



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

School number: 0313

School name: OLD NOARLUNGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Profile:

Old Noarlunga Primary School is located in southern metropolitan Adelaide, 33 kilometres from the Adelaide GPO, in the beautiful historic township of Old Noarlunga. The school is nestled along the banks of the picturesque Onkaparinga River and, along with the township, has a proud heritage and history. The school is one of the oldest in South Australia and has provided public education in the township for over 160 years, opening in 1852 and gazetted in 1859.

After significant enrolment growth between 2013 and 2018, enrolment numbers are currently at 145, with mid-year reception intake taking the school to 153. The school has a steady enrollment pattern, and is a desination school for the surrounding area.

In 2020, our school Index of Disadvantage was adjusted from a Category 3 to a Category 5. Old Noarlunga Primary School is committed to high levels of learner growth and achievement. We implement evidence-based high-impact strategies and rigorous data-informed teaching and learning practices. We focus on developing powerful learning dispositions in our students. Old Noarlunga Primary is community-focused and recognises the importance of actively and strategically engaging students, families, and the local community in school life.

Our school vales of respect, resilience, responsibility and empathy are clearly eveident in the work of both staff and students' school wide.

1. General information

- **School Principal:** Matthew Mulree
- **Assitant Principal:** Joel Catchlove
- **Year of opening:** The school first operated from 1852, and was gazetted in 1859.
- **Postal Address:** 23 Malpas St, Old Noarlunga, SA 5168
- **Location Address:** 23 Malpas Street, Old Noarlunga SA 5168
- **DECD Region:** River Hub
- **Geographical location:** 33.2 km from the Adelaide GPO
- **Telephone number:** (08) 8386 2093
- **Fax Number:** 8386 2093
- **School website address:** <http://www.onps.sa.edu.au>
- **School e-mail address:** dl.0313_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- **Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached:** No
- **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service:** There is a site managed OSHC service on site that opened in August 2019.
- **February FTE student enrolment:**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Reception	24	32	17	21	18	16	25
MYI Reception					7	8	8
Year 1	16	26	33	17	21	19	16
Year 2	23	17	25	34	15	21	16
Year 3	14	22	16	25	35	16	19
Year 4	23	14	16	16	26	34	12
Year 5	25	25	16	17	14	25	31
Year 6	22	23	21	16	17	17	26
Year 7	6	10	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	153	169	144	146	152	154	153
Start of Year TOTAL					144	148	145
Male FTE	76	85	79	77	89	90	83
Female FTE	77	84	65	69	63	64	62
School Card Approval (Persons)	45	41	39	40	35	29	25
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	8	11	11	12	12	13	11

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Prior to 2013, enrolments tended to fluctuate. From 2013 to 2018 there was steady growth in enrolment numbers, with the school exceeding its capacity of 140 in 2018.

There has been significant population growth in the surrounding areas with a number of new housing developments in Seaford and Noarlunga Downs. The school is well regarded for its community feel and well-deserved reputation of success.

In 2025 the school focused its enrollments on students who are local to Old Noarlunga Primary School, to ensure local families seeking to enrol their child, are guaranteed enrolment. However, as the site has no direct feeder kindergarten, we take enrollments from outside of the ONPS direct community when our capacity allows it.

- **Staff profile :** (as at February 2026):

The school has 6 classes from R-6.

Assistant Principal 0.6

Autism Inclusion Teacher 0.1

Reading support teacher 0.2

Specialist teachers of Japanese, The Arts and PE teachers - 0.4 each.

Finance Officer (level 2) 0.6

Front Officer/Admin Manager (level 2) 1.0

4 Curriculum SSO's across the school (level 1)

2 SSO staff (level 2) run intervention support programs and the library

Pastoral Care Worker for 12 hours per week, 9 hours funded by a Federal Grant and 3 hours funded by SMC

ACEO 0.2

AET 0.2

Groundsperson - 8 hours per week.

- **Public transport access:**

A local bus runs through the town and connects with the train at Seaford Railway Station and Noarlunga centre. The bus stop is located 100m from the school. Local charter bus companies are used for student excursions. All buses on excursions are equipped with seatbelts.

2. **Students (and their welfare)**

- **General characteristics**

2% of students are under Guardianship. 17% of students are in receipt of school card, 30% of students have a One Plan and 7% of the students are Aboriginal.

- **Student well-being programs**

Student learner resilience, learning dispositions and self-efficacy are seen as fundamentally important to immediate and long-term student wellbeing. There is a focus on developing powerful learning dispositions and a growth mindset in our students and their families. Students may be involved in small group or individual social skills activities with support provided by the Pastoral Care Worker, Principal, Assistant Principal or School Services Officers. We have a House Buddy system and a School Spirit Award for House related programs and activities. Our school values of respect, resilience, empathy and responsibility are clearly displayed around the school. The positive behaviour for learning model is applied school wide, which enables students to have a clear understanding of expectations.

- **Student support offered**

The school has stringent processes for tracking and monitoring student growth and achievement. Students not achieving as expected have further in-depth assessments. Additional programs are implemented including: Read Write Inc and Freshstart (Literacy), QucikSmart (Numeracy), Too Smart, Reading Club and other various school-based intervention programmes. One Plans for all eligible students. Once a term, Student Review Meetings are held with the Department for Education Support Services Personnel including: Speech Pathologist, Special Educator, Educational Psychologist and Behaviour Coach, to review student progress and refer students for additional assessments if required.

- **Student management**

At Old Noarlunga Primary School, we empower students to take responsibility for their actions, encouraging restitution and the restoration of relationships when the school Code of Conduct is not met. We implement the Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative to recognise and acknowledge positive behaviours. This approach allows us to support and highlight positive behaviour through clear expectations displayed across the site.

Our anti-bullying strategies are integrated throughout the school, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment. When necessary, we develop individual supported play programs, such as intentional play, with staff assistance. Regular whole school assemblies provide opportunities to celebrate individual, class, and school-wide achievements.

- **Student government**

A Student Representative Council (SRC) with representation from all classes meets across each term. Class meetings prior to SRC meetings are an expectation. The SRC plays an active role in decision making and organising and planning whole school activities such as our values reward day. They also track and monitor the house values shield points. SRC reports are given at Governing Council meetings via a student made video. School Captains are elected from the Upper Primary Class. The School Captains provide a model of the school values and represent the school at important community events.

House and Vice Captains are elected from Years 5 and 6.

- **Special programmes**

Student participation in special programmes is a priority for our school. Students can participate in a number of special programmes, including:

- Bush School (Year 3 – 6)
- YELP (Youth Environmental Leader Program)
- Coordination with FOOP (Friends of Onkaparinga Parks)
- Working with the heritage seeds project
- Wildside project (student lead play at breaks)

A series of lunchtime workshops (run by teaching and support staff) provide students with the opportunity to engage in a structured play or learning experience. These include:

- Chess Club
- Reading Club
- Art Club
- Girls group (with our PCW)

A school vegetable garden and recycling scheme provide students with the opportunity to engage in sustainable living education and practices. We are frequently working with our local community to enrich our environment in the national park and along the Onkaparinga River.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Improvement Focus: Our goal is to cultivate curiosity, connection and creativity through engaging students in challenging learning that connects the classroom with their community and environment.

- Recent key outcomes:
- *Implemented Bush School Initiative 3 – 6 to develop our connection to local community and provide a more inclusive camp alternative.*
- *Autism Inclusion Teacher position developed.*
- *Reading Coach position developed to assist staff to track learner progression*
- *Developed teacher understanding of problem-based learning in maths through ‘thinking maths’ program run through ORBIS R – 6.*
- *Updated learner management system (Sentral) to track students’ information and behaviour data more effectively*
- *Formalised process of the Brightpath Writing assessment tool and subsequent goal setting*
- *Student Free Day to develop staff understanding of SA curriculum and guide implementation*
- *Refinement of the Read Write Inc program from R-3/4 and Freshstart at Year 5 and literacy support programs such as Reading doctor*
- *Implementation of Dibels assessment R - 6*

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**

The school implements the Australian Curriculum;

- Mathematics
- Science
- English
- Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship (Year 3 – 6) and Economics and Business (Year 5 – 6)
- The Arts (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts)
- Health and Physical Education
- Technologies (Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies)
- Languages (Auslan)
- Specialist subjects are: The Arts, Physical Education and Auslan.
- *The SA Curriculum is being implemented in the area of Mathematics with full adoption of all subject areas in 2027.*

- **Special needs:**

Support for students with special needs is approached in a collaborative manner; with the Assistant Principal and Principal coordinating a team which includes the classroom teacher, school support personnel and Department for Education support staff, including the Special Educator, Educational Psychologist, Speech Pathologist, and Behaviour Coach in consultation with families. The student review teams meet once a term to inform practice. Students with identified needs are catered for on an individual needs basis depending on their level of support.

- **Special curriculum features:**

Ensuring that our students have a broad curriculum and diverse learning experience is important to our school community. Provisions are made in the budget to allow all students to participate in a wide variety of learning experiences including incursions, excursions and sporting clinics. Initiatives include Bush School, YELP, SAPSASA, etc.

- **Teaching methodology:**

The school implements high impact strategies for teaching and learning including:

- Differentiation
- Explicit teaching
- Learning intentions
- Ongoing Feedback
- Multiple approaches
- Clear and logical sequence of learning

SA Curriculum has been implemented in mathematics for 2025, and will work towards full adoption in 2027.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

Acquaintance Night is held early in the school year in term 1. Parent / teacher interviews are held in Terms 1 and 3. Formal written reporting (inline with the ACARA/ SA Curriculum A-E Reporting requirements) occurs in Terms 2 and 4. Parents are provided with comprehensive information on their child's learning and are welcome to discuss their child's progress at any time throughout the year.

5. Sporting Activities

Sporting clinics are held at the school in a number of disciplines when available, such as tennis, soccer and cricket through the Sporting Schools grant program. Swimming and aquatics programs are held annually.

Students can play in a number of locally based club sporting teams.

The students are offered opportunities to participate in SAPSASA sports from year 5 including athletics and cross-country competitions. Individuals can be involved in other both boys and girls SAPSASA competitions including swimming. When possible due to cohort numbers we participate in the knockout SAPSASA sports program. Our students are able to access SAPSASA district teams and try out for the Onkaparinga South team.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Special school events include, amongst others, Book Week, Harmony Day, Sports Day, PE Week, Remembrance Day, Values Day Celebrations, Community walk to school days, Book Fair, Bush School,
- An End of Year school concert is held each year. Recently we have performed at the Hopgood Theatre and also created a whole school movie which screened at Wallis Noarlunga.
- A graduation event, in which our graduating students celebrate their achievements through a dinner and ceremony, is a significant event for our staff and families.
- All students have the opportunity to participate in visiting performances or workshops which draw on all learning areas.
- Students participate in excursions and other curriculum related activities such as local walks, theatre visits, museum visits and a and R-2 Bush school.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile (February 2026)
- The school has 6 classes from R-6 in 2026.
- We have an appointed 0.6 Assistant Principal through to end 2026. They also take on the 0.1 AET role.
- We have a 0.2 Reading support teacher.
- We have 3 Specialist teachers of Auslan, The Arts and PE who each work 0.4.
- We have a Finance Officer who works 22 hours per week plus 2 hours per week to undertake OSHC Finance. We have a Front Officer person who works a 1.0 position.
- Our 4 Curriculum SSO's work across the site at various deployments including 15 hours allocated to Library Support.
- There is a Pastoral Care Worker for 12 hours per week, 9 hours funded by a federal grant and 3 hours funded by local churches.
- There is an ACEO who works 0.2 and an AET who works 0.2, per week.
- Our Groundsperson works 8 hours per week.

- **Leadership structure**

1.0 Principal, tenure ends at the completion of the 2026 school year.

0.6 Assistant principal, tenure ends at the completion of the 2026 school year.

- **Staff support systems**

As a relatively small teaching staff, we operate as a collaborative team but have opportunities to work as an R-3 team and 4-6 team for key focus areas.

The SSO Curriculum team work together collaboratively and meet as a group with the principal as required.

All teaching staff members are required to be an integral part of PLT and have other key roles on Finance and Governing Council.

Professional development is provided to all staff (teachers and SSOs) with priority given to professional learning in the Site Improvement Plan areas. Other professional development is offered to staff in teams to ensure consistency across the levels of schooling.

Professional development in recent years has had a strong focus on embedding high impact teaching strategies, DIBELS, Thinking Maths, Positive Behaviour for Learning and the SA Curriculum.

- **Performance Management**

Staff meet with Principal twice a year to discuss their professional goals and support required.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

NA

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school consists of 1 solid construction bluestone building which is used as the Administration, library and teacher resource area. There are 3 metal clad buildings all providing single classroom spaces and 2 wooden buildings, providing a double classroom and single classroom space. All 6 of the classroom spaces are used as classrooms. All of these buildings are due for renovation, at this stage the department has been unable to fund this, despite governing council requests over several years. A multi-purpose hall was built in 2010. In 2020 a dual transportable building and additional staff toilets including a disability toilet were constructed on the Administrations building.

The grounds are attractive with a number of well-established trees which provide shade. There is a large grassed oval, large and small playground, sandpit and a basketball/netball court (not full sized), along with 4 square, hopscotch and snakes and ladders ground markings and paved playspaces. There is also a vegetable garden. There are some natural play spaces which were constructed over the past few years. New basketball hoops were installed in 2025. A Nunga Garden was launched as a part of the RAP in 2024.

- **Heating and cooling**

All classrooms and buildings are airconditioned and heated with reverse cycle systems.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

The school was provided over \$100,000 to invest in 2019. This included new servers, new wiring, SWIFT internet, new switches, new cabling, over 100 Chromebooks and ipads and the purchase of a 3 D printer. The server has since been updated in 2024, and devices have been recently upgraded.

A well-equipped library is open to students and parents before and after school on set days.

The multi-purpose hall is used by the school and community for PE, visiting performers, assemblies and for our pack up/pack down OSHC service.

The school has limited kitchen facilities that are used by staff with students and by the Fundraising Committee when required.

- **Student facilities**

Bike racks are available to students for safe storage of their bikes and scooters.

Covered walkways provide shade in the summer and protection from rain in the winter; most buildings within the school grounds can be accessed under these. A covered area has been installed between Room 1 and 2 for JP students to access.

The school does not currently have a canteen.

- **Staff facilities**

There is a staff room on the mezzanine level of the main Administration building, the space is currently inadequate and in need of renovation. The stairwell to access is narrow and tight.

Staff have access to a teacher resource and printers, laminators, binders and photocopiers etc. There are limited options for staff preparation areas due to the tight spaces.

Staff male and female toilets are located within the exterior block and additional staff toilets have been constructed in 2020.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

Ramp access is provided to all classroom spaces and to the Administration building. The multi-purpose hall does not require a ramp. A Disabled toilet was constructed in 2020.

Staff with an injury, health issues or disability have difficulty accessing the staff room on the mezzanine level of the Administration building due to the stairs.

- **Access to bus transport**

A local bus runs through the town and connects with the train at Seaford Railway Station and Noarlunga centre. The bus stop is located 100m from the school.

Local charter bus companies are used for student excursions. All buses on excursions are equipped with seatbelts.

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

Staff meetings are held weekly and provide an opportunity for all teaching staff to be involved in decision making processes and procedures, including those relating to professional development, Site Improvement Plans, and PAC matters.

Ancillary staff meetings are also held on as required. Admin meeting is held once a week with Principal, Assistant Principal, Admin Manager and Finance Manager.

Governing Council, and its Sub-committees (Finance, and Fundraising) meet twice a term. Decision making is based on consensus or majority vote following a period of consultation and discussion.

- **Regular publications**

A Parent handbook is reviewed and updated each year. It is provided to all new families at the time of enrolment.

A staff handbook, which is updated and disseminated to staff each year, provides valuable induction to new staff and clarity to existing staff members.

A newsletter is published once a fortnight and either emailed or shared with families via Sentral. The newsletter provides valuable information about school happenings, also showcases the learning that has occurred in a particular classroom or Specialist lesson. A photo gallery is also included in each newsletter. A term calendar is published at the commencement of each new term.

A school Facebook page is widely accessed by our community. This is a valuable communication tool in reminding our families of upcoming events and sharing learning highlights.

There is a SeeSaw app for communication for classes, Sentral is used for all school wide admin communication and to publish our semester reports.

All teacher/ student and family-based information available for staff through the Sentral platform, all daily updates and site wide information is conveyed here.

A day book reminds staff of daily events or updated information.

- **Other communication**

Staff are all provided with a pigeon hole in which correspondence can be left for them.

A hard copy of the term planner is also provided to staff in their pigeon holes.

Staff meeting, and other committee meeting minutes are emailed to all staff in a timely manner. A yearly planner is located in the staff room.

- **School financial position**

The school is in a stable and healthy financial position; we budget to have approximately 10% of the RES at the end of any given school year, our current amount exceeds this figure.

- **Special funding**

The school applies for Disability funding as required for identified students.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Noarlunga Primary School was established in 1852 and gazetted in 1859. The school became known as Old Noarlunga Primary School in 2009. The school is situated in the historic village of Old Noarlunga, which is bordered by South Road and the Onkaparinga River. Local businesses are reliant on community patronage as well as tourists and visitors coming to the area for its heritage buildings and scenic environment.

There are no local major industries with most residents commuting out of the area to work. Major shopping facilities are at Seaford and Noarlunga Centre.

- **Parent and community involvement**

The school enjoys a strong sense of community and parental involvement, including membership on the Governing Council. Parents also volunteer and participate in excursions where appropriate.

Involvement and attendance at school events is significant, such as end of year concert and sports day. Parents are also involved in our Bush School project, helping to run and supervise groups.

The school looks to participate in community events when possible.

- **Feeder or destination schools**

Students enrol from a number of kindergartens and preschools including Seaford Rise, Moana, Seaford K - 6, and Brentwood Drive.

Graduates of Old Noarlunga Primary School generally attend Seaford Secondary College, and Chrisites Beach High School and Cardjin College, with a small number enrolling at Tatachilla Lutheran College.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

- There are no other educational facilities within the township. There are a number of Childcare facilities in Seaford Meadows and Seaford Rise.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

An industrial area located across South Road in Seaford has a number of services and

manufacturers including landscape and hardware supplies, tyres, recycling, mechanical repairs, and metal fabrication.

There are a number of shopping facilities nearby with most major retailers represented and a vast range of goods available. Seaford Shopping Centre and Colonnades (located at Noarlunga Centre) are the two main retail outlets in the area.

There are also a number of cafes, restaurants and fast-food outlets located in the surrounding areas of McLaren Vale, Port Noarlunga and Seaford Rise.

- **Other local facilities**

A recreation center at Seaford Rise offers many sporting opportunities for both children and adults. A skate park is adjacent.

State Swim, also located in Seaford Rise caters for swimmers with a range of skill and confidence levels.

The nearby Onkaparinga River provides opportunities for environmental education and sporting activities, such as kayaking and fishing.

There is a local tennis, netball and football team, with facilities.

Other local facilities include Port Noarlunga Aquatic Centre, Noarlunga Leisure Centre, and adventure playground, cinema, ice skating rink, bowling alley and community parks.

A vast array of medical services is nearby in both Seaford Rise and Noarlunga. Noarlunga Hospital is located at Noarlunga Centre.

- **Accessibility**

Adelaide is easily accessible from the Seaford Railway Station, with regular daily and weekend services. Local buses connect with this service.

Main South Road and the Southern Expressway provide easy access to the city and Fleurieu Peninsula.

- **Local Government body**

Old Noarlunga Primary School is in the City of Onkaparinga.

The State electorate is Kaurana (currently held by Chris Picton – ALP).

The Federal electorate is Kingston (currently held by Amanda Rishworth – ALP).

12. Further Comments

The school enjoys a strong sense of community amongst all its members, staff, students, parents and families. The long history of the school means that it has significant importance to the local community.

Staff are committed to our vision and purpose through the implementation of our values and guiding principles.

The school grounds are picturesque and well maintained, with two trees of significance within the grounds. The surrounding area, being the Onkaparinga River and parks add to the sense of tranquility within the school grounds.