



Yunta Rural School

Site Context Statement

2013

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/2012

School number: 0644

School name: Yunta Rural School

1. General information

Part A

Schoolname : YUNTA RURAL SCHOOL
School No. : 0644
Principal : Debbie Pagsanjan
Postal Address : Post Office, Yunta 5440
Location Address : Railway Terrace, Yunta 5440
District : Far North
Distance from GPO : 312 kms
CPC attached : NO

Courier : R18/11
Phone No. : 08 86505026
Fax No. : 08 86505020

	2010	2011	2012	2013
February FTE Enrolment				
Primary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
Reception	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Year 1	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Year 2	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Year 3	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Year 4	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
Year 5	1.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Year 6	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Year 7	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
TOTAL	5.0	7.0	3.0	3.0
Male FTE	5.0	6.0	2.0	2.0
Female FTE	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
School Card Approvals (Persons)	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
NESB Total (Persons)				
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment				

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.

Part B

- School e-mail address
dl.0644_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- This school does not have a Deputy Principal.
- Staffing numbers
1.0 Principal, 0.6 Teachers (school funds 'top-up' this to 1.0), 3 part time SSOs,
1 part time GSE

- Partnerships 21 status
First round entry
- OSHC
N/A
- Enrolment trends
2012 – 3, forecast 2014 - 3
- Special arrangements
N/A
- Year of opening
1889
- Public transport access
A bus service operates to Adelaide and Broken Hill several times per week.
No student transport is required

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

Three students are enrolled. There is one R-7 class for all subject areas.

- (Pastoral) care programs
Occasional assistance is received through RICE and local churches where appropriate.
- Support offered
SSO classroom support is provided as needed.
- Student management
A Behaviour Management Policy, formulated by staff, parents and students operates effectively in the school.
- All students are involved in decision making through class meetings.
Each day, children are supplied with toast, cereal and fruit to encourage healthy eating and ensure that all children have the stamina to face the morning lessons.

3. Key School Policies

Partnerships Plan or Statement of Purpose

We at Yunta Rural School, believe that children's learning should occur within a partnership of parent, teacher and student.

Teachers should continue to build on the foundation of knowledge and skills that children have already gained from their families.

Parents should support teachers in providing children with studies in all required areas of the curriculum as well as extra curricular activities. Parents and teachers should work together to meet the individual needs of children.

We value academic progress that is achieved in a happy and caring environment. We provide stimulating, secure and comfortable surroundings within the school grounds and classrooms. We believe that the open and personal relationships between parents, children and teachers must be firmly based on mutual trust, direct communication and an earnest effort to provide the best for all students.

4. Values

A survey of community members, staff and students determined the most important values. From this we have adopted these 6 Values:

Co-operation

Honesty

Respect

Courtesy

Curiosity

Persistence

5. Curriculum

Rationale

The major focus has been Maths, English, Science and the Arts. It has been shown that there is a correlation between children studying the arts and achievement across all other learning areas.

Objectives

- To have children's mathematics level at the appropriate standard for their year level.
- To have students' literacy level at the appropriate standard for their year level.
- To increase their exposure to the arts.

Mathematics

- Spending an hour each day focusing on mathematics.
- Using individualised learning programmes, small group work, SSO time, concrete materials and regular practise to achieve success.
- Assessment of current level of each student.
- Working on their skills to ensure that each child is working at their required year level.
- Working on their ability to instantly recall tables and number facts.
- Focus on the stories of maths rather than the process of maths.

Literacy

- Literacy sessions are split into junior primary and upper primary with principal to teach one group. The two groups come together for some comprehension activities and sharing of published work.
- There is a daily focus on word study with a strong phonics base.
- A school-wide set of spelling benchmarks has been developed with thorough records being kept for each child.
- Struggling readers work with an SSO on a daily basis using 'Reading Freedom'.
- Daily reading out loud for junior primaries.
- Working with a school focus on a structured literacy programme divided into four blocks: word study, writing, reading and self-selected reading.
- A strong focus on vocabulary development.
- A weekly poetry session
- Daily handwriting practise

The Arts

- Weekly art lessons.
- Circus skills.
- Incorporating drama and arts into other learning areas.
- Daily practise of the recorder, singing and Japanese.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND REPORTING

Term 1 – Portfolios.

Term 2 – Parent teacher interviews, written progress reports.

Term 3 – Portfolios, NAPLAN test results.

Term 4 – Written reports in all areas of study, Running Records results.

JOINT PROGRAMMES

The Yunta Rural School participates in Peterborough Primary School's sports day and other activities, to foster student interaction and extend learning and sporting opportunities.

The School of the Air itinerant teacher liaises with Yunta Rural School staff in coordinating host school days which fosters student interaction.

6. Sporting Activities

In spite of the distance, many of the students have been involved in out of school sport or SAPSASA events.

Students have the opportunity to be involved in social tennis and the Easter Tennis Tournament at Yunta.

Swimming is undertaken at the local pool during term 4 and at other times as opportunities permit.

7. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
Annual school excursions and occasional daily excursions to major centres are an important part of overcoming the disadvantages of our isolation.
- Special
Host School Days are a featured activity. School of the Air students from outlying pastoral properties join in with a regular school day with an emphasis on cooperative group activities.

8. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
YRS has a principal (1.0: being 0.6 administration and 0.4 teaching) and a teacher (1. Part-funded by school funding). Three part-time SSO's undertake the administration and finance roles. A groundsman is employed one day per week.
- Leadership structure
Principal 0.6 admin. All staff are encouraged to contribute to school management and policy development. Governing Council is very supportive.
- Staff support systems
The Principal works alongside the classroom teacher. Training and development is budgeted for all staff.
- Performance Management
Staff are encouraged to reflect upon and share how well the school is performing. Staff members meet fortnightly, or as necessary, to discuss issues relating to their roles, school environment and career. Daily incidental contact is a major component.
- Staff utilisation policies
Ancillary time is divided between four people. Three SSO's work a combination of 36 hours per week on general administration, finance and student support. A groundsman works 7 hours per week. In addition, the cleaning position offers 10 hours per week.
Yunta receives support from a variety of services. Regional Office provides speech pathologists, behaviour support, special education, hearing-impaired services, attendance officers and guidance support. A RICE counsellor visits once a year. The SOTA itinerant teacher supports host days.

9. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
N/A

- Isolation placement points
4
- Shorter terms
Staff receive one day in lieu of travel at the end of the year.
- Travelling time
N/A
- Housing assistance
Two teacher houses are provided adjacent to the school.
Cooling for school buildings
The classrooms and administration offices have split system air conditioners and gas heating.
- 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
Free medical assistance is provided by the Royal Flying Doctor Service with monthly visits. Travel time is given for medical appointments. The school dental service at Peterborough is available for all students.
- Locality allowances
Locality allowances are paid.
Yunta is in Zone 4 for Country Incentives.
- Relocation assistance
Yes.
- Principal's telephone costs
Yes.

10. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
There are four main buildings however only two are used as per entitlements. The triple block is used for administration, the computer suite and classroom. A second building houses the library. A third building is utilised as a music/drama room. There is a large building, the 'Rec Hut', which is used as a general purpose area for art, playgroup and sleepovers by School Of The Air families and staff, when visiting for host school days.

There is a lunch shed/sports shed, a grounds maintenance shed and a storage shed.

The school grounds are large and well kept although the oval is un-grassed due to soil salinity. A tennis / basketball / netball court was built in 2002. A new shaded playground was erected with funding received through IIOS.

- **Cooling**
Evaporative air conditioners and/or Split Systems are used in all buildings.
- **Heating**
Gas heaters are used in most buildings, along with some split systems.
- **Specialist facilities**
The computing suite provides all students with individual computers and internet access. Each student also has access to an Ipad.
- **Student facilities**
There is a refrigerator, a microwave and refrigerated drinking water in the main building for student use. There are ample shade areas in the grounds.
- **Staff facilities**
The teacher has a personal computer linked to a touch screen TV. The administration area, book room and principal's office are conveniently grouped together.
- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
There is ramp access to the main building and the library/staff room.
- **Access to bus transport**
N/A

11. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**
An agreed decision making policy works effectively within the school. Staff meetings are held every third week. Students, parents, staff and community have input into major changes and decisions. There are clearly documented grievance procedures. The OHS&W Committee is comprised of the principal and a staff representative.
- **Regular publications**
Newsletters are usually published fortnightly. An annual report is produced, and articles appear in the monthly community newspaper.
- **Other communication**
Communication with parents and community members is invited and welcomed.
- **School financial position**
Yunta Rural School entered P21 in the first round in 2000. Staffing levels have been set to allow specific and general reserves to be put aside while providing students with an excellent staff/student ratio, quality learning materials, a safe and attractive physical environment and assistance in attending camps and excursions.
- **Special funding**
Rural and Isolated Students Index

12. Local Community

- General characteristics

Yunta is located on the Barrier Highway, 86 kms east of Peterborough, the nearest service centre. Yunta is home to a community of approximately 45 residents and serves a wider pastoral community of approximately another 70 people.
- Parent and community involvement

Though small in number, the parents and community provide strong support to the school.
- Feeder schools

Our students usually graduate to Burra Community School (where there is a boarding facility) or to private schools in Adelaide.
- Other local care and educational facilities

Playgroups operate occasionally at the school, hosted by RICE and are attended by children from the town and outlying stations. We are considering running a monthly playgroup to help with the transition of new students into reception.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

There are two roadhouses and a hotel. The Telecentre/Post Office offers internet access, photocopying, computer use and training, meeting rooms, secretarial services and some Australia Post services and products. There is a police station, a transport company and surrounding pastoral properties. The nearest shopping facilities are at Peterborough (86 kms) and Broken Hill (200 kms).
- Other local facilities

There is a local swimming pool. The tennis club has regular social tennis and the Race Club hosts a major annual event. Rifle shooting occurs weekly. The Royal Flying Doctor Service conducts monthly medical clinics, with occasional visits by specialists. There is a small community library and a postal library service (from Broken Hill). Combined church services are held two or three times per year, with pastoral support extended by Frontier Services.
- Local Government body

Yunta is located in the unincorporated areas of SA. The Yunta District Hall committee oversees the maintenance and upkeep of the town, with support from the Outback Communities Authority.
- Accessibility

Bitumen highway.

13. Further Comments

Yunta Rural School offers the opportunity to develop teaching skills in a multi-level setting. Staff/student ratios are good and encourage a family-like atmosphere.