



Mount Barker
Primary School

Updated: March 2025

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School name: Mount Barker Primary School and Inclusion Centre

School numbers: 0285 and 7967

School Profile

We are a Community of Successful Learners.

Mount Barker Primary School is an inclusive, dynamic environment where students are self-motivated, enthusiastic learners. The school is a place where students are able to realise their potential in a safe, secure and caring environment which caters for their interests, abilities and learning styles. This year students in years 2-6 have moved into a \$11.2m new learning facility with collaborative learning spaces as well as new audio visual equipment, sound field systems (Phonac-Roger) and low sensory load classrooms. All classrooms have new furnishings which include a variety of seating options which are ergonomically designed.

Our school uses Positive Psychology and Berry Street strategies as a means of supporting students to become positive, self-reliant and resilient learners. The majority of teachers are trained in the strategies of Positive Psychology based on the work of Professor Martin Seligman and all teachers are incorporating Positive Education into their classroom learning programs. We use Positive Behaviour for Learning as a method to teach students about the expectations of being a student at Mount Barker Primary school. It allows us to embed our school values of Responsibility, Resilience and Respect into everything we do, from lining up after recess to how we treat each other in class.

A strong teaching focus exists in relation to Literacy, Numeracy, AUSLAN, Health and PE Performing Arts and Technologies. Student voice is valued and students have a role in the school decision-making process. The Student Representative Council (SRC) facilitate the involvement of the wider school community seeking feedback on many different areas of school life.

Support for students with learning difficulties is based on early assistance and intervention and the development of short-term learning plans (One Plans). Students requiring extension are identified and supported through extension opportunities.

We are also the regional primary school for students with complex needs who are enrolled at our site through the Special Options Process, managed by the Mount Barker Regional Office. These students attend our Inclusion Centre. This space is also accessible for other students who may need to access its unique learning opportunities and we aim to create a flow between our mainstream setting and this specialised setting. We also have a trauma aware classroom which has been created to support the needs of students with complex

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E dl.0285.info@schools.sa.edu.au

mtbarkerps.sa.edu.au



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Mount Barker Primary School

attachment/behavioural needs. Inclusion is a priority and diversity and difference is celebrated at our school.

1 General information

- School Principal: Jo Simpson
- Deputy Principals: Amberley Horder (curriculum focus) and Sally Turra (wellbeing focus)
- Year of Opening: Original school opened in 1877 with the present site opening in 1967
- Postal Address: 2A Dumas Street, Mt Barker SA
- Location Address: As above
- DECD Region: Adelaide Hills
- Geographical Location road distance from GPO: 34 kms
- Telephone Number: (08) 8391 1241
- School website address: www.MtBarkerPS.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0285.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Yes
- February FTE student enrolment:
Year Feb enrolment 305
School Card 19%
English as an Additional Language Learners 2%
Indigenous Students 9%

Student enrolment trends

Mt Barker is growing in population and enrolment in the future is expected to continue to rise significantly over the next 5 years. We are currently working with the Transition and Capacity Team to manage the large number of enrolments expected.

- Staffing numbers (as at February census)
17.0 FTE teaching staff including:
3.8 Teachers of Students with Complex Disabilities
Approximately 15 FTE non teaching staff including:
9 hours a week speech and language support
** Please note this changes termly in response to the needs of our students

Public transport access - Regular bus service to Adelaide

Special site arrangements

Local partnership with Mount Barker Kindergarten with specialist teachers attending the kindy to share skills. A buddy class system is in place with Mount Barker Kindergarten involving regular visits and collaboration on cross site projects. We also have a positive relationship with



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Mount Barker High School and collaborate with them to support our students as they transition to high school.

We are currently working with Mount Barker South Primary School to support them to manage their capacity issues due to the increase enrolment demands in the area closest to their school. This has resulted in a shared area being created between our two primary schools. Both schools have information relating to the shared zone on their websites.

Student well-being programs

- Positive Education was implemented across the school in 2014
- Successful Learner Dispositions support students to be active participants in their own learning.
- Positive Behaviour for Learning (tier1, 2 and 3 interventions) allow opportunities for all students to live out our schools values on a daily basis.
- Our Pastoral Care Worker offers support to students and families, including SPARC and JUMP programs.

Student support offered

- One Plans are developed for identified students requiring additional support, setting short term goals and identifying adjustments to learning.
- InitialLit evidence based literacy program is implemented in the early years. This focuses on multiple high impact strategies to support phonic instruction.
- Literacy intervention for years 2-6 is provided daily using the MultiLit suite of resources.
- Literacy intervention is provided for year 1 students using a resource created by the Literacy Guarantee Unit.

Student Behaviour Support

- The school's Student Behaviour Development Policy was reviewed recently to incorporate Restorative Practice strategies and to reiterate adherence to the school's values and behavioural expectations.
- A Student Grievance Procedure allows for classroom issues to be resolved in an appreciative and respectful manner.
- Social Skills are taught, reinforced and encouraged at all times in all classrooms.
- A No-Tolerance approach to bullying and racism is consistently applied across the school.

Student Voice

- An active SRC operates fortnightly with Student Executive meetings as required.

Key School Policies



Mount Barker Primary School

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies

- 2025 - Key Priorities include:
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- High Impact Teaching Strategies – including the stretch of students in years 3-6

Key priorities for 2025 are detailed on the Site Improvement Plan on the school's website www.MtBarkerPS.sa.edu.au

Curriculum

Subject offerings

- The school provides a curriculum in line with the Australian Curriculum and we are currently transitioning over to the SA Curriculum.
- Specialist teachers provide expertise in AUSLAN, Performing Arts, Health and PE and Technologies.
- The Abilities Based Learning and Education Support (ABLES) resource is used for students who are not yet accessing Australian Curriculum outcomes
- Boxall Profile is used to assess and plan learning for students with complex social and emotional needs

Special curriculum features

- Camps– Years 3 to 6 participate in a variety of outdoor education programs at venues including Arbury Park Outdoor School, Illawonga and Aquatics Camp at Murray Bridge. Our Year 6 cohort also participate in a leadership focus camp during term 4.
- SAPSASA sporting opportunities

Teaching methodology

- School wide focus on dialogic pedagogies to extend and deepen thinking.
- Assessment for Learning Strategies embedded across the school.
- Daily Literacy/Numeracy lessons with learning intentions and success criteria being shared with students.
- Play Based program in Early Years incorporating outdoor learning and development of gross motor skills.
- Synthetic phonics and direct instruction used to teach reading through the Initialit resource.
- Positive Education and Berry Street philosophies and strategies incorporated into classroom learning.

Student assessment procedures and reporting



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- Student progress is assessed against the standards in the Australian Curriculum
- Acquaintance Night Term 1
- Written formative Report Term 2
- Interviews Term 3
- Written summative Report Term 4
- Interviews available by request throughout the year
- One Plans are developed in collaboration with students and families in term 1 and then reviewed termly thereafter

Sporting Activities

- Participation in SAPSASA program.
- A number of sporting clubs operate in Mount Barker and often host come and try sessions as part of the Physical Education Curriculum.
- Our PE teacher is the coach of the SAPSASA Primary Softball and Netball team and hosts trials and trainings at our school in term 3 and 4.

Other Co-Curricular Activities

- Co-curricular activities supported through school clubs:
Buddy support group, Lego Club, Craft Club, Dance Club, Comic Club

Staff (and their welfare)

Staff profile and staff support systems

- A collegiate culture across the school is being continually developed with the emphasis on strong team work and reflection on practice.
- A mix of experienced and new to the position teachers exists on the site.
- Teachers work in collegiate teams.
- Early careers teachers receive mentoring from Step 9 colleagues. They are supported to attend Department for Education training for progression from graduate to proficient in the AITSL teaching standards.

Leadership structure

- The Leadership team includes the Principal, 2 Deputy Principals and an Inclusion Coordinator. Leadership opportunities are offered to teachers throughout the year and are linked to our site priorities.
- Leadership Team meetings are held weekly with a focus on student progress and Site Improvement Plan priorities.





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Performance Management

- Formal Performance Management Meetings are conducted throughout the year and are based on the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

Incentives, support and award conditions for Complexity placement points

- Isolation placement points: N/A
- Shorter terms: N/A
- Travelling time: N/A
- Housing assistance: N/A
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance: N/A
- Additional increment allowance: N/A
- Designated schools benefits: N/A
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools: N/A
- Medical and dental treatment expenses: N/A
- Locality allowances: N/A
- Relocation assistance: N/A
- Principal's telephone costs: A departmental mobile phone is provided.

School Facilities

Buildings and grounds

- The grounds are spacious and pleasant with a large oval, extensive new playground equipment and a large, open wooded space has been planted where environmental studies is undertaken.
- A Multipurpose Hall was constructed in 2009.
- BER funds provided a new library/computer suite, new staff car park and refurbished Early Years teaching area.
- 2022 saw the building of state of the art facilities for years 2-6, including an inclusive, flexible learning space for students with complex needs, upgrade of gender inclusive toilets, state of the art learning classrooms with shared flexible STEM spaces, upgraded signage (including braille), upgraded bell system (including music) and upgraded performing arts studio and OSHC space.

Heating and cooling

- All classrooms are air conditioned.

Specialist facilities and equipment

- Internet connection is via Wi-Fi in all areas and all teaching areas have interactive audio visual panels. All teachers have an iPad and Lap Top computer.





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- The school has provided several pods of 30 iPads in each learning area to support student engagement and the teaching of ICT skills.
- An Early Years Outdoor Teaching Area was constructed in 2014.

Student facilities

- A Dental Clinic operates on the school site.

Staff facilities

- All staff have iPads and Laptop computers.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

- Extensive ramps have been developed to allow wheel chair access.
- Lift access to upper level of building
- Universal access toilets
- Universal access shower facilities
- Taxi transport to and from can be arranged through the Department of Education for students enrolled in the Complex Needs Unit. This is subject to criteria and is funded through NDIS.

Access to bus transport

- A Department bus operates to transport students to and from school and facilitated by Mount Barker High School.

School Operations

Decision making structures

- An active Governing Council provides governance for the school. Governing Council committees comprise; Financial Advisory Committee and OSHC subcommittee.

Regular publications

- School Newsletters are published in weeks 4 and 8 termly and are posted on the school web site and via SeeSaw
- Class information is shared using SeeSaw app.
- School Facebook page is used to share positive school news and post reminders for key events.
- Staff Daily Notices are via shared whole school calendar and email.





Mount Barker Primary School

- The school web site contains information for families on a range of issues i.e. school policies, enrolment information. A new website went live in 2019.
- The electronic sign at the front of the school was updated in 2022.

Other communication

- The school makes use of SMS messaging to alert families of important events, notifications etc.

School financial position

- The school is in a sound financial position.

Special funding

- The school operates with two Resource Entitlement Statements – one being for the school and one for the Inclusion Centre

Local Community

General characteristics

- Mount Barker is evolving from a substantially rural area established in the 1840's to a rapidly flourishing residential area. People commute to the City via the South Eastern Freeway.
- Local housing is hard to source. Several new estates in the local area are nearing completion and projected figures suggest a significant increase in those residing in Mount Barker will occur.
- Mount Barker has a hospital which is currently being upgraded and several medical and dental practices.
- A Park and Ride facility is across the road from the school. This provides 400 spaces for car parks and regular daily bus services to and from Adelaide.
- An extensive Retirement Village has been built adjacent to the school.

Parent and community involvement

- Parents actively support the library, daily reading and with camps and excursions.
- A 'Parents and Friends Group' was formed through Governing Council to further support and initiate school base activities.

Feeder or destination schools

- The majority of students enrolled at Mt Barker Primary School come from the two local kindergartens – Mount Barker and The Willows Early Learning Centre.





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- Most Year 6 students transition to the local high school, i.e., Mount Barker High School.
- A small percentage enrolls at other public high schools or into the private sector.

Other local care and educational facilities

- A Community Library is situated adjacent to the school on the TAFE Campus.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

- Mount Barker has extensive modern shopping facilities with further developments planned for the future.

Other local facilities

- Extensive sporting facilities cater for children's sporting interests.
- A Recreation Centre and Swimming Centres operate.
- Several large parks and bush land areas provide for further recreational activities.

Accessibility

- Access to Adelaide is predominantly via the South Eastern Freeway.
- A bus service operates regularly to and from Adelaide.

Local Government body

- The Mount Barker Council is the local governing body.