



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 03/17

School number: 0301
School name: Mylor Primary School
School Profile Text:

Innovation starts here

Two engaging, personalised “blended learning” streams, designed to impart the core skills and concepts our students will need to flourish tomorrow

Driven by technology, our world is changing at remarkable speed. University of Oxford researchers Carl Benedikt Frey and Michael Osborne predicted in a 2013 paper* that, by 2030, an incredible 47% of jobs then available were highly likely to be automated.

Over the same period, a “freelance economy” is widely predicted to emerge, requiring a workforce of creative, digitally literate and self-directed individuals able to come together in teams and work effectively in a range of environments.

At Mylor Primary we’ve placed this global shift at the forefront of our thinking in the conception of our learning structure, and we’re passionately committed to imparting the foundation skills and qualities that will best serve our students in the years ahead.

1. General information

- **School Principal name:** Mrs Ngari Boehm
- **Year of opening:** Mylor Primary School was officially opened on the 1st of October, 1894
- **Postal Address:** 220 Strathalbyn Road, Mylor, SA 5131
- **Location Address:** 220 Strathalbyn Road, Mylor, SA 5131
- **DECD Region:** Adelaide Hills, Mt Lofty Partnership
- **Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km):** 30kms
- **Telephone number:** +61 08 8388 5345
- **Fax Number:** +61 08 8388 5701
- **School website address:** www.mylorps.sa.edu.au
- **School e-mail address:** dl.0301.info@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service:** A combined before and after school service operates at Mylor and services Scott Creek PS and Heathfield PS. More information can be obtained at <http://www.mylorps.sa.edu.au/oshc/>

February full time equivalent (FTE) student enrolment:

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Reception	5.0	4.0	10.0	8.0
Year 1	6.0	5.0	7.0	8.0
Year 2	7.0	3.0	5.0	8.0
Year 3	7.0	5.0	7.0	6.0
Year 4	7.0	6.0	5.0	6.0
Year 5	7.0	6.0	8.0	5.0
Year 6	2.0	5.0	6.0	6.0
Year 7	3.0	4.0	8.0	5.0
Total	44	38	56	52
July Total FTE Enrolment	44	38	54	
School Card Percentage	20%	>1%	14%	%
Non-English Speaking Background	0	0	0	0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	0	0	0	0

Student Enrolment Trends:

Over the last seven years, the school has continued in an upward trend, with minor dips recorded when families have moved out of the local area. At its peak enrolment in 2016 there had been a 48% increase in student numbers since 2010.

Staffing Numbers (as at February census): 2017 FTE = 4.3

This consists of a Part-time Principal (0.6) an Assistant Principal/Early Years Teacher (1.0), Senior Years Teacher (1.0), Middle Years Teachers (1.5), Indonesian LOTE teacher (0.1), P.E/Health Specialist Teacher (0.1)

SSO Hours – Base Allocation 44hrs

Finance / Administration Position – 26.5 hours (Permanent Position)

Student/Teacher Support Position x3 – 39 hours (Temporary / Contract Position)

Public Transport Access:

A limited service is available to the public. A Heathfield High School bus operates daily to take older students to and from the High School.

Special Site Arrangements:

2030 Focus

In early 2015, Mylor Primary School was one of 20 South Australian public schools to successfully apply for the State Government's Specialist Schools Grant. This initiative has given rise to the development of *2030 Focus* as a groundbreaking part-time-at-school learning stream. A minimum of three fixed days per week are required to be spent at school, with the balance of education delivered through equally rigorous school-supported learning at home, and/or external specialist or advanced tuition in an area of particular interest or talent.

A flexible "blend" of face-to-face, digital and online tuition

For each broad learning task, or project, we aim to offer a range of different channels through which *2030 Focus* students can gather and digest the information required to produce their work. These generally include: face-to-face teaching; third-party podcasts and videos; and online resources.

For more information, please visit;

<http://www.mylorps.sa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MPS-2030Focus-Brochure.pdf>

2. Students (and their welfare)

General Characteristics

Mylor Primary School, despite being zoned 'metropolitan', remains a school with strong country values within the Adelaide Hills. Our student cohort is a relatively homogenous socio-cultural group. Approximately 10% are on school card and many come from dual income families. An increasing percentage of students travel from other local communities to access our unique and innovative curriculum offerings.

Student Well-Being Programs

All students are provided with a range of opportunities to be involved in school well-being programs. As we tailor the learning program to individuals, this work can take on many forms. Some of which include; one on one SSO support, small group work, student voice, R-7 learning, Community Inquiry, specific feedback on learning, and co-construction of learning topics.

Student Support Offered

Students are provided with support from a range of adults within the site. Given the nature and structure of the learning at Mylor, we find that all students are able to clearly articulate which adult they would gain support from if the need arose. In crisis situations or special circumstances, outside assistance is sought from a range of Non-Government Organisations as required.

Student Management

Student behaviour management systems are driven and agreed to by all students. Dedicated time is allocated to a 'whole of school' approach at the commencement of the school year,

where the older students present the current way of operation for review. Students then spend time working as a group to review and present a behaviour management system that they will endorse for the current year.

Student Government

The school utilises its 'Community Inquiry' approach to facilitate opportunities for students and staff to raise issues and concerns. Community Inquiry provides a structured mechanism for solving problems, in which all participants have an equal footing. Community Inquiry affords the opportunity for the teacher and students to communicate with each other about issues that promote self-esteem and positive behaviour. Whilst Community Inquiry is a dedicated time on the timetable, it can also be requested from students when the need arises.

3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

Mylor Primary School utilises an emergent planning process in relation to whole school planning and improvement. Students, staff and parents collaboratively identified four key areas at the beginning of 2015, with each area supported by a statement of intent.

Regular review, documentation and planning are undertaken, with expectation that all staff monitor and provide evidence of improvement within their own work environments.

2015 – 2017 MPS Site Improvement Focus Areas

CO-CREATED			
It draws on both adults and students as powerful resources for the co-creation of community, the design of learning and the success of all students.			
Student Voice & Advocacy	Learning Frontiers – Co-construction of units	Rolling Assessments	Intellectual Stretch
CONNECTED			
It connects with and uses real world contexts and contemporary issues, and is permeable to the rich resources available in the community and wider world.			
Project Based Learning	Professional Learning Connections	Communication Strategy	Community Links
PERSONALISED			
It builds from students passions and capabilities, and helps them to personalise their learning and assessment in order to foster their individual talents			

Measuring What matters	Monitor the improvement of every child	Enrolments – Futures Thinking	Personal Development Plans / iplans
INTEGRATED It emphasises the integration of subjects, of students and of learning contexts			
Advisory Structures	Grouping for Purpose	Speech Sound Pics	

Recent key outcomes taken from the 2016 Annual Report:

This information is available from the school website: www.mylorps.sa.edu.au

4. Curriculum

Subject Offerings:

Mylor Primary School is currently implementing the Australian Curriculum in line with the expected timeline. We therefore teach all Australian Curriculum subjects. Indonesian is our Language other than English. Our specialist teachers are in the Arts (Music, Visual Art and Drama) and PE.

A private provider teaches instrumental Music; Ukulele, Guitar, Piano and Violin are instrument choices.

Project Based Learning

“Project-based learning refers to students planning, and carrying out an extended project that produces a publicly-exhibited output such as a product, publication, or exhibition.”

At Mylor, students are involved in a range of Project-Based Learning (PBL) opportunities. Teachers plan some of these with input from students, while others are driven solely by the students and encompass their personal areas of interest.

PBL is not simply a clever way of mixing content. It's driven by essential questions that have validity in the real world, and it produces outputs that have real purpose and can be exhibited to authentic audiences. Students are given opportunities to produce work of high quality that matters both to them and the world beyond school.

Importantly, it also familiarises students with the concept of doing multiple drafts, with each improving on the last, informed by feedback from teacher and peers – an approach that builds children's resilience and encourages higher order thinking.

Open Access/Distance Education provision: Negotiated as required

Special Needs:

At Mylor we believe that every child has the right to an 'education worth having.' For some this will include the opportunity to receive some additional assistance to support the continual improvement in their learning. To do this successfully and with integrity, equitable processes and procedures outline how this will be implemented in our Intervention Processes and Procedures documents.

Teaching Methodology:

Teachers are committed to a methodology that incorporates Student Voice, Key Competencies and a strong focus on Literacy, Numeracy and the development of learner dispositions. Our PBL work sees a driving question lead the learning, ensuring a strong real world connection. Teachers access and utilise learning technologies where appropriate.

Student Assessment Procedures and Reporting

At Mylor we believe that parents and learners should receive feedback on their learning and achievement in a timely manner. As such, we have developed rolling reports for both Literacy and Numeracy. These reports are provided at the conclusion of units of work and incorporate both extension and support strategies.

For the remaining learning areas, assessments are provided to families at negotiated intervals; some at the end of units of work and some termly.

The Seesaw app is utilised across the school to provide assessment and reporting information to families.

Joint Programmes:

Mylor Primary School, Heathfield & Scott Creek PS joint PLC

Initiated in 2010, Mylor, Heathfield and Scott Creek have made a commitment to meet twice per term to engage in staff professional development across the three sites. In 2017, the action research focus for each group has been determined individually. All groups have a compulsory moderation element in line with current DECD priorities

Canberra Trip

Year sevens participate in an annual small schools Canberra trip.

5. Sporting Activities

Sports

We're highly aware of the importance of regular vigorous activity to our children's health, so provide the opportunity to become involved in sports provided to our students through a range of contexts;

- Upper-primary SAPSASA activities and events in the Adelaide Hills region across a variety of sports
- Weekly specialist PE lessons
- The Adelaide Hills Combined Schools Sports Day
- The Courier Cup Swimming Carnival for the Adelaide Hills
- The Uraidla Lightning Carnival (team sports).

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Masterclasses are optional/compulsory extra-curricular courses that give students an opportunity to delve deeper into specific topics or activities that they have a particular love for, or interest in.

We offer a wide variety of Masterclasses throughout the year, each delivered in groups and within normal school hours. Students are also invited to suggest potential subjects for the classes, and parents with specialist skills or knowledge are encouraged to volunteer as instructors.

Past Masterclasses have focused on such areas as geology, cooking, photography, jewellery making, archaeology and the creation of totem poles.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Staff Profile

The staff profile has remained relatively stable in recent history, with the successful reappointment of non-permanent staff for a number of consecutive years. 2017 sees our largest appointment of both teaching and non-teaching staff with 12 employees in total.

The commitment of all staff to do their best for all students, support each other and their overall level of professionalism is a positive feature of Mylor Primary School.

Leadership Structure

In a school of this size, multiple opportunities exist for all staff to take on leadership roles in particular areas of interest. In support of this, staff are provided with time to achieve these goals where possible. A collective responsibility for the school, its students and the programs we offer, exists amongst all staff.

Staff Support Systems

The staff team at Mylor is particularly strong and supportive of one another having worked closely with each other over a number of years. Our open plan 'learning units' also provide support for staff to engage in conversations with others within their unit, sharing and gaining feedback on their practice and team teaching in a range of subject areas. Teaching staff share an office which provides an informal support structure as well.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
- Isolation placement points
- Shorter terms
- Travelling time
- Housing assistance
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
- Additional increment allowance
- Designated schools benefits
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
- Locality allowances
- Relocation assistance
- Principal's telephone costs

The incentives, support and award conditions listed above are not applicable to employees at Mylor Primary School.

9. School Facilities

Buildings and Grounds

Mylor Primary School boasts fully renovated learning spaces that support our innovative and creative curriculum structure. The outdoor learning area provides multiple spaces for sitting and learning and with a wireless network system, students are able to access technology anywhere, anytime.

The main administration building has undergone major work aligned to our BER project, with the fit out of a new student library. A covered breezeway between the learning areas, offers multiple uses for individual, small group and unit learning activities.

Heating and Cooling

All classrooms and buildings are air-conditioned –with reverse cycle

Specialist Facilities and Equipment

Whilst the school site is modest in size, our community links provide unlimited access to both the town tennis/netball courts and town hall for use as the need arises. Both are in walking distance from the school, and are accessed regularly for after school sports programs and general PE activities.

Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities

Paths and ramps have been constructed to enable wheel chair access to all buildings. A disabled toilet is also located in the student toilet block.

10. School Operations

Decision Making Structures

Day-to-day administration and decisions are organised through regular meetings of the whole staff team. Depending on the level and complexity of the issue to be resolved, key decisions making groups are; Leadership; Staff; PAC, Governing Council and our parent network.

Regular Publications

The School Information Bulletin is published once per fortnight, with a full colour newsletter (Bandicoot Bugle) published at the end of term. Regular communication with parents is achieved through our school skoolbag app, Seesaw or Facebook page. Consistency in this approach allows for limited loss of notes or lack of information being passed on to parents.

Staff information is shared regularly at staff meetings with the sharing of diary dates managed through an online platform.

School Financial Position

The school is in a stable financial position. Applications and submissions are regularly written to attract additional external funding for special projects. Bad debts (school fees) are now actively pursued through Debt Collection Agencies in line with DECD policy.

11. Local Community

General Characteristics

Mylor continues to retain a small village feel with a population of 736 (2001 census data). There is a Mylor country market held on the first Sunday of every month, from 9 am till 1 pm, with local produce, plants, jams and sauces for sale.

Mylor is a popular camping area, with many camps, including the popular Mylor Baptist campsite. Mylor Main Street hosts a large Hardware/Rural store (called Coopers), General Store, Post Office, and Cafe. There is also a Fire Brigade, Uniting Church and Anglican Church. Mylor has a beautiful tree lined Oval that is used for Cricket and Soccer as well as Community Events and general use.

Parent and Community Involvement

Mylor parents and community are actively involved in our school. The school's parent network takes responsibility for providing hot food days for the students, and is heavily involved with our annual 'Bonfireworks Night' fundraiser, which raises in excess of 10K to be put towards the development of additional student programs and facilities.

The MCFC (Mylor Citizen Friendship Club) is an active working group within the town. Working with this group to support the delivery of additional masterclasses and or learning opportunities

for the students remains a school priority. In the past, our community links have seen programs such as a learn to knit program with the Mylor Red Cross, Various projects with the Mylor History group in preparation for the towns 120th birthday celebrations, CFS visits before the commencement of 'bushfire season' and many more.

Playgroup

Operating from our Primary School and coordinated by a parent volunteer, the weekly Mylor Playgroup provides a fantastic service to the families of our community.

As well as affording parents of below-kindergarten-age children the opportunity to enjoy each other's friendship and support, it offers:

- Access to all school facilities, including playground, courts and sandpit
- A dedicated, quiet playspace for babies
- A wide range of toys
- Activities to stimulate the imagination
- Art and craft
- Musical instruments
- Storytelling and singing
- Nature walks and a seasonal "nature table"
- Regular supervised exposure to, and interaction with, Mylor Primary students, easing the transition to kindergarten.

Feeder or Destination Schools

In preparation for Primary school, our transition program to Mylor is one that takes into consideration the individual child and the needs of the family. As such, a meeting / phone call is made to the parents inviting information about their child and a transition program is then developed. Our Early Years teacher also visits the new receptions at kindy to talk to the kindy teachers and visit the child in a familiar environment. Mylor Primary School adheres to the 'Same First Day' policy as with all DECD schools.

In general, most of our year seven students transition to Heathfield High School for the next stage of education. Heathfield High School has a special interest Volleyball, music, international and innovation and future studies program. In some instances, where students demonstrate particular skills and/or passions students travel to more 'specifically focussed' high schools.

Commercial/industrial and Shopping Facilities

The Adelaide Hills is dotted with shopping facilities, from Stirling to Mount Barker. Speciality shops, boutique and fresh produce are all in plentiful supply.

Availability of Staff Housing

There is no government housing available in the town, however many private properties, both within the town and beyond are available for purchase or as rentals through local agents.

Local Government Body

The Mylor Township falls under the responsibility of the Adelaide Hills Council. Service centres are located within their council libraries in Gumeracha, Stirling and Woodside.