SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: January 2011

School number: 0279

School name: MOORAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. General information

Part A

School name: MOORAK PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No.: 0279
Principal: Mr Stuart Miller
Postal Address: PO Box 961, Mount Gambier 5290
Location Address: Yells Road, Moorak 5291
District: South East
Road distance from Mt Gambier GPO: 7 kms

Phone No.: 08 87266261
Fax No.: 08 87266225

February FTE Enrolment

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July total FTE Enrolment

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July School Card (Persons) 8 15 13 17 16

NESB Total (Persons) 0 0 0 0 0

Born O/S & in Aust less than 1 yr (Persons) 1 1 2 1 0

Aboriginal FTE Enrolment 1 0 0 0 0
Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document. “Placement Points History” in the “Admin Information” section of the “Legal and Policy Framework Library” available on the departmental CD-ROM.

Part B

- Deputy Principal’s name, if applicable
  No
- School e-mail address
  admin@moorakps.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers
  4 full time teachers, C.P.C. teacher, 4 temporary SSO’s employed to provide support in identified areas. The principal has teaching responsibilities across the school.
- Partnerships 21 status
  : Entered into Round 1
- OSHC
  : No
- Enrolment trends
  : Numbers are stabilising, following a growth period when additional housing blocks were opened up. The school currently has 4 primary classes and a kindy (CPC), CPC numbers are currently high.
  Special arrangements
  : CPC and Reception class work closely together to ensure a smooth transition into the primary years of schooling. Staff work closely with others, including a small schools network for training and development and student enrichment activities.
- Year of opening
  : 1912
- Public transport access
  : None
- School Bus
  : Available for students living further than 5km from the school

2. Students (and their welfare)

- Class Structure
  : CPC – Tuesday and Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays
  Classes – Reception, Year 1 / 2, Year 3 / 4 / 5, Year 6 / 7.
- General characteristics
  : The school population is predominantly Anglo Saxon. English is the first / only language spoken at home.
The school provides an individualised and supportive learning environment for students with additional learning / physical needs, currently catering for numerous students with specific needs.

Staff work collaboratively and this is a very strong characteristic of our small team, providing numerous buddy activities.

The school values are Respect, Individuality, Growth and Community. Students are involved in many supplementary activities to highlight and build upon the school values.

The school is located in an idyllic rural setting only a short distance from Mount Gambier. The grounds are well maintained and offer students a variety of activities to be engaged in.

- (Pastoral) care programs
  The school is entitled to a student counsellor one day per week.
  The role includes assisting teachers with the implementation of programs which focus on student well being, including Child Protection curriculum, National Safe Schools framework and Bounce Back. Support is also provided to individual students.

- Support offered
  - Specialised programs are in place for students with identified needs.
  - There is a particular focus on literacy and numeracy and ensuring students are supported in this area. Small classes and additional SSO / adult support provide extensive support to individuals.

- Student management
  - Behaviour Management Policy is reflective of the school values and also ties in with social programs, such as Program Achieve, Bounce Back and MARBLES which are implemented within classrooms.

- Student government
  - Student consultation occurs in all classes. SRC is active and involved in relevant school based decision making issues and initiatives. A classroom teacher currently facilitates and assists the management of SRC.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Plan Priorities include
  - Literacy – with a particular focus on the teaching of writing, including the scope and sequence of text types, grammar and punctuation, spelling and handwriting.
  - Numeracy – Current research, regarding the ‘Big ideas in Number’ and Australian Curriculum, has been a focus in training and development
activities, staff meetings and network meetings. Quality teaching practice will continue to be a focus in 2011.

Science – In conjunction with national and state priorities, the teaching of Science, R-7 is a major focus. In 2011 staff will continue familiarising the use of the Primary Connections resources.

- Recent key outcomes
  - The recent focus on literacy has resulted in policy development in the areas of reading, writing and spelling. Resourcing has also been a priority, resulting in pedagogy changes and improved student outcomes.
  - The Arts becomes a focus in term 3, culminating in a whole school concert in term 4. All students are involved in this production, utilising and expanding upon a range of skills.
  - Investing in our schools and National School Pride programs have resulted in grounds redevelopment and the opportunity to purchase additional resourcing in our priority curriculum areas. Additional building work as a result of the BER funding, will result in an extended library facility. The school has been successful in the next round of National Solar Grants.
  - Each primary classroom has an interactive whiteboard, maximising student engagement and learning opportunities.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
  - All areas of the curriculum, Italian has been the LOTE language, offered as NIT, providing a teacher is available. In 2011 this has a multi cultural focus.
- Open Access
  - Nil although possible – have used this strategy in the past.
- Special needs
  - The site is fully equipped to cater for students with physical needs and currently caters for 1 student in a wheelchair. The meeting of individual learning or physical needs is catered for with additional and allocated S.S.O. hours. Specific literacy programs include Multi-lit, use of lexile and benchmarked reading levels to monitor progress and small group work. Early Intervention programs are developed for identified students, in the areas of literacy and numeracy.
- Special curriculum features
  - Whole school theatre production. Students from CPC – Year 7 are involved in a production which links many aspects of learning and curriculum areas. Students are provided opportunities to develop skills in the Arts and utilise community resources, such as Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre.
• Teaching methodology
  Teachers use a constructivist approach based on outcomes in the SACSA Framework and Australian Curriculum ensuring that the individual needs of students are met.

• MUSIC
  Department Instrumental Music Service available (although students do have to travel for tuition for some musical instruments). Music / drama has been a focus over the past few years as a non contact subject and with whole school involvement in the end of year concert production.

• Assessment procedures and reporting
  - 2 parent interviews per year –Term 1 and 3
  - Written Reports – Term 2 and 4
  - Acquaintance night
  - Learning Journeys – twice per term
  - Newsletters – school and class based.
  Teachers and parents are encouraged to make contact at mutually agreeable times to discuss queries or concerns. Staff utilise a variety of opportunities to keep parents informed, including phone calls, diary notes, and informal discussions.

• Joint programmes
  Moorak is part of a small school network which meets for the purpose of shared training and development. Teachers also have the opportunity to meet in like groups to discuss planning, programming and current research relevant to their year level. Principals of this group meet regularly to plan teacher support activities and work collaboratively on relevant matters.

5. Sporting Activities
• The school has its own sports day and competes in a district sports day, involving small schools surrounding Mount Gambier. Students in Years 3/4/5 are involved in School Football, Netball, Hockey, Soccer, Minkey & T.Ball in out of school hours time. Students have the opportunity to try for SAPSASA Representative Status. Sports Clinics are utilised when available to extend the range and familiarity of sporting options eg. Football, baseball and touch footy clinics have been accessed. Swimming lessons are accessed at the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre, usually at the beginning of the year.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities
• General
  The annual school production is a highlight of the year, with students working towards this outcome during term 3 and 4.
Learning journeys are held twice per term, during which work is shared and students have extended opportunities to speak publically. Students are responsible for the organisation and running of the learning journeys which provide students, staff and parents with an opportunity to visit all classes across the school and observe the learning that has occurred.

An end of year celebration combines Year 7 graduation with a social event. Camps are offered on a biannual basis. Year 6 / 7’s combine with students from other small schools to attend a camp in Canberra. Remaining students – (R-5) are offered a whole school camp opportunity.

On alternative years, a school fete is held, providing students with the opportunity to be enterprising, celebrate achievements and involve the community.

Buddying of classes where older students work with younger students occurs regularly, highlighting a particular curriculum area or event (ie. Harmony Day) and furthers builds our school values. In 2011 the school entered the ‘Buddy Bear’ program.

A variety of leadership opportunities exist for students, some of these include; representing class as an SRC representative, school team sports captain, being involved in the Landcare program, assisting younger students, running school assemblies and school captain.

- Special
  : Activities organised within the networks, special performances, one per term and SRC organised activities.

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

- **Staff profile**
- There is currently only one temporary teaching position, the remaining positions are filled with permanent employees. The staff makeup is representative of a variety of ages. Staff are highly dedicated to the students in their care, providing high quality programs to all students.

- **Leadership structure**
  : All staff takes on aspects of leadership in curriculum or other identified area.

- **Governing Council**
  : 11 parent representatives
  : Finance Committee
  : Parent Club

- **Staff support systems**
  : The school composition, processes and priorities naturally lead to a strong team ethos. Additional support is accessed through network connections and Regional Office Support staff.
• **Performance Management**
  : Teachers meet with the Principal at least once a term to discuss plans for future, programming and to receive feedback. The nature and structure of the school ensures that support and feedback is continuous, with both formal and informal processes occurring.

• **Staff utilisation policies**
  : Each year utilisation depends on staffing. The enrolment distribution determines class compositions. Principal provides release time as part of their teaching responsibilities. One S.S.O. is responsible for finance and statistics. Remaining SSO positions support classroom work, individual students and maintain the library.

• **Access to special staff**
  : Closeness to Mt. Gambier ensures access to a full range of specialist staff and Regional Office support personnel.

8. **Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

• **Complexity placement points**
  : None

• **Isolation placement points**
  : 2

• **Shorter terms**
  : No

• **Travelling time**
  : 10 minutes from Mt. Gambier - no public transport.

• **Housing assistance**
  : A range of housing in Mount Gambier can be accessed with help from Government Housing.

• **Cooling for school buildings**
  : All areas are supplied with reverse cycle air conditioning facilities.

• **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**
  : This occurs after 7 years, conditions apply.

• **Additional increment allowance**
  : NIL

• **Designated schools benefits**
  : NIL

• **Aboriginal/Anangu schools**
  : NIL
• Medical and dental treatment expenses
  : NIL
• Locality allowances
  : Yes
• Relocation assistance
  : After 3 years

9. School Facilities
• Buildings and grounds
  : One main stone building with one classroom, a library and a staff room, a
    computer room with 15 computers, along with teacher preparation areas
    and administration and SSO preparation areas. Five transportables make
    up the other classrooms, all are linked to the main building with an under
    cover walkway. Activity/Art Room and kitchen area provide a wonderful
    venue for art and craft and cooking activities – this area is also regularly
    utilised by the Parent Club. Grounds shed, sports shed and furniture shed.
    Grounds are neat and attractive with ample space for sporting activities
    and play. Buildings have recently been upgraded. The recent
    redevelopment of the toilet block, now provides under cover walkways to all
    main buildings.
• New Developments
  : Extension of the school library has been finished as part of the BER funding,
    resulting in this facility doubling in size and providing a computer
    hub area, which houses 15 new computers and a projector connected to the
    teacher’s computer. The redevelopment also includes an additional
    classroom space with access to an outdoor learning area.
• Cooling/Heating: All rooms and buildings have reverse cycle air conditioning
• Student facilities
  : Additional land and a new playground ensures students have ample
    space. Staff and students have access to a nearby hall and tennis courts. A
    wide range of sports equipment is available to students. A well resourced
    library, complete with computer pod is also readily available.
• Staff facilities
  : Separate staff preparation/resource area. Recently upgraded classrooms
    and administration areas provide a pleasant working environment.
• Access for students and staff with disabilities
  : Access has been improved for disabled students with railing and ramps
    being added. All buildings have ramp access.
• Access to bus transport
  : Two school buses bring students to school from the south of Mt. Gambier
    and arrive at about 8:15am. Most students live less than 5km away.
• All rooms have Data terminals for computers. All our classrooms also house the latest in technology, Interactive Smart Boards

10. School Operations

• Decision making structures
  : Consultation and review processes in place for policies and procedures.
  Site learning plan available.
  Monthly Governing Council meetings.
  Weekly staff meeting.
  Staff committees exist for other areas of responsibility

• Regular publications
  : Parent Information Booklet, weekly newsletter.
  Staff Induction booklet. Class newsletters.

• Other communication
  : Student learning journeys - 2 times per term.

• School financial position
  : Sound.

• Special funding
  : NIL

11. Local Community

• General characteristics
  : The local Moorak community derives their income from farming and various trades or industries specific to Mount Gambier area eg. Pine industry. The Moorak township is not large (a hall, CFS unit, church, tennis court and school).
  The community’s close proximity to Mt. Gambier ensures a full range of shopping, sporting, health and entertainment facilities.

• Parent and community involvement
  : This is high, with parents willingly contributing their skills to improve the facilities and the learning situation. Parent Club and Governing Council are very active and productive groups.

• Other local care and educational facilities
  : A variety of day-care and pre-school situations are available, a majority of these are Mount Gambier based. Within Mount Gambier there are two public high schools, a private primary and a combined R-12 school, extensive TAFE facilities are also available.
• **Playgroup**  
  : Use of CPC facilities for 0-3 year olds and parents 1 morning a week, currently Monday morning.

• **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**  
  : A variety of commercial, industrial and shopping facilities within Mount Gambier.

• **Other local facilities**  
  : A full range of health, sporting and theatre facilities. Specialists visit from Adelaide.

• **Availability of staff housing**  
  : Government housing provides a range of rental properties in Mt Gambier.

• **Accessibility**  
  : Two buses provide transport to students of the school on route to the Mount Gambier High School. A large majority of the students make private arrangements.

• **Local Government body**  
  : District Council of Grant

### 12. Further Comments

• **Values Statement**
  
  Moorak values are as follows: *Respect, *Growth, *Individuality,  
  *Community. A program to actively live and understand these values is implemented throughout the school.

• Moorak is a pleasant rural working environment. Staff are highly motivated and caring. Parents are very supportive. Students are keen and enthusiastic to learn.