



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 11/2023

School number: 1123

School name: Karcultaby Area School and Preschool

1. General information

Part A

Schoolname : KARCULTABY AREA SCHOOL
 School No. : 1123 Courier : Karcultaby
 Principal : Mr Neil Seaman
 Postal Address : PMB 9, Minnipa 5654
 Location Address : Karcultaby 5654
 Partnership : Far West
 Distance from GPO : 630 kms Phone No. : 08 86263077
 Preschool attached : YES Fax No. : 08 86263009

February FTE Enrolment		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Preschool		4	3	6	4	8	4
Primary	Reception	10	4	3	9	6	10
	Year 1	2	8	4	4	7	6
	Year 2	6	2	7	4	6	8
	Year 3	9	6	2	9	4	6
	Year 4	3	9	5	2	10	4
	Year 5	11	3	9	6	4	9
Secondary	Year 6	1	11	2	10	5	4
	Year 7	6	1	10	2	11	5
	Year 8	6	2	2	11	2	11
	Year 9	6	3	6	2	11	2
	Year 10	1	2	2	6	3	4
	Year 11	2	0	2	2	6	2
	Year 12	4	1	0	2	2	4
TOTAL		65	56	54	69	77	75
School Card Approvals		4		7	13	11	6
NESB Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment		1	1	1	8	3	3

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.
 Kindy numbers are not included in the TOTAL Area School enrolment

Part B

- Website address:
www.karcultas.sa.edu.au
- School email address:
dl.1123.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers:
Principal, 1 coordinator (0.8) plus 3 full-time teachers and 11 part-time teachers and 1 full time and 8 part time SSO staff. The school has a groundsperson working 32 hrs/week and a Pastoral Care Worker working 1 days a week.

- Enrolment trends:

1977	1982	1987	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
232	218	170	160.5	111.8	93.2	84.1	68	63.0	64	56	54	69	77	75

- 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.
- Partnership:
Karcultaby Area School is member of the Far West Partnership. Partnership schools include Ceduna, Miltaburra and Streaky Bay Area Schools, Penong, Koonibba Primary Schools, Ngura Yadurim Children's Centre, Streaky Bay Children's Centre and the school based preschools.
- Public transport access:
There is no local public transport. Stateliner bus services stop at Minnipa and Poochera at varied times throughout the week.
- OSHC:
Nil

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
Approximately 63% of the students are in primary (R-6) and 37% are middle/senior school (yr 7-12).
Primary classes operating in 2023 are:
Year R/1 = 16 students
Year 2/3 = 14 students
Year 4/5/6 = 17 students

At the secondary level the Year 7 and Year 8/9 Year 10/11/12 groups work as separate classes and there are various senior school groupings to meet curriculum needs and subject selections.

In 2023, the preschool children integrate into the R/1 class for one lessons per week.

- Wellbeing support offered:

Due to the isolated nature of the school there is limited access to external support in 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 partnership schools.

In 2023 there has been an increase in Non Department external providers, especially in Psychology. Parents have been involved in accessing this extra support.

- Student behaviour support:

Student behaviour is generally good with reasonably high motivation by students and families. Behaviour management is in line with department policy but because incidents of poor behaviour are few, staff enjoy the opportunity to facilitate learning programmes to an optimum level. Family support for the school is good.

- 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 committees and governing council. Student leaders sometimes participate in the Eyre Peninsula student leadership group.

- Learning support:

Students' learning is supported through the use of ancillary staff and if volunteers are available, a LAP program. 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 Minnipa, Chandada and Cungenena. Buses arrive about 8:45am and leave at 3:30pm.

All children come to school in school buses.

3. School priorities

Our mission

As a result of the teaching and learning that happens at Karcultaby Area School, students will be happy, respectful, resilient people who contribute positively to the world.

They will communicate effectively, work collaboratively and be critical and creative thinkers.

Our values

Respect, perseverance and responsibility.

Our core business is supported by:

- positive behaviour expectations and anti-bullying policy and procedures
- financial management that reflects the school's priorities.
- IT access across all curriculum areas, encouraging students, staff and the wider community to be successful global citizens in our ever-increasing technological world, and to learn how to use technology respectfully and responsibly.
- engaging and intellectually challenging learning environments where student input and feedback is valued.
- focussed teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy.
- active partnerships with families and the wider community.

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 or local delivery by another school is utilised.
VET is a critical pathway for a number of senior students. (School Based Apprenticeships or Traineeships or stand-alone VET certificates etc)
- **Language:**
NIL
- **Additional learning needs:**
There is support for students with special learning needs by SSOs in the classroom in small groups or working individually with students.
- **Curriculum features:**
The school has agricultural facilities, and is well set up for this, having 300 acres of land, which the governing council crops.

The school has had great success in the Led Wether and when it runs, the Led Steer program at the Adelaide Show. From 2016-2018, the team has won the "Most Professional School Show Team" award as well as many other ribbons and prizes. We are lucky to have the support of local industry experts as well as active parents and appreciate their input into both programs.
- **Teaching and learning:**
In 2023 our school improvement goals are:
 1. Increase student writing achievement in high bands.The preschool improvement goals are:

1. To develop children's understanding and use of number to quantify.

The curriculum aims to take into account the wide range of abilities and interests of our students. There is an emphasis of learning that builds on existing knowledge and skills and also extends them into new areas. Student's input and feedback about the teaching and learning is used to inform the teaching practice improvements.

- Assessment and reporting:

A student, teacher and family meeting is conducted during term one to discuss the student's achievement, progress and next steps. Other opportunities to meet throughout the year are organised with families as required. All parents/families receive written assessment reports twice a year.

Preschool parents are issued with two learning stories each term and a statement of learning at the end of the year.

5. Sporting activities

Sport plays an important part in the local community and this is reflected in student commitment and general approach to sport. Individuals and clubs support students well in their sporting aspirations, and the school is involved in school and interschool swimming and athletic competitions, as well as SAPSASA, WASSAC and the School Sports SA Carnival in Adelaide.

The school hosts the annual West Coast Cross Country running event at Tcharkuldu Rock near Minnipa. 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. In 2021, the event celebrated its 44th year.

A mixed secondary team is sent to the 24 hour Pedal Prix race at Murray Bridge every year and is a highlight for students. The school has participated for 8 years. Due to the timing of the event and other commitments this year we will not participate.

6. Staff

- Staff profile:

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

- Leadership structure:

A principal and one coordinator position form the leadership team. There is currently a Teaching and learning coordinator. These roles are reviewed annually. There has been a Wellbeing Coordinator in recent years but this person moved on with maternity leave. As well as struggles with getting staff, with lower numbers, it has been difficult to maintain funding needed for extra leadership positions. An influx of families into Minnipa in 2021 has resulted in a 21% increase in student numbers, opening up significant funding increases for future staffing.

Staff support systems:

Staff participation in decision making is integral to the decision-making process. This is reflected in all staff working for improved student outcomes and working collaboratively to make this happen.

- Support staff:

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

- Performance support:

The performance support program is in line with the department policy. Line management is provided by the principal and the coordinator. Performance development plans are written with support from a line manager and progress is shared amongst a staff group.

7. 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. This has been aided by a complete replacement of the A/C system in the teaching areas in 2020 and early 2021.

- 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 the department.

8. 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, however, all spaces are well painted and outside walls have been coated with an adhesive sealer for protection. An Asbestos register is well maintained.

Administration, class, activity, change rooms and toilets are all connected by covered walkways and the whole unit is 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.

There are trees surrounding the school and large grassed areas including an oval. There is a large undercover playground for school students.

The school has a swimming pool, netball/basketball/tennis courts and cricket nets. Cricket nets are utilised by the Western Districts Cricket Club for practice 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 run-off water for playing fields and gardens.

- Facilities:

Student and staff facilities include classrooms, computer rooms for primary and secondary areas, design and technology, science, art and home economics rooms and a large activity room connected to change rooms. A meeting room is utilised for various purposes. There is a spacious staff room and large welcoming administration area. All staff have access to an office area. The year 11/12s are privileged to use an adjoining common room for break times.

The preschool joins the school and has their own separate fenced yard with a playground and a range of other play areas.

There is a school community library which has a range of resources for all ages as well as two computers available with free internet.

Two courtyards, one internal and a large external one where all students eat their lunch add nice greenery touches.

Adjacent to the school are paddocks that are cropped annually by the governing council for raising funds. An ag shed with a shearing plant and animal yards are used for agriculture studies. Further afield, but within the school grounds is a large area of natural scrub, valuable for interest, conservation and outdoor education.

The Preschool outdoor area has recently undergone a major renovation including a large veranda area and outside grass and play areas.

- 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:
Apart from children of staff, currently all students arrive by school bus. There are two residences on site which are available for rent by staff. School and private contractor buses are available for excursions.

9. 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 sub committees. They meet regularly and staff and students are represented. Staff meet regularly for information sharing, decision making, collaborative planning and professional development. School planning is circulated to all staff and families, and is monitored and reviewed. A year planner 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 parent, student and community involvement. The school uses a closed Facebook page as another means of communication to the direct school community. Text messages are also used especially in emergency situations such as instructions during Covid lockdowns or bus breakdowns (Not common fortunately).
All meeting minutes are stored as a record.
- School financial position:
Funding of school programs is reviewed regularly against budgeting priorities. Most operations are funded from the resource entitlement from the department and fundraising activities. The governing council crops the 300 acres of farm land owned by the school. They then financially support the agriculture program as well as maintain plant and machinery used for school grounds. There is an active Parents and Friends which through fundraising ventures also contribute to the school learning programs in a variety of ways.
- 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, contribute to a bus fund shared with neighbouring schools, local travel and visiting artists.

10. Local community

- General characteristics:
The community in which Karcultaby Area School exists is generally very supportive holding high traditional family, religious and sporting values.
- Parent and community involvement:
The school aims to build a strong partnership with families and the wider community through the use of special days or events which include families. These have been well

supported. Some parents help regularly within the school on canteen rosters or in classrooms.

- Feeder areas:

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 is a playgroup which operates fortnightly. Limited private childcare is available. There is access to Family Day Care providers in Wudinna.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:

There are facilities in Minnipa such as a shop 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 Ceduna, Port Lincoln or Whyalla are the major centres for the area. The isolated nature of the school has implications for after hours school centred activities.

Local church services are held at Minnipa. 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.

11. 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 concerned that their children achieve the best possible education and, who are prepared to give support 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.