of the students in Foundation come directly from our Pre School.

The Year 6 students generally move onto the local High School – Mount Gambier High School.

General characteristics

The district depends heavily upon agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries. The parent population of the school reflect this, the service and retail industries and professions which support primary production.

Parent and community involvement

An informed and active Governing Council operates and Council Sub-Committees are also active and have high levels of decision making power. Parents are actively encouraged to participate in classrooms. Parents are encouraged to attend assemblies and participate in community events. Each year we hold a meet and greet night to encourage the communication between home and school.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Mount Gambier is well served by a large shopping centre and numerous smaller regional shopping centres. Its sporting facilities are very highly regarded and outstanding for a city of its size. Cultural activities are catered for by visiting performers, exhibitions and some local groups. Most religious denominations are well catered for.

Availability of staff housing

There is an office for Government Housing based in Mount Gambier

providing Officer of Government Employee Housing.

Other local facilities

Mount Gambier is a well known tourist centre. A number of medical clinics, a new public and private hospital, cinemas, theatre and library are amongst the facilities available.

Accessibility

Mount Gambier is easily accessible from major cities, with daily bus and air services available.

Local Government body

The local council is The City of Mount Gambier Council. Their offices are located at the Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace, Phone (08) 87212555. Information about Mount Gambier and District is also available from "The Lady Nelson" Tourist/Interpretive Centre, Jubilee Highway (East). Phone 87249750.

Further Comments

Mulga Street Primary School is set in attractive grounds with extensive lawn and oval areas. There is a shared whole school community pride and commitment to the school. The Staff is caring, supportive professional dedicated and committed to improving the life chances of every child. Students are positive, cooperative and proud of their school.

"I certify that this is a true and accurate statement."

Keston Green
Principal 08/09/2025