



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 25/3/23

School number: 0324

School name: Oodnadatta Aboriginal School

Oodnadatta Aboriginal School is in Oodnadatta located near the western edge of the Simpson Desert in the far North of South Australia. It is situated 200km Northeast of Coober Pedy. It is approximately 1118 km by road from Adelaide with flights available to and from Adelaide and Coober Pedy three times a week. The small Oodnadatta community consists of approximately 100 people and there is access to a general store, roadhouse, post office and hotel. The school operates in partnership with the community catering for Preschool to Year 12 students. It is a very well-resourced school with an impressive array of amenities including an attractive swimming complex and a large gymnasium. We are a learning community built on respect and trust.

General information

- School Principal name: Linda Ritchie
- Postal Address: c/Post Office, Oodnadatta 5734
- Location Address: Kutaya Terrace, Oodnadatta
- DfE Region: Far North
- Geographical location –Oodnadatta is 1200 km from GPO
- Telephone number:86707823
- School website address: [Oodnadatta Aboriginal School - Department for Education](#)
- School e-mail address: dl0324@schools.sa.edu.au
- February FTE current student enrolment: 23
- Student enrolment trends: There is a cohort of students who have been at Oodnadatta for many years of their schooling. Through the school year many students come in and out of the school as families travel to access services that are not available in the small community.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics:** All students currently attending the school are Aboriginal and speak either Pitjatjatjara or Yankunktjatjara as their first language. Some students are from other Aboriginal language groups and speak Aboriginal English. For many students English is only spoken in the school setting.
- **Student well-being programs:** All students live in the Oodnadatta community and range from Preschool to Year 12. Current structures are Preschool/Junior, Primary and Secondary. The school implements The Resilience Program as a whole school well-being program helps to build Gratitude, Empathy and Kindness.
- **Student support offered:** Students are provided with breakfast and fresh fruit at the morning break each school day. School support Officers are employed to work with individual students presenting with learning disabilities or learning difficulties.
- **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 to support student learning. We refer to our collective Student Behaviour Management Policy to build resilience in learning.
- **Student government:** With such a small number of students we continue to work on establishing a process to include student voice in all aspects of the school, in particular the teaching and learning.
- **Special programmes:** Pool lifeguards provide the opportunity for students to access swimming lessons in Term 1 and Term 4 as part of the Health and PE Curriculum. The pool is also open for the community after school and on the weekends. A swimming Carnival is planned each year during term 1 that brings community members together.

3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:** Our Site Improvement Plan focuses on improving literacy and numeracy.
- **Recent key outcomes:** Due to small numbers of enrolment learning outcomes can not be shared as a matter of confidentiality.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:** Provision of teaching and learning in all areas of the Australian Curriculum.
- **Special needs:** Support staff are employed to support learning of students with disabilities and Aboriginal learners.
- **Special curriculum features:** Senior secondary curriculum is inclusive of Vocational Education and Training programs and SACE completion.
- **Teaching methodology:** Is inclusive of a model of Explicit teaching with the support of SSOs to provide support to individuals and groups of students in literacy and numeracy. Teaching and learning are supported by updated ICT resources.
- **Student assessment procedures and reporting:** The school reports against the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards through interviews and written reports.
- **Joint programmes:** The school works in partnership with like schools and TAFE in the provision of VET.

5. Sporting Activities: In the community there is football and cricket games held annually against the surrounding stations.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- The school has a 'No school, no pool' policy during term 1 and term 4. Swimming programs are run during this time and students access the pool during Health and PE lessons and after school. Senior students are provided with the opportunity to participate in First Aid training to support safety.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile:** Staff turn over is relatively high with an average stay of between 1-2 years. Staff are usually graduate, but currently the school is staff with a balance of experience across the classes.
- **Leadership structure:** School Principal
- **Staff support systems:** Weekly staff meetings are held once a week with dedicated time provided for Professional Development. Online training is often the platform for PD; however, staff are supported to access face to face training and development when required.
- **Performance Management:** Performance management occurs between the principal, teachers and SSO's to discuss professional goals and development aligned to the Site Improvement Plan.

- Access to special staff: The Partnership Office provides specialist support staff in speech pathology, hearing impairment, special education, guidance, and student behaviour management.

8. Incentives, support, and award conditions for Staff

- **Complexity placement points:** Category 1
- **Isolation placement points:** 7
- **Shorter terms:** Terms commences and ends 2 days earlier.
- **Travelling time:** 4 days per term
- **Housing assistance:** Rent is subsidised by a significant amount. All houses are furnished and there is no charge for water and power.
- **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 school's benefits:** Special Class Allowance
- **Aboriginal/Anangu schools:** Study leave
- **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, library, staffroom, toilets and two classrooms, plus ample storage space. The Preschool is attached to the building, with its own bathroom facilities, outdoor area, and office. There is one detached portable classroom which is used by secondary students, technical studies shed, a large Gym, swimming pool, a grassed oval area, quadrangle basketball court and a playground area with shade.
- **Heating and cooling**
: Yes
- **Specialist facilities and equipment:** Tech shed, Oval and Gym.
- **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:** All buildings are equipped with ramp access
- **Access to bus transport:** The school has a 12-seater bus for class and school excursions
- **Other**
: A school car

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures:** Weekly staff meeting with all staff. The PAC and the governing council meet regularly. Furthermore, as a small school within a small community, some decisions are made in consultation with the wider community.
- **Regular publications:** A daybook is used by all staff to communicate with all staff daily. We publish a fortnightly newsletter to share school news with the community and upload to our school website.
- **Other communication**
: Text messages/phonecalls, community facebook page, school letters.
- **School financial position**
: The school is in a very sound financial position.

- **Special funding:** Additional funds are provided to support students verified with learning disabilities.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics:** Oodnadatta is an Aboriginal community located 1118kms north of Adelaide. The population is approximately 100, although the transient population causes this to vary from time to time. Clinic offering access to Nurses, Doctor, and Dentist Visits through the Royal Flying Doctor along with a visiting Vet.
- **Parent and community involvement:** The community at large is encouraged to participate in all aspects of school life, both formally through governing council and informally in school events.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
: The Pink Roadhouse and Hotel
- **Other local facilities:** Clinic offering access to Nurses, Doctor, and Dentist Visits through the Royal Flying Doctor along with a visiting Vet.
- 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 regulary graded dirt tracks and are generally quite good. A flight to Adelaide is available from Coober Pedy 3 times a week. Alice Springs is located approximately 6 hours away.
- **Local Government body**
: There are two local governing bodies including the Dunjiba Community Council and 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. The town is largely economically dependent on Tourism and Cattle stations. Tourists regularly drive the Oodnadatta track and stop in on their way through. Cattle stations make up the other local industry. With the town being surrounded by cattle stations many local community members find work in this area. In addition, more and more income is being derived from mining in this region with the recent development of Prominent Hill mine south of Coober Pedy.