



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: Dec 2015

Centre number: 6508

Centre name: Coomandook & Districts Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director
Cheryl Macklin
- Postal address
C/- Post Office, Coomandook SA 5261
- Location address
Dukes Highway, Coomandook SA 5261
- DECD Region
Coorong and Mallee Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
0.5 Kilometres from local GPO
- Telephone number
85733176
- Fax number
85733176
- Preschool website address:
<http://www.coomandookgn.sa.edu.au/>
- Preschool e-mail address
dl.6508.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance

		Term 1	Term2	Term 3	Term 4
2013	Enrolment	12	11		
	Attendance	12	12		
2014	Enrolment	6	7	7	
	Attendance	7	7	7	
2015	Enrolment	4	4	4	
	Attendance	4	4	4	

- Co-located/stand-alone
Stand-alone site however it neighbours Coomandook Area School Grounds
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ❖ Pre Entry
This is offered in the term prior to the child starting at the Kindergarten.
 - ❖ “Pre-Kindy” Program
The “Pre-Kindy” program is classed as a Preschool Associated Program and is offered as a value added service to the Community. This program can only be offered if the Kindergarten has the capacity within its current resources (staffing ratios and assigned physical capacity). A child can start in the “Pre-Kindy” program at the beginning of any school term following them turning 3 years 6 months.
 - ❖ Sessional “Kindergarten” Program for eligible children
We offer 2 full days per week (Tuesday and Thursday) and 3 additional days per term. To check when a child is eligible to start in the funded “Kindergarten” Program see the Same First Day information at <http://www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au/>
 - ❖ Funded Occasional Care
This program is available for children ages between 2 to 5 years. It operates on Tuesday Mornings from 8:45am-12pm. Cost is \$5.00 per session or \$1.50 per session with current Health Care Card.
 - ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program
Yes
 - ❖ Bilingual Support
To identified children requiring support
 - ❖ Preschool Support
To identified children requiring support

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
The purpose of the Coomandook & Districts Kindergarten is to support a play based quality teaching and learning environment for all children that results in a high level of student engagement and involvement.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:
The Early Years Learning Framework of Australia – “Belonging, Being & Becoming”
Core Values Program - Manners, Sharing, Fun, Kindness, Friends, Respect, Listening & Self Confidence

- Specific curriculum approaches
We provide a play based, child centred and initiated learning program. We support Inquiry Based Learning, incorporating the 'Mindstretchers' philosophy, principles and practices.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
Transition Program occurs from Home to Kindergarten and Kindergarten to School throughout the term and year. We have strong links with the Junior School that enhances the children's movement from one environment to another.
We connect with the school in Assemblies, Book Week Activities and Performances & Productions where possible. We also visit the Community Library (located at the Coomandook Area School) on Tuesday each week.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
Cheryl Macklin – Director/Teacher (0.6 FTE)
Karen Schmerl – Early Childhood Worker – Contract (0.5 FTE)
Michelle Cameron – Early Childhood Worker & Occasional Care Worker – Contract (7 hours per week – 5 hours Occasional Care + 2 hours site funded)
- Performance Management Program
Performance Development Meetings occur approximately once per term in a formal manner. Staff engage in Professional Conversations both formally and informally on a regular basis. The Performance Management Program aligns to the DECD Performance and Development Policy and Guidelines.

- Access to special support staff
Through Preschool Support and Bilingual Support as required
- Other

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
The building was built in 1986. It has had a small renovation recently to enclose a back verandah. The Kindergarten grounds are attractive with 2 slides, a boat, swings, playgroup equipment, vegetable garden, amphitheatre area, sandpit, with outdoor kitchen, mud digging patch, storage shed, a path that meanders through a mounded garden and a bike track. There is a grass area for the children to play and enjoy. The site is fully fenced providing children with a secure place to learn and explore. The site is boarded with the Coomandook Area School enabling us to access the School Library and other facilities throughout the year.
- Capacity (per session)
23 children
- Centre Ownership
DECD
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
The site has wheelchair access.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:
Working opportunities in Coomandook would consist of mostly Farming Positions. It is a large cropping and grazing district.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
Parent Roster to assist during Kindy sessions, Governing Council Meetings, and Fundraising
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
Coomandook Area School
- Other local care and educational facilities,
Child Care Facilities available in Meningie and Murray Bridge
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Coomandook General Store in is 0.5 kilometres from site.
Taillem Bend is 34 kilometres from site that provides more shopping facilities
Murray Bridge is 58 kilometres from site and provides a vast range of services and facilities.
- Other local facilities
Medical Facilities are available in Taillem Bend and Murray Bridge.
Sporting Clubs include Peake & Districts Football and Netball Club, Taillem Bend Football & Netball Club, Boarder & Tintinara Downs Football & Netball Club, Tennis Clubs and Cricket Clubs in the local area.
- Availability of staff housing
Limited
- Accessibility
130 kilometres to Adelaide
Major Public Transport options are available from Taillem Bend or Murray Bridge by Bus/Coaches.
- Local Government
Coomandook is located in the Coorong District Council Area

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
We are involved with the Coorong and Mallee Partnership. The Site Leader attends Leadership Days approximately twice per term.
We are also involved in a Cluster Group that involves the local Kindergarten and Schools. (Coonalpyn, Meningie, Coomandook, Karoonda, Tintinara)