



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2010-05-25

School number: 0324

School name: Oodnadatta Aboriginal School

School Profile Text:

Oodnadatta Aboriginal School is located at Oodnadatta near the western edge of the Simpson Desert in the far north of South Australia. The learning community is built on trust and respect. We believe that education is the cornerstone of the future; teaching and learning are a life long process. High expectations are set for all staff and students. The school aims to provide a balanced curriculum and has developed a specific literacy and numeracy plan. Individual learning plans are in place for each student. Positive relationships with students provide the foundation for planning, teaching and learning. Student attendance and participation is a priority and parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate in a number of class based activities. The school is air conditioned and features a large swimming pool, playground equipment, a creche that provides school hours care for children between the ages of 0 and 5 years, a well appointed library, tech studies shed, large grassed oval, activity hall, paved quadrangle and a flood lit basketball court for night games. Students are proud of their sporting prowess and actively engage in sporting activities.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Aaron Holder
- Year of opening: **The first school opened in 1892 with the current school operating from 1973**
- Postal Address: **C/ Oodnadatta Post Office, Oodnadatta, SA 5734**
- Location Address: **Kutaya Tce, Oodnadatta SA 5734**

- DECS Region: **Far North LOCAL PARTNERSHIP**
- Geographical location –**Road distance from GPO (km): 1200 km**
- Telephone number: **08 8670 7823**
- Fax Number: **08 8670 7808**
- School website address: www.oodnadattaab.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0324_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Preschool attached: **Yes**
- February FTE student enrolment:

Primary	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
reception	4	4	3	0	5
Year 1	4	3	2	2	3
Year 2	4	4	5	4	2
Year 3	5	4	5	4	3
Year 4	6	5	3	5	6
Year 5	1	5	4	4	5
Year 6	6	1	7	5	4
Year 7	2	6	1	4	6
Secondary					
Year 8	2	2	7	2	4
Year 9	3	2	2	5	1
Year 10	2	3	1.7	2	7
Year 11	3	1.8	1.2	3	0
Year 12	1	.6	0.7	2	2
Year 12 plus					
TOTAL	43	41.4	42.6	42	48

- Student enrolment trends:

Generally the numbers are static, although we do have a fluctuation due to transience, as people move for work and family reasons. But we are expecting the numbers to rise again in the New Year.

- Staffing numbers

1 Principal, 1 Preschool teacher, 1 Junior primary class teacher, 1 Primary class teacher, 1 secondary class teacher, 1 NIT/PE teacher, 1 ACEO, 2 SSO's, and 1 GSE.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**
 - All students live in the township of Oodnadatta
 - Student range from preschool to year 12.
 - There are 11 children currently enrolled in the Preschool.
 - Current class structure is: Preschool, Junior Primary, Primary and Secondary classes.
- **Student support offered**
 - The School receives support for students with disabilities/learning difficulties. Given the relatively small class sizes this support is delivered through a focus on individual progression. This individual focus for all students is supported by SSO's.
- **Student management**
 - Behaviour management is consistent across the school with explicit, negotiated expectations based on the foundations of high expectations, recognition and respect.
 - The school community continually reflects on issues impacting on student behaviour and ways of addressing these.
- **Student government**
 - A Student Representative Council operates within the school. All children participate. Meetings are regular and also involve teachers and support staff.

- **Special programmes**
 - There is a jet crèche attached to the school. It is run by local members of the community and provides school hours care for children between the ages of 0-5.
 - The school operates a transition programme between the preschool and the Junior Primary class. Children begin transition to the Junior Primary class a term prior to beginning school.
 - As part of the Healthy Ways Project children are now provided with recess at school, aiming to encourage all children to eat a variety of healthy nutritious foods daily. Breakfast is also available if required.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**
 - The school aims to provide a balanced curriculum in accordance with the Australian Curriculum. Literacy and Numeracy are high priorities.
 - The school offers a range of SACE units.
- **Open Access/Distance Education provision:**
 - Students access this resource as needed
- **Special Needs:**
 - Students at risk are identified and constantly monitored by teachers.
 - Negotiated Education Plans exist for children identified by specialists as having learning difficulties.
 - Staff receive regular support from district personnel in catering for the needs of students with learning difficulties.
- **Special curriculum features:**
 - Oodnadatta School has a strong focus on literacy, numeracy, and ICT. Resources have been put into classrooms to ensure that teachers and students have access to modern teaching and learning methodologies. Students in preschool to year 7 have access to a 1:1 iPad program, and students in the senior years have 1:1 laptops.
- **Teaching methodology:**

The school has a focus on individualised Lesson Plans and individual progression. Relationships with students provide the foundation for planning, teaching and learning. All classrooms have interactive televisions and all teachers have a laptop to use.

There is a culture of shared and reflective programming and planning.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**
 - Staff use the Australian Curriculum for programming, planning, assessing and reporting.
 - Formal reporting takes place in terms 2 and 4.
 - In all terms the school provides opportunities for parents and caregivers to participate in a number of class based activities which facilitate communication of student achievement throughout the school community.

5. Sporting Activities

- Students participate in the annual Sports day with Indulkana Anangu School, Coober Pedy Area School, and Mintabie Area School. Students also participate in football competitions with Coober Pedy, and take part in the athletics carnivals in Adelaide.
- The school has a swimming pool on site, as well as a basketball court and a grassed school oval.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Regular whole school assemblies, discos, community barbeques, trips to local Claypans and waterholes.
- School classes go on camp each year to a destination selected by students. Places visited so far are Falls Creek, the Gold Coast, Melbourne, Cairns, Darwin, Adelaide, Canberra, and New Zealand. The camp program is integrated into the curriculum and provides opportunities for school-wide themes, and experiential learning in different environments. Attendance on camps is also tied to student attendance.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**
Oodnadatta Aboriginal School has 5 teaching positions, 4 of which are permanent. At present there are 5 teachers (including preschool) in addition to the Principal. There are 2 School Support Officers and 1 Aboriginal Community Education Officer..
- **Leadership structure**
Principal tenure is 5 years.
- **Staff support systems**
Regular visits from DECD support personnel provide training and

development and support for staff. Induction and supervision programs are well established and provide written feedback and assistance to all staff.

- **Performance Management**

Performance management is carried through regular programmed meetings between teachers and the Principal. Staff are encouraged to reflect on and improve personal professional practice.

- **Access to special staff**

The Regional Office provides specialist support staff in speech pathology, hearing impairment, guidance and student behaviour management.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Complexity placement points**

1

- **Isolation placement points**

7

- **Shorter terms**

Terms commence and end two days later and earlier.

- **Travelling time**

4 days per term

- **Housing assistance**

Rent is subsidised by 50%. All houses are furnished. There is no charge for power and water.

- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**

All removal arrangements must be made or approved by the Removals Officer. The Department will not reimburse expenses to teachers who undertake their own removal.

- **Additional increment allowance**

Country incentive allowance

- **Designated schools benefits**

Special class allowance

- **Medical and dental treatment expenses**

Travel cost is reimbursed if referred for specialist consultation.
Access to free prescriptions and primary health care.

- **Locality allowances**

Classified as zone 5

- **Relocation assistance**

Yes

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school comprises:

One main building that accommodates the administration area, JET Creche, CPC, Library, Staffroom, Toilets, and 2 classrooms plus various store rooms. One detached portable classroom which is used by the Secondary classroom.

- Tech Studies Shed.
- Gymnasium / hall
- Grounds Shed.
- Swimming Pool.
- Grassed oval area.
- Paved quadrangle area / basketball court.
- Playground equipment area with shade.
- Heating and cooling.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

- Tech shed
- swimming pool
- school hall
- outdoor (undercover playground)
- Community library and internet cafe

- **Student facilities**

The school has a large swimming pool and a flood lit basketball court for night games. It has a large grassed oval.

- **Staff facilities**

General staff room and a teacher preparation room.

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

The school has a ramp on all buildings.

- **Access to bus transport**

The school has a 21 seater bus and a four wheel drive vehicle

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

Weekly staff meetings with all the school staff. The PAC and the governing council meet regularly. Furthermore as a small school within a small community, decisions made are widely consulted with community members.

- **School financial position**
The school is in a sound financial position.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

Oodnadatta is located 1118 kilometres north from Adelaide and is primarily an Aboriginal Community. The population of Oodnadatta is approximately 160, although the transient population causes this to vary from time to time. Most members of the community are employed under the Commonwealth Government's Community Development Employment Programme (CDEP). The programme is administered by complete personnell. Other sources of employment comprise: The school, hospital, police, hotel, Roadhouse, the store, and nearby cattle stations.

- **Parent and community involvement**

The community at large is encouraged to participate in all aspects of school life, both formally through instrumentalities such as the governing council and informally.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

The community has a JET Crèche and a TAFE study centre.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

The famous Pink Roadhouse and transcontinental hotel

- **Other local facilities**

Oodnadatta has a hospital/clinic. Formal sporting activities are minimal.

- **Availability of staff housing**

5 three bedroom houses and 2 two bedroom houses are available.

- **Accessibility**

Oodnadatta is located 200km from Coober Pedy, which offers more in shopping and entertainment options. The roads to Coober Pedy, William Creek and Marla are regularly graded dirt tracks and are generally quite good. A flight to Adelaide is obtainable from Coober Pedy six days per week. Alice Springs is located approximately 6hrs away.

- **Local Government body**

There are two local governing bodies:

- Dunjiba Community Council

- Oodnadatta Progress Association.

12. Further Comments

Oodnadatta is a small, safe community situated on the edge of the Simpson Desert, and suffering the extremes of temperature often associated with desert living. Socially, the town displays little in the way of anti-social behaviour or crime, and the size of the community and its expectations of children provide a unique environment where children are free to explore and play across the town. The community supports new people into town. Oodnadatta boasts a long and interesting history. Long time community members are willing to share their knowledge and history if asked. Apart from CDEP income, the town is largely economically dependent on Cattle stations and Tourism. Tourists regularly drive the Oodnadatta track and stop in Oodnadatta on their way through. Cattle stations make up the other local industry, with the town being surrounded by cattle stations, and many local community members finding work in this area. In addition, more and more income is being derived from mining in this region with the recent development of the Prominent Hill mine south of Coober Pedy, and the proposed expansion of Olympic Dam.