



## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 06/2021

**School number:** 0302

**School name:** Mypolonga Primary School

### School Profile:

Mypolonga Primary School has 146 children in 6 classes, on the banks of the River Murray between Murray Bridge and Mannum. The school's colours are black and gold and the local sporting teams are the Tigers. The school's values of **T**eamwork, **I**ntegrity, **G**enerosity of Spirit, **E**xcellence and **R**espect, reflect the school's strong community connections.

Currently 66% of the school's population comes from outside of Mypolonga. Families place their children on a waiting list at birth. The school has an enterprise focus and for the last 20 years has run the Mypolonga Primary School Shop in association with Proud Australia Holidays. This program has contributed to the school garnering many awards including:

- 2008: Women's Weekly Parents and Citizen's Awards: state winners, third nationally
- 2009: Rural City of Murray Bridge Australia Day Awards: Best Community Initiative
- 2010: NAB School's First Awards \$50,000
- 2011: DECD Public Teaching Awards: Innovative Engagement with Business and the Community \$20,000
- 2012: Recognition by the OECD as an 'Innovative Learning Environment', selection by Australian Securities and Investment Commission as a 'Money Smart' school.
- 2013: Australian Business Excellence Awards: Bronze Award; Advantage SA: Flinders University Education Award
- 2014: TfEL Pilot School
- 2015: Brand SA Education Award – Regional winner
- 2015: South Australian Regional Awards Hall of Fame inductee
- 2015: Winner Association of Community Services Organisations Education Award \$1,000
- 2017: Australia Day Awards Community Event of the Year

Today Tonight, Channel 7 News and Money Smart have produced video resources based on the school. In 2015, a newspaper article was written by Scott Pape, the Barefoot Investor in Herald Sun syndicated papers.

## 1. General information

- School Principal name: **Rita O'Brien**
- Student Wellbeing Leader name: **Kerry Daniel**
- Year of opening: **1916**
- Postal Address: **17-27 Williams Street Mypolonga SA 5254**
- Location Address: **17-27 Williams Street Mypolonga SA 5254**
- DECD Partnership: **Murray Bridge 2**
- Geographical location – road distance from Adelaide GPO: **96 kms**
- Telephone number: **85354191**
- Fax Number: **85354160**
- School website address: **[www.mypolongaps.sa.edu.au](http://www.mypolongaps.sa.edu.au)**
- School e-mail address: **info@mypolongaps.sa.edu.au**
- Index of Disadvantage: **5**
- February FTE student enrolment:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reception	19	20	16	19	24
Year 1	15	17	17	15	19
Year 2	12	15	19	14	17
Year 3	23	12	16	20	13
Year 4	16	24	11	16	23
Year 5	18	17	23	12	16
Year 6	21	13	16	21	13
Year 7	17	19	15	15	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>146</b>
Male FTE	75	63	60	64	67
Female FTE	66	74	73	68	79
School Card Approvals	12	18	38	33	32
ATSI	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0
NESB	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0

- **Student enrolment trends:** The school is currently at capacity. There is a waiting list for people outside of the Mypolonga and Wall Flat district. Mypolonga and Wall Flat residents have automatic right to enrol.
- **Staffing numbers: 8.6 FTE** There are currently 6 classes from R-7 with 11 teaching staff members including, 1.0 Principal; 1.0 Wellbeing Leader/Teacher, 0.8 Teacher/Librarian, 0.4 German, 0.4 P.E. The school currently has 186.75 hours SSO time per week which includes 15.75 hours for our Groundsperson.
- **Public transport access:** DECD 24 seater bus for Wall Flat/Caloote students living outside 5 kilometre radius of school.
- The school has strong ties with local sporting groups.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics:** Students come from families within the town of Mypolonga as well as surrounding communities such as Murray Bridge, Mannum, Wall Flat, Caloote and Monarto. Students have historically achieved well above their Category 5 status in numeracy, however literacy results tended to be lower. The implementation of a whole school literacy plan since 2008 has seen achievement in literacy improve. Student leadership of programs such as the 'Literacy Cup' has seen student ownership of improvement and achievement.
- **Student well-being programs:** The Student Wellbeing Leader manages well-being at the school. Advocacy programs, peer support programs and class well-being lessons complement the health curriculum. The school has 95% attendance rate, with 0% unexplained absences. Positive Play rewards well behaved students. There are strong relationships with families. Masterclasses delivered by staff and community members occur in Term 3.
- **Student support offered:** All students with learning issues have access to literacy intervention programs.
- **Student management:** The school's behaviour management policy is aligned to the DfE School Discipline Policy. There is a strong focus on resilience through the Resilience Project and character strengths. There are high expectations with a combination of traditional and innovative approaches.
- **Student government:** The development of authentic student voice occurs through a whole school SRC and leadership programs. Issues are raised at a class meeting level and discussed at SRC. Upper Primary students also have the opportunity to participate in decision making by joining school committees: Life Long Learning Community, Sustainability and Finance. Young Environmental Leaders are members of the Sustainability Committee.

- **Special programmes:**
  - . The Mypolonga Primary School Shop, a student run craft business opens every Friday when the Proud Mary Paddle Boat visits. This is a significant part of enterprise education programs.
  - . The school is part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program and has an industrial kitchen. The school garden produces fruit and vegetables. The school also follows the Healthy Eating Guidelines. The whole school stops every day for healthy eating and physical.
  - . The School Choir performs each year at the Regional Music Festival.

### 3. Key School Policies

- **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:** Please refer to the Site Improvement Plan and policies on the school's website.
- **Recent key outcomes:** Please refer to the Annual Report on the school's website.

### 4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:** Mypolonga Primary School provides a comprehensive R-7 curriculum with an emphasis on Enterprise Education. The Australian Curriculum is currently being implemented in English, Mathematics, STEM and HASS, with HPE, The Arts, Technologies and LOTE.
- **Special needs:** A One Plan is in place for all students with special needs. Special Education is managed by the Principal, with support provided by SSOs. Teachers are released to meet with SSOs to plan around identified students. Specialised programs for students with disabilities are in place. There are also a number of volunteers who support students with disabilities.
- **Special curriculum features:** Enterprise education is embedded across the school.
- **Teaching methodology:** The Australian Curriculum is used to design learning. The Teaching for Effective Learning Framework is the pedagogical framework sitting alongside the curriculum.  
  
There is a strong culture of student involvement in learning. Student voice is incorporated into learning design and decision making. Whole school processes exist around guided reading, writing and Maths.
- **Student assessment procedures and reporting:** Developing consistency of teacher judgement is a focus. The school reports in written form, twice per year, against the mandated A-E standards. Parent-teacher interviews occur once per year. Portfolios of annotated student work samples are sent home each term. Email is used for individual communication. Results of standardised testing are reported to parents mid-year. Google Classroom is used for Years 2-7.
- **Joint programmes:** Young Environmental Leaders.

## 5. Sporting Activities

The community values sporting participation and achievement. Fitness is part of a daily, whole school program. Swimming lessons are held at the Murray Bridge Swimming Pool during Term 1. Upper Primary students participate in the Aquatics program, held biannually. Specialised programs are held annually. Sports' Day is held annually. Older students have the chance to try out for District SAPSASA Sports teams throughout the year. Many of our parents and students are associated and actively involved with the Mypolonga Tennis, Cricket, Football and Netball Clubs, which form the Mypolonga Combined Sports Club. Karate is also a popular sport.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

The school's annual school production/school concert is a long standing tradition and the highlight of the school year. Music instruction is offered in clarinet and flute. Year 5 and 6 students from the Upper Primary unit form the School Choir.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile:**  
Mypolonga Primary School staff live in the Mannum/Mypolonga/Murray Bridge area.
- **Staff support systems:** There is generous SSO support in all classes. Professional Learning Communities are established on-site and between sites.
- **Performance Management:** Personal development planning aligns with the development of the site improvement plan. Student feedback of teacher performance using Intentionality, Consistency, Effectiveness and Responsiveness from the Teaching for Effective Learning Framework is regularly scheduled. Feedback from peer observations regularly occurs.
- **Staff utilisation policies:** There is a PE specialist teacher and German teacher.
- **Access to special staff:** An instrumental music teacher and choir trainer visit the school weekly. Regional support staff such as Psychologists, Interagency Student Support coordinators, Disability Coordinators and Speech pathologists support teachers.

## 8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points  
Nil
- Isolation placement points  
Nil
- Shorter terms  
Nil
- Travelling time: Mypolonga is 15 minutes travelling time from Murray Bridge.
- Housing assistance: Private rental can be found at Mypolonga. Murray Bridge offers a better selection of houses for rental.

## 9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds:** The school has well maintained grounds. As the school is at capacity, space is at a premium.
- **Heating and cooling:** All buildings have reverse cycle air conditioners.
- **Specialist facilities and equipment:** The renovation of the library occurred in Term 2 2014 and an industrial kitchen was installed in 2014.
- **Student facilities:** Students and staff may order their lunch from the Mypolonga General Store. There is no canteen. Enterprise recess and lunches, at a reasonable price, are provided by the Junior and Middle Primary units during the week. Students have monitored access to the Internet.
- **Staff facilities:** We have a well-equipped staffroom which includes a teacher preparation area. Staff members have access to the Internet through their MacBooks or any of the school computers.
- **Access for students and staff with disabilities:** Wheel chair access to buildings and classrooms. Disabled toilets.
- **Access to bus transport:** The DECD 24 seater school bus is available for excursions. This can be supplemented by parent support or hiring from private bus companies in Murray Bridge.

## 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

The school has a very active Governing Council supported by an effective committee structure:

**Finance** committee determines the financial resources and reviews the budget.

**Sustainability** committee maintains the school facilities and is involved in the decision making concerning environmental issues.

**Life Long Learning Community** staff and students work together to learn about how we learn.
- **Regular publications**

A newsletter is published fortnightly and is intended to support community news.

A school website is updated regularly.

The school has a Facebook page.

School articles appear in the Murray Valley Standard.

Assemblies are held fortnightly on Friday afternoons with work presented from all classes, presentation of certificates and news.
- **Other communication:** Communication is also relayed via email, Facebook and notes home with students.
- **School financial position:** Our school is financially sound. Financial meetings are held twice a term with financial reports submitted at each meeting. Audits are conducted annually – last audit was without any major incidents. Reclassification to Category 5 has placed pressure on finances.

- **Special funding:** Some students with disabilities attract supplementary funding.

## 11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**  
Mypolonga is a fruit growing and dairy district. However with the rationalisation of the dairies the demographic of the town is changing. There is a General Store and local post office opposite the school. Most shopping is done in Murray Bridge.
- **Parent and community involvement:** The community is very involved in the school. They are actively involved in the governance of the school and its subcommittees.
- **Feeder or destination schools:** Most of the Year 7 students attend Murray Bridge High School for their secondary education. A small number of students attend Unity College, Mannum Community College and Tyndale Christian College.
- **Other local care and educational facilities:** Tiny Tiger (Playgroup) sessions are held at the school on Tuesday mornings from 9:00am to 10:00am in the Library.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:** There is a General Store and local post office opposite the school. Most shopping is done in Murray Bridge.
- **Other local facilities:** The Mypolonga Combined Sports Club has a prominent role in the community. The Mypolonga RSL Sub Branch is another active local facility.
- **Availability of staff housing:** Very limited.
- **Accessibility:** Accessibility to Adelaide is via the South Eastern Freeway. All roads are sealed and well maintained. The Link SA bus service runs regularly to/from Murray Bridge and Adelaide.
- **Local Government body:** Rural City of Murray Bridge.