School Context Statement

Updated: 17/03/2010

School Name: Mintabie Area School

School Number: 1794

1. General Information

Part A

School Name: MINTABIE AREA SCHOOL
School No.: 1794
Principal: Ms. Veronica Hartnett
Postal Address: PO Box 54, Mintabie 5724
Location Address: Airport Road, Mintabie 5724
District: Northern Country
Distance from GPO: 1127 kms
CPC attached: NO
Courier: North West Country
Phone No.: 08 86705038
Fax No.: 08 86705040

February FTE Enrolment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12 plus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 14.5

Total FTE Enrolment 14
Male FTE 5
Female FTE 9
School Card Approvals (Persons) NESB Total (Persons) Aboriginal FTE Enrolment

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.
Part B

- Deputy Principal:
  N/A

- Staffing numbers:
  SSO3 – 37.5 hours, SSO1 – 30 hours, SSO1 - Grounds-person – 20hours,
  3.0 FTE Teachers, Principal.

- Enrolment trends:
  Enrolment numbers vary considerably. Numbers are low at the start and end of
  each year due to the heat and the mining amnesty. Our average enrolment figure
  is declining, a reflection of the township’s population

- Special arrangements:
  Nil

- Year of opening:
  1988

- Public transport access:
  None

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics:
  The school population consists of clearly discernible groups: (1) Children of
  ‘permanent’ families who live at Mintabie and spend only the regular vacation
  periods away from school, (2) Those who arrive in mid to late first term and depart
  during the fourth term to escape the summer heat, (3) Children of itinerant families
  who spend periods of one to six months at Mintabie during the cooler months and
  do not return again.

- Regional Services:
  These are coordinated by the class teachers.
  Support offered in the areas of disabilities, behaviour management, hearing and
  speech.

- Student management:
  The school policy is clear about expectations, promotes students taking
  responsibility for their own behaviour and is clear about students’ right to learn and
  the teachers’ right to teach.

- Student government:
  There is an R-12 SRC that meets regularly with the teacher responsible.
  Increasing student voice is one of the school’s goals this year.

- Special programmes:
  By the very nature of the school, peer support is implicit in the daily routine of the
  school. We have a Pre-entry Program. Children commence this program five
weeks prior to starting school. There is also a Playgroup available operating for Pre-school students.

3. **Key School Policies**

- **Vision Statement:**
  
  Our vision statement is “At Mintabie Area School we will promote and achieve a safe, caring and organised work environment that will allow staff to work at a high level of performance. Teaching and learning at the school will be the highest priority aiming at equality and excellence in education. A partnership between the traditional owners of the land, miners, ethnic groups, staff and students will allow a joint school community exercise that will promote education of the highest standard.”

- **Long-Term Objectives:**
  
  To provide a rigorous, broad and balanced curriculum R-12 within the SACSA Framework.

- **Site Learning Plan 2009 – 2010:**
  
  SACE, Information Technology, Balancing the Curriculum, Social Skills, Literacy and Numeracy, Inter-School Interaction, Student Health and Wellbeing, Resource Management.

- **Recent Key Outcomes:**
  
  On-going Healthy Grazing Program is improving student nutrition knowledge and skills for healthy dietary practices with the provision of nutritious lunch options 3 times a week. The Healthy Grazing Program includes the involvement of the Home Economics class, who plan and prepare healthy lunches, which are then served up to all students. The canteen now stocks a range of healthy eating choices.

  100% of students R-10 are involved with daily physical activities.
  100% of students R-9 are participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.
  100% of students to participate in Uni NSW Maths competition.

4. **Curriculum**

- **Subject Offerings:**
  
  Junior Primary Curriculum: R-2
  Primary Curriculum: Year 3-7
  Secondary Curriculum: Year 8-10
  Senior Secondary: SACE Stage One and Two are offered. We offer several face to face subjects. These are supplemented by Open Access.

- **Open Access:**
  
  LOTE Year 4-6 and MUSIC – keyboard, percussion, guitar and theory from Instrumental Music by Duct. Tele-conferencing equipment has been installed.
• Special Needs:
The transient nature of students requires many individual programs. Guidance and other support agencies are available and inform our programmes.

• Special Curriculum Features:
A whole school camp is held, along with class camps as occasion requires. Students have access and high levels of skills in the use of information and communication technologies. The programme is highly valued and keenly pursued by students.

• Teaching Methodology:
Class structure of R-7, Year 7-10 and two Senior Secondary Classes. Students have access to ICTs and the Library throughout the day. SSOs work with small groups.

• Assessment Procedures and Reporting:
Portfolios are sent home at the end of each semester and interviews held when requested by staff or parents. Reports are sent home at the end of each term.

• Joint Programmes:
We hold a joint Sports Day with Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy and Indulkana School. TAFE is involved with the VET.

5. Sporting Activities
Facilities include a netball/basketball court, tennis courts and small grassed oval. An Interschool Sports Day is held annually with Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy and Indulkana Aboriginal School. The school has an excellent range of sports equipment.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities
• General:
Croatia Day is celebrated by the students with the community. An end of the year production is held each year and highly valued by the community. A music concert is an annual event. A half holiday is declared for Melbourne Cup Day.

7. Staff (and their welfare)
• Staff Profile:
Principal, 2 Teachers, 1 SSO3, and 1 SSO1. School Service Officers are typically permanent residents while teachers are typically mobile. While teachers have a range of years of experience, gaining permanency with DECS has attracted a majority of recruits. The principal is actively and directly involved in the recruitment of staff and gives a personal face and perspective of the conditions, work and life at Mintabie.
• Leadership Structure:
  Principal.

• Staff Support Systems:
  Staff professional development can be accessed via Pt Augusta, Coober Pedy and Adelaide. A school car is available and overnight expenses and fees paid for by the school. Occasionally T&D is provided by visiting specialists.

• Performance Management:
  Staff meet regularly with the principal to discuss issues, concerns and how their work is supporting the implementation of the priorities of the school.

• Staff Utilisation Policies:
  Secondary teachers share the subject load according to their skills and areas of expertise. SSOs work in the Library and provide support in the classrooms.

• Access to Special Staff:
  Instrumental music and Indonesian is provided by Open Access.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

• Travelling time:
  Two days either side of all holidays.

• Housing assistance:
  no rent.

• Cooling for school buildings and Teacher Housing:
  Refer to School Facilities section below.

• Principal’s telephone costs:
  Included.

9. School Facilities

• Buildings and Grounds:
  The area consists of five main buildings which house 3-12 students, an Administration block, Shower/Toilet facilities and a Library. There is also a Playgroup building, Technology and art shed.

• Cooling:
  All buildings have evaporative cooling systems.

• Specialist Facilities:
  Technology Shed, wet areas (Science, Art and Home Economics).

• Student Facilities:
  Playground, Shade area and sandpit, paved court area, lawn area, small oval and a small Tuckshop that operates at recess and lunch times.

• Staff Facilities:
  Staff room, Resource/Preparation room, BBQ area.
• Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities:
  Wheelchair access (ramps) to classroom and toilets.
• Access to Bus Transport:
  The school owns a 23 seater Coaster Diesel bus along with a car that is available to staff for T&D purposes and to transport Marla students to and from school.
• Other:
  Playgroup.

10. School Operations
• Decision making structures:
  Governing Council, Finance Committee, SRC, Staff, PAC.
• Regular publications:
  Fortnightly Newsletter.
• Other communication:
  Class newsletters, white board.
• School financial position:
  The school is in a sound financial position
  Special funding:
  This is included in the Global Budget.

11. Local Community
• General characteristics:
  Predominantly miners and those who service their needs. The township is leased from the traditional owners and is currently being renegotiated.
• Parent and community involvement:
  Governing Council, Working Bees, Fundraising.
• Other local care and educational facilities:
  Tele-Centre provides computer access
• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:
  Marla Medical Clinic, approx forty km east of the town, is staffed by two nurses. The Medical Clinic is run by Frontier Services and has regular and emergency visits by the Flying Doctor. Mintabie air-strip can be used for emergency visits by RFDS.
  As Mintabie is on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Land, alcohol may not be purchased from the Hotel to take away.
  There are three General Stores, a Post Office, a Tele-Centre, a Hotel, A Clothing & Second Hand Shop, and a Caravan Park.
• Other local facilities:
  Recreational/social activities include a golf course, darts, 8 ball, 
  netball/basketball/cricket scratch matches, and social functions at the Community 
  Hall and Hotel.
• Availability of staff housing:
  There are four teacher houses. These are located in a cluster on the northern 
  boundary of the school. They are furnished (if needed) and share the school 
  generator. Power operates 24 hours a day (There is no 240 volt town power supply.)
• Accessibility:
  A bus to and from Adelaide services the town of Marla, which is 40 kms away on 
  the Stuart Highway. Flights to and from Adelaide and Coober Pedy most days.
• Local Government body:
  Mintabie township has a volunteer Mintabie Miner’s Progress Association.

12. Further Comments

The Mintabie township, established around 1976, is an opal mining settlement 
situated 40 kms west of the township of Marla, 1120 kms north of Adelaide. The 
school was opened in 1986 in the Community Hall to satisfy the educational needs 
of the community. The current buildings were officially opened in 1989. The 
township has a reliable telephone service, excellent television reception and a 
reticulated water system. Police services are provided from Marla.

The population of the town varies with the fortunes of Opal. Current estimates are 
around 100-150 persons. A significant number of Croatian people live in the town.