SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 05/2016

School number: 1123

School name: Karcultaby Area School and Pre-school

1. General information

Part A

Schoolname: KARCULTABY AREA SCHOOL
School No.: 1123
Principal: Ms Louise Watson
Postal Address: PMB 9, Minnipa 5654
Location Address: Karcultaby 5654
Partnership: Far West
Distance from GPO: 630 kms
Preschool attached: YES

Phone No.: 08 86263077
Fax No.: 08 86263009

February FTE Enrolment

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<th>Reception</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
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TOTAL (Primary and secondary): 66.0  66.0  65.4  70.2
School Card Approvals (Persons): 7  7  10  7
NESB Total (Persons): 1  1  1  1
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment: 2  2  2  2

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

- Website address
  www.karcultas.sa.edu.au

- School email address
  dl.1123.info@schools.sa.edu.au

- Staffing numbers
  - Principal, 1 coordinator plus 2 full-time teachers and 6 part-time teachers, 0.6 preschool teacher & 1 full time and 6 part time SSO staff. The school has a groundsperson working 32 hrs/week and a Pastoral Care Worker working 2 days a week.

- Enrolment trends

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- Year of opening
  - Karcultaby Area School opened in 1977 as a result of amalgamation of the Minnipa Area School and Poochera Special Rural. The school is not located in a town, it is located in a 300 acre section of farmland.
  - A school based preschool started at the school in 2002.

- Karcultaby Area School is member of the DECD Far West Partnership Group.
  - Partnership schools include Ceduna, Miltaburra and Streaky Bay Area Schools, Penong, Koonibba Primary Schools and the associated town preschools and children centres.

- Public transport access
  - There is no local public transport. Stateliner bus services stop at Minnipa and Poochera but is not daily.

- OSHC
  - Nil

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
  - Approximately 67% of the students are in the primary section (R-6) and 33% are secondary (yr 7-9). Classes in primary are vertically grouped.
  - Primary classes operating in 2016 are:
    - Year R/1 = 17 students
    - Year 2/3 = 15 students
    - Year 4/5/6 = 13 students
At the secondary level the Year 7/8 group works as a class and as the years go up various groupings occur to meet curriculum needs and subject selections

- **Support offered**
  
  : Because of the isolated nature of the school there is limited access to external support in career and general counselling for students. This is managed within the school by staff with the assistance of other external support personnel.
  
  There is a strong peer network of teacher support between the adjoining schools.

- **Student behaviour support**
  
  : Student behaviour is good with generally high motivation by students and parents. Behaviour Management is in line with DECD policy but because incidents of poor behaviour are rare, staff enjoy the opportunity to facilitate learning programmes to an optimum level. Parental support for the school is good, however, because of the school’s location, few parents incidentally drop in to visit classrooms.

- **Student leadership**
  
  : There is a Primary Action Team (PAT) and Student Action Team (SAT) for years 7-12. The student teams meet to consider school and social matters. The SAT is represented on sub-committees of Governing Council. Student leaders may participate in the Eyre Peninsula student leaders group.

- **Learning support**
  
  Students’ learning is supported through the use of ancillary staff and if volunteers are available, a LAP programme. The school converts staffing time to SSO support in an attempt to improve learning outcomes in the early years. Where possible intervention support is provided in class, small groups or individually.

- **School buses**
  
  Three school buses service the school. They are Chilpuddie/Minnipa, Chandada and Cungena. Buses arrive about 8:45am and leave at 3:30pm. All children except for the students who live on-site come to school in school buses.

3. **Key School Policies**

   **Our Mission**

   The aim of Karcultaby Area School is to provide a safe, supportive and caring learning environment fostered through engagement, participation and a success orientated culture.
Our Values
Respect, honesty and caring

Our Core business is supported by:
Supportive behaviour management processes
Financial management that reflects the schools priorities
To make ICT important across all curriculum areas, encouraging students, educators and the wider community in using ICT as a tool for life.
To provide a dynamic learning environment where student input is valued, with a particular focus on Literacy and Numeracy.
To establish working links with in the community which cultivate pride & respect for the environment.
The major focus areas are : developing growth mindsets
: raising achievement in Literacy and Numeracy
: increasing student involvement
: open ended problem-solving tasks

These will be achieved through very close community links and using a variety of human resources and expertise. Students will be provided with opportunities to fulfil their future directions and aspirations.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
  : The Australian Curriculum (R-10) and stage 1 and 2 subjects of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) are offered face-to-face or by distance learning.
  Where secondary teaching expertise is not available and students need alternative subjects the Open Access College curriculum is accessed.
  VET is a critical pathway for a number of students. (School Based Apprenticeships or Traineeships or stand-alone VET certificates etc)

- LOTE (Language other than English)
  The school teaches Spanish from R-3 and supports delivery for Year 4-8 by an Open Access teacher currently based at Streaky Bay Area School.

- Special needs
  : There is support for students with special needs by SSOs in the class room in small groups or working individually with students.
• Special curriculum features
  : The school has an Agricultural Science focus, and is well set up for this, having 400 acres of land.

• Teaching methodology
  : In 2016 the Far West Partnership has focussed developing growth mindset in staff and students and for learning to involve intellectual stretch to challenge and extend students.
  
  The curriculum aims to take into account the wide range of abilities and interests of our students and is therefore varied. There is an emphasis on student initiated learning so that learning builds on existing knowledge and skills and also extends them into new areas. Student's input and feedback about the teaching and learning they experience is valued through the use of student surveys.

• Assessment procedures and reporting
  : Secondary parents/families receive written assessment reports twice a semester. Primary classes (R-6) have portfolios in terms one and three and written reports assessments in term two and hour. A student, teacher and parent/family meeting is conducted during term one to set individual learning targets for all students and a review meetings occurs in term three.
  
  Preschool parents are issued with a learning story at the end of each term and a report at the end of the year.

• Joint programmes
  : The preschool was integrated into the school in 2002. (Previously Minnipa and Poochera had Play Centres)

5. Sporting Activities
  : Sport plays an important part in the local community and this is reflected in student commitment to sport and general behaviour. Individuals and clubs support students well in their sporting aspirations, and the school is involved in intra-school and inter-school swimming and athletic competitions, as well as SAPSASA, WASSAC and the Sun Smart Games.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities
  
  • General
    : The school hosts the West Coast Cross Country running event at Tcharkuldu Rock near Minnipa annually. This event won a National Heart Foundation Award in 2000 for the best Physical Activity category and was also recognised by a SA Great Award in 2006.
    
    The 2016 event will be the 40th consecutive time the event will be run.
7. **Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile**
  - Staffing tends to be relatively stable with a mix of permanent and temporary full-time and part-time staff and a mix of specialist areas.

- **Leadership structure**
  - Management centres on a principal and one coordinator position. There is currently a Teaching and Learning Coordinator. These roles reviewed annually.

- **Staff support systems**
  - Staff participation in decision making has a top priority. This is reflected in a cooperative group working for improved student outcomes with individuality respected and encouraged.

- **Support staff**
  - Teaching staff are well supported by the ancillary staff in administration, IT and student support. The groundsperson maintains the extensive grounds and attends to minor maintenance and some facility repairs.

- **Access to special staff**
  - A music teacher attends weekly and the music programme is also supported by parent and community member involvement.

- **Performance Support**
  - A system of performance support is in line with the department policy. Line management is provided by the Principal, Coordinator and the Librarian. Personal Development Plans are written with support from a line manager and progress is shared amongst a staff group.

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

- **Isolation placement points**
  - 5.0

- **Shorter terms**
  - Karcultaby Area School finishes one day earlier in Term four.

- **Travelling time**
  - Karcultaby is 6 hours from Adelaide, 2½ hours from Port Lincoln, 3 hours from Whyalla, 90 minutes from Ceduna, 40 minutes from Wudinna

- **Housing assistance**
  - Rental assistance is offered to teaching staff by the government through subsidised Government Employee Housing. (about 10% less than market rental)
• Cooling for school buildings
  : The main teaching and administration blocks are serviced by an airconditioning cooling/heating system.

• Country Incentives
  Teaching staff at Karcultaby are eligible for a cash based Country Incentive Allowance. This starts at a base level and increases each year until the end of the 5th year when it ceases.

• Medical and dental treatment expenses
  : Under the Teachers Non-Metropolitan Award, travel and accommodation may be claimed by staff for specific specialist medical and dental treatment for themselves and their families.

• Locality allowances
  : Locality allowance is paid by the South Australian Government but no claim may be made on the taxation department.

• Relocation assistance
  : Available for teaching and leadership staff

• Principal's telephone costs
  : Telephone rental repayment is made by DECD.

9. School Facilities

• Buildings and grounds
  : The school is an open space school including a school, preschool & community library.

  The buildings have fibro asbestos walls and floors. This does provide challenges with regards to maintenance and structural work.

• Specialist facilities
  : Administration, class, activity, change rooms and toilets are all connected by covered walkways and the whole unit surrounded by a wide verandah and extra pergola areas. This coupled with the reverse cycle air-conditioning makes for comfortable working and leisure activities despite the weather.

  The grounds are heavily treed and further tree planting around the 400 acre site is an ongoing process. There is a large well grassed and appointed oval and a number of other grassed playing and leisure areas around the building.

  The school has a swimming pool, netball/basketball/tennis courts and cricket nets. Cricket nets are utilised by the Western Districts Cricket Club during the cricket season. A user agreement is signed annually with the club.

  A restoration area reflecting the history of the area and including the original Karcultaby school building and a fully functional blacksmith shop is a feature of the grounds.

  The restoration of an old railway tank provides recycled grey water for playing fields and gardens.
The school Home Economics room was upgraded as a part of the Federal BER (Building an Education Revolution).

The school has a School/Community library which attract 20 hours of Community Library SSO time.

- **Student facilities**
  : Student and staff facilities include withdrawal and staff work rooms, computer rooms for primary and secondary areas, design and technology, art and home economics centres and a distance education room. A meeting room is utilised for various purposes. The year 11/12s are privileged to use an adjoining common room for break time use.

  There are two courtyards offering secluded study/work areas and a large activity room connected to change rooms with all personal hygiene facilities.

- **Staff facilities**
  : There is a spacious staff room and large welcoming administration area. All staff have access to an office area. Adjacent to the school are four large paddocks used for agriculture studies that are cropped annually by the Governing Council for raising funds. Further afield, but within the school grounds is a large area of natural scrub, valuable for interest, conservation and outdoor education.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
  : The immediate school area is generally flat. Provision has been made for access to all areas by people with disabilities.

- **Access to school bus transport**
  : Currently, apart from children of staff, all students arrive by school bus. The two residences on site are currently occupied by staff. School and private contractor buses are available for excursions.

### 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**
  : Most decisions are made in consultation with staff, students and parents, and committees have been established to ensure the decision making policy guidelines are followed. Governing Council has several specialist sub committees. They meet regularly and staff and students are represented. Staff meet weekly for information sharing, decision making and professional development. School planning is circulated to all staff and parents, and is monitored and reviewed. A term plan is located in the staff room and staff are kept informed of daily activities through a day book.

- **Regular publications**
  : A weekly newsletter/community notes publication is distributed to community members and local schools. A school magazine is produced at the end of each year.
• Other communication
  : An atmosphere is fostered to welcome parental, student and community involvement.
  All meeting minutes are held in a file cupboard in the staffroom for quick access.

• School financial position
  : Funding of school programmes is a constant issue with budgeting priorities having to be made and reviewed regularly. Most operations are funded from the global budget and fundraising activities. The Governing Council crops the 400 acres of farm land owned by the school. They then financially support the agriculture programme budget as well as maintain plant and machinery used for school grounds.

• Special funding
  : The school receives Rural and Isolated Index funding to help overcome the educational disadvantages that arise as a result of our isolation. Funds are used to subsidise school camps, local travel and visiting artists.

11. Local Community

• General characteristics
  : The community in which Karcultaby Area School exists is generally very conservative holding high traditional family, religious and sporting values.

• Parent and community involvement
  : This is evident through student behaviour and parental/community support. School is a focal point for the community that is primarily agricultural or related to that industry. Some parents help regularly within the school on canteen rosters or in classrooms.

• Feeder schools
  : The school is situated midway between the towns of Minnipa and Poochera and students come by bus from these towns and outlying farms.

• Other local care and educational facilities
  : There presently exists a playgroup which operates fortnightly. Limited private childcare is available. There is access to Family Day Care providers in Wudinna. TAFE offices are located in Wudinna (56kms from the school)

• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  : There are facilities in Minnipa such as a supermarket and hotel. The nearby towns of Wudinna and Streaky Bay both have good shopping facilities.

Other local facilities
  : For medical or other specialised needs Wudinna or Streaky Bay are service centres, while Port Lincoln or Whyalla are the major centres for the area with Ceduna also taking an important role. The isolated nature of the school has implications for after hours school centred activities.
Local Churches - Catholic and Uniting and Anglican Church services are held at Minnipa and Poochera on a weekly basis. Other church denomination services are held regularly in nearby towns.

Sporting facilities within the townships of Minnipa and Poochera include a swimming pool, football and cricket ovals, netball, tennis, and basketball courts, lawn bowling greens and a golf course. A table tennis competition operates in the Minnipa hall during winter.

- Availability of staff housing
  : Government Housing is available for staff either in Minnipa or at the school. Private local rental is also available.

- Local Government body
  : Karcultaby Area School sits on the border between the Streaky Bay District Council and the Wudinna District Council. The road next to the school forms the Council boundary. (Streaky Bay District Council, 29 Alfred Tce, Streaky Bay 5680, 8626 1001. Wudinna District Council, Burton Tce, Wudinna 5652, 8680 2002.) Both Councils share joint funding responsibility for the Karcultaby Community Library. The Councils have also provided support for the school with the provision of machinery for various projects that have been undertaken on site.

12. Further Comments

: Karcultaby Area School offers a safe and caring learning environment for both students and staff. It is located in a community of hard working people anxious that their children achieve the best possible education and, who are prepared to give support and make sacrifices to that end. The school sits in rolling farm country dotted with patches of untouched original Eyre Peninsula mallee scrub between the spectacular West Coast and the unspoilt Gawler Ranges. The district offers a wide range of leisure activities including fishing, swimming, surfing, sailing, camping, exploring, and rock climbing. Living in the area offers a pleasant lifestyle in unspoilt surroundings around the Gawler Ranges and the granite outcrops of Pildappa, Ucontitchie and Tcharkuldu. The area is rich in history, tradition and leisure.