



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 03/18

**School number:** 0248

**School name:** Marree Aboriginal School

## **Our Mission Statement:**

We will work together with the community to achieve Excellence

## **Our Core Values:**

Courage, Integrity and Strength

## **General information**

- School Principal name: **Mr Maurice Saah**
- Deputy Principal's name, if applicable: **N/A**
- Year of opening: **1889**
- Postal Address: **C/O Maree Post Office, Marree, SA 5733**
- Location Address: **First Street, Marree, SA 5733**
- DECD Region: **Far North**
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): **698Km**
- Telephone number: **08 8675 8358**
- Fax Number: **08 8675 8370**
- School website address: **[www.marreeab.sa.edu.au](http://www.marreeab.sa.edu.au)**
- School e-mail address: **[dl.0240.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0240.info@schools.sa.edu.au)**
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: **Yes (BBF Creche/Prechool)**
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: **N/A**

**February FTE student enrolment:**

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Reception	1	2	1	3	1
Year 1	3	1	4	1	4
Year 2	0	1	3	3	1
Year 3	0	1	1	2	3
Year 4	3	0	1	2	1
Year 5	2	2	1	2	2
Year 6	2	0	2	1	2
Year 7	2	2	0	2	3
Year 8	1	3	1	0	1
Year 9	2	0	4	2	0
Year 10	1	1	0	4	2
Year 11	1	0	2	0	3
Year 12	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>

School Card	4	4	4	17
NESB	0	0	2	2
ATSI	17	12	15	19
SWD	4	5	3	3

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Student numbers have remained stable with some families moving into our community. Our student enrolment is currently at 23 with projected enrolments in 2019 remaining the same or slightly above. Most of our students live in the community with a few coming from the surrounding stations to access our Creche/Preschool.

- **Staffing numbers (as at February census):**

**Current**

Mr Maurice Saah- Principal

**Teachers (FTE)**

Preschool: 0.5

Primary: 2.5

Primary NIT: 0.5

Secondary/SACE: 1.5

**Ancilliary**

AEW: 25 hours per week

SSO: 78.5hours per week

ECW: 31 hours per week

**Public transport access:**

There is no public transport in the community.

The school has two buses and a car which it uses for school related activities such as camps, home visits, excursions and staff travel to attend Training and Professional Development meetings/conferences.

There is a bi-weekly commercial bus service from Adelaide to Copley (about 112km from Marree).

There are daily flights from Adelaide to Olympic Dam (187km from Marree).

**Special site arrangements:**

Our school is part of the Far North Partnership. The school is working in partnership with the department to have a Science and Technology facility completed onsite by the end of Semester 1 2018.

Our school joins Hawker Area School and Leigh Creek Area School for our annual Sports day and Swimming carnival.

Our students have had the opportunity to Join the Far North SAASTA Academy (South Australia Aboriginal Sports Training Academy) which is run from Coober Pedy Area School. The SAASTA strategy supports Indigenous youth and their attendance and provides additional/alternative pathway for our students to achieve their SACE.

Our secondary students have the opportunity to study SACE/VET/TAFE and a general mix of subjects. All efforts have been made for the school to continue to provide face to face teaching and in 2018,

The school has provided face to face teachers for all subject areas across the school.

Our students also have the opportunity to access various work experience opportunities both in Marree and other Neighbouring Towns.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

### General characteristics

19 out of our 23 students are identified as Aboriginal and 17 out of our 23 students are approved school card holders.

### Student well-being programs

All students are involved in Child Protection Curriculum lessons, Growth Mindset and wellbeing lessons. These lessons are part of our overall student wellbeing and teaching agreements.

The Stride Foundation also provides holiday programmes for our students on a regular basis.

### Student support offered

There is a significant amount of in-class and out of class support available to our students. The school accesses counselling services from Headspace and in some cases phone counselling is offered to our students with the support of staff members. The Principal and the AEW are responsible for attendance follow ups and documentation is always kept about these follow ups. Constant updates are provided to teachers around attendance. The principal and the AEW coordinate agencies both in town and outside town to support student attendance needs.

### Student management

The school has an updated learning behaviour which was developed by staff, with input from students and parents. The school learning behaviour policy is based on our school values and follows the DECD discipline policy.

### Student government

The school had a student voice or leadership group in place last year and this will continue in 2018. The structure of this will be arrived at in consultation with staff and students.

### Special programmes

The South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy supports our students to reach their aspirations in terms of academic and sporting aspirations. This is a SACE accredited course and it is offered to Aboriginal students in Years 9 to 12. It is a strategy to support attendance and retention at school. There are two pathways offered: a Certificate 3 in Sports and Recreation (SACE Stage 2), Stage 1 Aboriginal Studies (Power Cup) or Stage 1 Intergrated Learning.

### 3. Key School Policies

#### **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:**

Our school Site Improvement Plan focusses on 5 key areas and it is aligned with the DECD Strategic Plan 2017: Literacy, Numeracy, Community Engagement, Australian Curriculum and SACE.

Our school values are Courage, Integrity and Strength.

Our attendance is monitored on a daily basis by the Principal and the AEW and communicated to other staff members regularly.

#### **Recent key outcomes:**

Our school participated in the NAPLAN ONLINE Trials in 2016 and Successfully Completed the PAT testing in 2016 and 2017.

### 4. Curriculum

#### **Subject offerings**

We offer all the areas of the Australian curriculum. We also offer SACE Stage 1 and Stage 2 subjects in response to the career pathways of our students.

We also arrange and facilitate VET options for our secondary students both internally and externally.

#### **Open Access/Distance Education provision**

There is no open access at the moment. All subjects are offered by face-to-face teaching and instruction.

#### **Special needs**

Teachers work with the Principal, Senior Leader, Learning Improvement-Primary, Student Support Services and Partnership Professional Learning Communities to plan and program for all students under our care. Students with special needs are identified, assessed and the appropriate learning programme instituted to address their learning needs. Valid NEPs are written and reviewed regularly in response to students' needs. Provision is also made for the availability of SSO support for students with special needs.

#### **Special curriculum features**

Our Students access VET and other Learning opportunities across the Partnership and nearby schools as well.

## **Teaching methodology**

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

Assessment of student learning is conducted continuously by all the teachers. Our school conducts assessments which align with our Local Partnership directions.

We are compliant with all DECD standard testing requirements or procedures. (Running Records, NAPLAN, PAT-R and PAT-M)

Our reporting protocols are in line with DECD expectations and guidelines and they are as follows:

Parent Teacher Interviews – held at the end of Term 1 and Term 3

Mid-year written reports – posted home end of Term 2

End of year written report – posted home end of Term 4

- **Joint programmes:**

Our school has a long standing educational Relationship with Pembroke School in Adelaide. Students from Pembroke visit us in Term 1 and Term 2 and our students go down to visit Pembroke School in Term 3.

## **5. Sporting Activities**

A Health and Physical Education program operates up to Year 10 at the school. The school has a gym which is accessible to all classes. There is a swimming pool at the school which doubles up as a community pool after school hours.

Our students compete at Leigh Creek Area School during both their annual sports day and swimming carnival.

Our students have competed in the annual Oakbank Marathon under the supervision of teachers.

## **6. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

Our students participate in various co-curriculum activities both locally and offsite. These include NAIDOC week and Harmony week activities.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

There is a mix of staff in their early years of teaching and those with years of experience.

- **Leadership structure**

School leadership is provided by the Principal. Teaching Staff are encouraged to develop their leadership skills and expected to play an important role in planning and setting future directions for the school especially those relating to the Site Improvement Plan.

- **Staff support systems**

Marree Aboriginal School has a small, supportive and cohesive staff who are able to work together to meet the learning needs of all our students.

DECD provides a free and confidential counselling service for all staff. This service is called EAP (Employee Assistance Program). The EAP website is [www.eapdirect.com.au](http://www.eapdirect.com.au) and the phone number is 1300 687 327.

Staff meetings alternative between Training and Development sessions and Admin.

- **Performance Management**

All staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are expected to take part in professional learning sessions with the Principal (line manager) as well as attend line management meetings. The aim is to have at least one line management meeting per term.

The school has a clear policy and procedure On Performance management and this is available to all staff members including new ones.

- **Staff utilisation policies**

All staff members work as part of a team of educators across the various levels of schooling. As a Birth – Year 12 site, staff members can be deployed to any part of the school depending on our needs as a school.

Support staff members are utilised in Administration, classrooms and the crèche.

Regular visits by the Education Director and the LET team from the Port Augusta Education office is encouraged and welcomed.

The regional Student Support Services Team including the Behaviour coach, Hearing, Speech, Special Education, Guidance and Aboriginal Education visit the school once a term.



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

- **Shorter terms**

Term 4 is shortened by 1 Week (Country incentive conditions)

- **Travelling time**

To facilitate staff travel to conferences and other training opportunities in Adelaide and other country areas and in line with WHS driving conditions, staff members are encouraged to align their Training and Development with weekends and all effort is made to provide staff with driving time to allow them to get to their destination safely.

- **Housing assistance**

Government Employee Housing is available for all teaching staff on commencement of their teaching appointment. The rent payable for teacher houses is subsidised by DECD. There is no water rate charged in these houses as they are paid by DECD.

- **Additional increment allowance**

Newly appointed teaching staff members are entitled to country incentive allowance for the first five years of their appointment.

- **Aboriginal/Anangu schools**

Teaching staff members are paid a special class allowance.

- **Medical and dental treatment expenses**

Non-Metro Award- Reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs for staff members to attend specialist medical treatment away from Marree.

- **Locality allowances**

Staff members are paid a locality allowance according to the number of dependants.

- **Relocation assistance**

Teaching staff members are assisted with their relocation costs to and from Marree.

## 9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school has three main buildings:

The crèche building has an office, a play area and learning area for all our children between the ages of Birth – 5 years or before they enter Reception.

The Old School building houses a kitchen which is accessed for cooking and baking lessons. There are no operational classrooms in the Old School Building.

The main building houses all the four classes, the principal's office, the school library, a reception, Teachers' preparation room, staff room and a kitchen area, school gym and a modern science laboratory (under construction).

All the three buildings have toilet facilities for staff, visitors and student use.

- **Heating and cooling**

All buildings and learning areas are fitted with reverse cycle airconditioners.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

The school has a library, a gym and kitchen facilities in all the three buildings.

Computing and ICT facilities are available in all classrooms and the school is connected to the National Broadband Network (NBN). All our students have access to individual laptops to support teaching and learning.

All our students have access to Ipads as well.

- **Student facilities**

The SA Dental van visits Marree regularly and our students are able to access dental care. Australian Hearing, Fleurieu Hearing and Pika Wiya Health Services visit our school regularly to provide health services for our students.

The local health service provided by the RFDS conducts periodic health checks for our students.

- **Staff facilities**

There is a staff room with furniture. All teaching staff members have a work area away from the classrooms and access to IT facilities. There is a teachers' preparation room with Admin computers and printer for staff use at all times.

All staff members have individual laptops provided by the school to facilitate teaching and learning.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**  
All our buildings are accessible by wheel chairs.
- **Access to bus transport**  
The school has a 23-Seater bus which is owned outright by the school. The school leases a 11- seater bus through Fleet SA. Both buses are available to take staff and students on excursions and other school related trips.

## 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**  
Governing council meets twice per term. Some decisions are made at staff meetings with input from all staff members.  
Our School direction is greatly influenced by our Site Improvement Plan, Partnership directions, DECD Strategic directions and student achievement data.
- **Regular publications**  
A school newsletter is published three times in Term 1 and twice in term 2, 3 and 4. An electronic copy of the newsletter is sent to all the Partnership schools as well as the education director.  
Other communications include emails and official letters. These are sent out as and when required.  
The Principal sends out a weekly bulletin to all staff at the start of each week.  
The school has a Staff Induction Handbook. The handbook is updated regularly to reflect our current situation as a school.
- **School financial position**  
The school is in a sound financial position and the school is very innovative and strategic with it's spending.
- **Special funding**  
The school receives funding from the federal government Department of Education and Training for the running of the BBF crèche onsite.

# 11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Marree is a small town located in the north of South Australia. It lies approximately 689 Kilometres from the North of Adelaide at the junction of the Birdsville and the Oodnadatta tracks. The population of Marree is about 100. Marree is an important service centre for various sheep and cattle stations in and around this part of Australia as well as a major stopover for visitors and tourist traveling on the Birdsville or Oodnadatta tracks.

Marree is about 115Km to Leigh Creek, 398Kms to Port Augusta and about 200Kms to Roxby Downs via the Oodnadatta track and Borefiled road.

This area is home to the Arabunna and Dieri Aboriginal People. Significant annual events in Marree include the Camel Cup Race, Marree Races and the Gymkhana.

Local facilities include a Roadhouse (has a Post office), 2 Caravan Parks, a Hotel, Telecentre and the Arabunna Centre. There is an ATM at the hotel. There is also a Health Centre and a Police Station. The Doctor visits the Health Centre on Thursdays.

The mail days for Marree are Tuesdays and Fridays. Mails are delivered and picked up.

- **Parent and community involvement**

Governing council meets twice per term. Parents/caregivers and the community are very supportive of the school and they are actively involved in the learning of all their children.

- **Feeder or destination schools**

None, but there are a few transient students who move between Leigh Creek, Port Augusta and Marree.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

None

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

There is a local shop (Roadhouse). There is a Foodland and a Newsagent at Leigh Creek (115km) and a Woolworths at Roxby Downs (200km).

- **Other local facilities**

There is a swimming pool at the school which is accessible by the community after school hours. There is a gym in town, a post office, a health centre with weekly doctor's visit and occasional specialist visits throughout the year.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Government employee housing is readily available for teaching staff members on commencement of their teaching appointment.

- **Accessibility**

There are no commercial buses or flights to or from Marree to Adelaide or Port Augusta. Flights to Adelaide can be accessed from Olympic Dam (198Km) and a commercial bus is accessible from Copley (113km) twice a week. Please check for road conditions when traveling to and from Marree. The trip from Marree to Adelaide takes about 7 to 8 hours and the trip to Port Augusta takes approximately 4 hours.

- **Local Government body**

Outback Communities Authority is the Local Government body. The Marree Progress Association provides town services.