



SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated:

School number: 0746

School name: Woomera Area School

School Profile:

Woomera Area School is located in the remote town of Woomera which is a working Defence base. The school caters for students from Foundation to Year 12 and also has an Integrated Pre-school for Kindergarten students.

Our vision

At Woomera Area School we inspire students to be creative, curious, resilient lifelong learners. Our school values of Respect, Honesty and Trust set the foundations for all students to appreciate diversity and support them to be active informed citizens.

The current small school population supports each individual student to have their own learning plan allowing them to work with their teachers and parents to define specific goals. Students and parents are actively engaged in their learning and developing their SMART goals.

In the early years we focus on Read Write Inc. to develop our students to be confident in reading and writing setting them up for success in all learning areas. We have a focus on STEAM and students from all year levels have the opportunity to work with 3D printers, a laser cutter and working in the kitchen garden. Our senior students have access to a variety of VET options to provide them with opportunities to start their career paths while still at school.

As Woomera is a Defence town it is very transient with the average Defence family staying for 2 or 3 years. This small community provides them with the opportunity to consolidate their learning in an engaging and supportive learning environment. The resources at the school are modern and extensive catering to all areas of the curriculum and needs of the students. These include a large gymnasium, large classrooms with interactive white boards, science laboratory, home economics facility and a Community Library. Surrounded by desert and some of the richest mineral deposits in the world, we are able to use these attributes in our learning.

Living in Woomera is a unique opportunity for families to experience life in the outback while still having access to quality education. As our cohorts are small and regularly change every few years, we have limited NAPLAN data which rarely relates to our current student cohort. Instead we are able to demonstrate the growth of each individual student through their individual data while at Woomera Area School. The connection with the school and our student's families is strong and continues to develop providing opportunities for parents to be involved in school activities.

General information

- School Principal name: Ann O'Sullivan
- Year of opening: Woomera Area School came into being in 1982 as a result of the amalgamation of Woomera High School and Woomera Primary School.
- Postal Address: PO Box 193, Woomera SA 5720
- Location Address: Dewrang Avenue Woomera SA 5720
- DECD Region: Far North
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 496 km North of Adelaide
- Telephone number: 08 86 737 287
- Fax Number: 08 86 737 005
- School website address: <https://woomera.sa.edu.au/>
- School e-mail address: dl.0746_admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- February FTE student enrolment: 2 Preschool, 2 Foundation, 2 Year 1 students, a Year 5, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 12 student.
- Student enrolment trends: Our enrolments are reliant on the Defence Force and Ventia (local contractor) personnel and their families. Over the years they have dropped significantly. Currently we have students from Kindergarten to Year 12. This varies yearly due to deployments to Woomera.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census): Principal, 1 Primary and 1 Secondary Teacher, 2 SSO's.
- Special site arrangements: WAS works closely with the local community particularly Defence and Ventia. Our local contractors support us in a variety of ways including work placements and School Based Apprenticeships.

Students (and their welfare)

General Characteristics:

Students are generally in Woomera on a 2 or 3 year placement through Defence. These students come from across the country and cover all year levels. Few students stay for longer than 3 years. All students have individual 'One Plans' to ensure quality programming and teaching which meet their individual requirements.

Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
The school site improvement plan has a focus on:
 - Increasing the number of students achieving SEA in the higher bands in Numeracy.
 - Increasing the number of students achieving SEA in the higher bands in Writing.
 - Increasing the number of students achieving SEA in the higher bands in Reading.
- Recent key outcomes: Woomera Area School continues to focus on the development of Numeracy, Reading and Writing with all students attending showing growth in their learning across curriculum areas.

Curriculum

- Subject offerings:
WAS teachers plan, assess and deliver quality lessons using the Australian Curriculum F-10 and SACE for senior students. We offer an Integrated Preschool.
- Open Access/Distance Education provision: Students have access to the Open Access College to supplement the subject choices to ensure we cater to their specific needs.
- Special needs: All students have individual One Plans to highlight specific needs and how the teacher is able to support them. We work closely with our Student Support team to develop programmes to support specific learning needs.
- Special curriculum features: In the early years we use Read Write Inc as our Phonics programme to set students up for success.
- Teaching methodology:
Facilities at Woomera include interactive white boards and fully equipped specialist areas. Teachers use a wide range of teaching pedagogies to cater to the learning of all students.

All students have access to computers in class and have the ability to take them home if required. They access a number of online learning tools in a variety of subject areas. We have recently updated our IT systems to allow for better connectivity and have access to a regional IT support person.

Student assessment procedures and reporting.

Assessment

- Students at WAS are assessed in a variety of ways which include:
 - NAPLAN (Federal)
 - Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) (State)
 - SACE exams and moderation
 - School based assessments, formative and summative.
 - Formative provide the students with feedback and what is required for the next stage of learning. This is ongoing.
 - Summative demonstrates what they have learned.

Reporting

- Teachers collect this information in a variety of ways including: observation, assessments and open ended tasks. These are recorded and analysed using rubrics, checklists, anecdotal notes, exemplars and continuums.
- Reporting to parents happens throughout the year in a variety of ways. In terms 1 and 3, we have 3 way interviews with parent, teacher and student and traffic light reports are sent home highlighting where the students are on their learning journey in line with the Australian Curriculum. At the end of each semester, terms 2 and 4, written reports are sent home. Teachers are in regular contact with parents throughout the year.

Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
Woomera Area School has a small staff with a Principal, 2 permanent teachers and 3 SSO's. Staffing over the last 5 years has been quite stable.
- Leadership structure
Principal
- Staff support systems
Staff support each other in a close knit team. WAS is also part of the Far North Small Schools Alliance where staff from similar small schools work together in a PLC to support each other and provides relevant, targeted Professional Development. There is also the option for coaching and support for Professional Development in line with the SIP.
- Performance Management
WAS uses the DfE Performance Plan Documentation and processes; all staff have Performance Plans which reflect on their progress and goals. Regular meetings with the Principal as their Line Manager provides feedback and opportunity for growth.
- Staff Utilisation Policies
Teaching staff tend to work predominantly in either Preschool – 5 or 6 – 12 section of the school. The excellent student/staff ratio enables the needs, talents and diversity of the students and their backgrounds to be recognised and addressed by the staff. The required allocation of non-instruction time is provided for all staff and SSO time is available for curriculum support.
- Access to special staff
WAS has support for the regional Support and Inclusion Division based in Port Augusta. This includes: Aboriginal Services, Social Work, Special Education including hearing, Behaviour Support Coach, Psychology and Speech Pathology.

Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
:Zone 4
- Isolation placement points
: 5
- Housing assistance
:Yes
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:No

- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:refer to teachers award
- Locality allowances
:Yes
- Relocation assistance
:Yes

School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Woomera Area School has excellent facilities and large grounds. All buildings and land are owned and maintained by the Commonwealth Government and are are maintained through Defence. The buildings are large and there are many available classrooms and specialist areas. There have been numerous refurbishments over the years and the gym will have new heating and cooling in 2022/23.
- Heating and cooling
All buildings have quality heating and cooling.
- Specialist facilities and equipment
Community Library, full size and equipped gymnasium, Home Economics Room, Science Laboratory, Art and Technical studies rooms, STEAM room including 3 D printers and Laser Cutter
- Student facilities
Senior Room for SACE students, dedicated play room for preschool students.
- Staff facilities
Dedicated staff room and teacher preparation rooms.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
Students with disabilities have access using ramps and disabled toilets.

School Operations

- Decision making structures
Decision making is shared between the Principal, Personnel Advisory Committee, Staff, Student Voice in accordance with the DfE policy. Decision making forums include: staff meetings, Governing Council meetings, professional learning teams. Meeting protocols are established annually. School Services Officers meet weekly with teachers. The Governing council is an active decision making team. Meetings are designed to be issue based with reports tabled unless decisions require agreement.
- Regular publications
The school newsletter is published twice a term and is available both electronically and through print.

- Other communication
 - Parents are regularly contacted through email and text. Junior Primary students also have a communication book with older students using a diary.
- School financial position
 - The school is in a strong financial position.
- Special funding
 - Rural Isolated Index
 - Disadvantaged Schools Program
 - Vocational Education and Training in Schools
 - School Based Preschools

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
 - Woomera Village is an active Defence Base with 2 squadrons based here. Deployments are usually for 2 years and may be extended to 3 meaning it is very transient.
 - Ventia is the main contractor supporting the village and the Woomera test facility. Their staff and other contractors make up the population of Woomera. You must be working for 30 hours or more to access housing in the town. There are a limited number of Government services and employees in the town.
- Parent and community involvement
 - There is opportunity for involvement by community members in school and community activities.
- Other local care and educational facilities
 - Playgroup is available locally twice a week.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - There are limited shopping facilities with a small general store. Roxby Downs is the closest town with a supermarket.

- Other local facilities
Woomera has a School Community Library, active RSL, Medical Clinic, Sporties Club and Emergency Services.
- Availability of staff housing
Staff housing is available through Government Housing.
- Accessibility
Good bitumen road to Adelaide. Daily flights from Adelaide to Olympic Dam 90 km's away.

12. Further Comments

Woomera Area School was built in the early 1950's to accommodate children of personnel involved in various space and rocket projects. The school expanded as the town grew. In the 1960's there was a Junior Primary, Primary and High School with enrolments over 1200 including many Americans who were based in Woomera with their Air Force. The Area School was proclaimed in 1982. This is the only school which is on a Defence Base in Australia. Woomera has a rich history and continues to play a part in the research and defence of Australia.