



Miltaburra Area School

CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number	1121
Principal	Kerri Kelsh
Site type	Area School with School-Based Preschool
Street address	3493 Miltaburra Road, Wirrulla SA 5661
Postal address	RSD 70 Miltaburra Road, Streaky Bay SA 5680
Phone	(08) 8626 8088
Email	dl.1121.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Geographic context	Rural and remote Eyre Peninsula; approximately 22 km from Wirrulla, with Streaky Bay and Ceduna the nearest larger service centres. Adelaide is a distance of approximately 720 Km.

Our purpose

At Miltaburra Area School, our purpose is to bring together educators, students, parents and the local community to provide educational experiences that reflect our local context, and give our young people the skills, knowledge and values to become successful, fulfilled citizens and lifelong learners.

Our values

Respect – Responsibility-Persistence

Our context

Miltaburra Area School opened in 1984 following the closure and consolidation of several small rural schools in the district. The school is not located in a township. It serves children and young people from farms and communities along the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula, including the Wirrulla, Nunjirkompita, Smoky Bay and Haslam areas. The rural setting, travel distances and close community connections strongly shape the learning experiences we provide.



Improvement focus

Our improvement work is centred on developing Effective Learners. We are strengthening learner agency and building classroom conditions that support curiosity, persistence, reflection, collaboration and critical thinking.

Staff are working to make learning purpose clear and meaningful, plan from conceptual understandings, provide appropriate cognitive challenge, create authentic learning experiences, use feedback effectively and ensure students can explain what they are learning, why it matters and how they know they are making progress.

Curriculum and learning

Reception to Year 10

Students access the full range of required curriculum learning areas. Planning and assessment are responsive to the needs of small, vertically grouped classes and are designed to connect learning to students' interests, the local environment and real-world contexts.

In 2026, staff are deepening their use of the South Australian Curriculum, including conceptual understandings, the nature of learning and the Areas of Impact. Authentic purpose, student thinking, feedback and opportunities for learner voice and choice are important elements of our teaching approach.

Senior secondary and pathways

Students in Years 10 to 12 can complete SACE learning through a flexible combination of on-site teaching, Open Access College, local delivery, Vocational Education and Training (VET), workplace learning and school-based apprenticeship or traineeship pathways. Subject counselling is personalised to support each student's interests, strengths and future pathway.

Specialist and contextual learning

Spanish is the language program for primary students.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program provides hands-on learning through growing, preparing and sharing food.

Agriculture and practical learning make use of the school's rural setting and facilities.

Students access specialist learning in areas including Health and Physical Education, Science, Design and Technologies, the Arts and senior secondary/VET pathways.

Excursions, camps, community partnerships, visiting specialists and collaboration with other schools extend learning beyond the classroom.

Preschool

Miltaburra School Based Preschool is an integral part of the school. The preschool provides a play-based, child-centred program that supports children to build relationships, explore their interests and develop confidence as learners. Preschool children share appropriate facilities,



programs and connections with the wider school while retaining learning and play spaces designed for early childhood. We offer 3-year-old enrolments.

Students, wellbeing and inclusion

Our small-school context allows staff to know students and families well. We aim to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive environment where students experience a strong sense of belonging, high expectations and individual attention.

Student support is planned according to learning, wellbeing and functional needs, with targeted intervention and adjustment where required.

Department support services, including psychology, speech and language, behaviour and inclusive education support, can be accessed through referral processes.

Student voice is valued through class leadership opportunities, the SRC and authentic opportunities for students to contribute to school and community life.

Our values of Respect, Responsibility and Persistence provide a consistent foundation for relationships, behaviour and learning.

Attendance and engagement

Attendance and engagement are ongoing priorities. The school supports families to strengthen regular attendance and to provide learning that is purposeful, relevant and connected to students' lives and future pathways.

Teaching, leadership and staff

The leadership structure includes a Principal and Teaching and Learning Coordinator, supported by teaching and support staff across preschool, primary and secondary learning. The staff team works collaboratively, and staff often contribute across year levels and curriculum areas.

Professional culture

Collaborative planning, professional dialogue and shared responsibility for improvement are encouraged.

Staff use evidence from student learning, classroom walkthroughs, student voice and assessment to reflect on the impact of teaching.

Professional learning is aligned to school priorities, curriculum implementation, inclusion and the needs of learners.

The school values positive relationships with families and the wider community as an important part of successful learning.

School facilities

Miltaburra Area School has extensive grounds and large learning spaces. Facilities include a science laboratory, Design and Technology workshop, home economics kitchen, dedicated art space, small indoor gymnasium, library and flexible classroom areas.



Outdoor facilities include a large oval, basketball/netball and tennis courts, playground areas, nature play opportunities, kitchen garden and agriculture areas. Classrooms and learning areas are air-conditioned and support flexible use of digital technologies. The school's spacious site and rural setting provide opportunities for practical, outdoor and place-based learning. The site has accessibility provisions, including an accessible toilet.

Transport and location

There is no public transport to the school. Students travel from a wide geographic area using Department school bus services, and staff require their own transport. Wirrulla is the nearest township, while Streaky Bay and Ceduna provide broader shopping, health and community services.

The school is in a high-risk bushfire area and follows Department emergency management requirements, including closure on Catastrophic Fire Ban days.

Community, sport and partnerships

Parent and community involvement is a significant strength of Miltaburra Area School. Families support learning, events, the canteen, sport, fundraising and improvement of school facilities. The school maintains strong links with local communities and works with neighbouring schools and Far West partners to broaden opportunities for students.

Sport is an important part of community life. Students participate in school and interschool sporting opportunities, including combined events with Karcultaby Area School and regional pathways such as SAPSASA and WASSAC.

Country service and staff support

Government housing may be available in Wirrulla. Depending on appointment type and current industrial and Department arrangements, staff working in country locations may also be eligible for relocation, locality, travel or other country service supports. Prospective staff should confirm current entitlements with the Department for Education when applying or accepting a position.

Further information

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