

Meningie Area School is on the shores of Lake Albert at the entrance to the Coorong on Ngarrindjeri country. It provides education R-12 for the local area. Modern facilities, small classes, spacious grounds including an agriculture block, gym/hall and nature play area provide a vibrant learning environment. A community library services the school and local community.

## School overview

School name	Meningie Area School
School number	0750
DfE Local Partnership	Coorong & Mallee
School Principal	Fiona Haselgrove
Location address	1 North Terrace Meningie 5264
Postal address	1 North Terrace Meningie 5264
School website	www.meningieas.sa.edu.au
School email	dl.0750_info@schools.sa.edu.au
Telephone	(08) 8575 1106
Distance from GPO	149km
Year of opening	
Category of disadvantage	2
ICSEA value (2023)	905

## Enrolment:

Year level	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>R</b>	15	14	16	6	20	11	15
<b>1</b>	19	22	14	13	6	21	9
<b>2</b>	16	18	12	13	15	8	21
<b>3</b>	23	14	17	13	11	16	7
<b>4</b>	14	15	14	14	13	10	16
<b>5</b>	15	12	13	17	16	12	9
<b>6</b>	13	13	14	12	18	14	15
<b>7</b>	25	11	11	15	13	18	16
<b>8</b>	14	23	9	13	5	10	17
<b>9</b>	17	8	20	9	7	9	10
<b>10</b>	10	13	8	14	6	5	8
<b>11</b>	11	12	8	7	12	7	5
<b>12</b>	12	10	8	12	6	10	6
<b>Total</b>	197	175	164	158	152	151	155

Student Group	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ATSI	60	58	53	49	38	33	
NESB							
ESL	62	67	59	60	38	33	
Disabilities	13	12	13	9	11	10	12
School card	91	91	73	77			

## Enrolment trends

There was a dramatic downturn in enrolments during the years 2006 -2010 as a result of the severe drought and low water levels in the Murray Darling basin, and the subsequent impact that this had on the local dairy industry and associated flow on effects. Since that time, the number of students in the school has stabilised and fluctuated between 150 and 180. The changing demographic of the town has once again seen a drop in enrolments and at the time of publishing this statement the number of students enrolled at the school was 143.

## Staffing numbers (Jan 2024)

15.4 FTE teaching staff

395 Hours SSO

35 Hours Aboriginal Community Education Officer

37 Hours Community Librarian

54 Hours GSE

## School leadership:

Principal

Assistant Principal – Secondary

Assistant Principal – Primary

Assistant Principal – Wellbeing, Intervention & Support

## 1. Students (welfare)

### General characteristics

The students at Meningie Area school come from a variety of backgrounds with approximately 25% of the student population being indigenous students, the majority local Ngarrindjeri, 50% on school card, about one third having been assessed for EALD support, and a significant number of students with disabilities.

### Student well-being programs

Meningie Area School uses the Berry Street Education Model focussing on students understanding emotions and developing self-regulation and engagement. The home group teachers take on the role of monitoring wellbeing and attendance with the support of Assistant Principals (primary, secondary and wellbeing). Two 50-minute lessons are dedicated each week to pastoral care where students explore wellbeing programs, pathway planning and preparing for whole school events.

An Aboriginal Education Team (Aboriginal Education Teacher, Aboriginal Community Education Officer, Language instructor and Aboriginal Education Worker) work with students and staff to ensure an inclusive and culturally sensitive environment is fostered in the school.

## Student voice

The Assistant Principal Wellbeing/Intervention & Support facilitates the Student Representative Council. Captain(s) are elected in Term 4 and student representatives early in Term 1. They regularly seek information from the student body about issues that impact on the daily life of the school, organise social activities and undertake fundraising for various charitable organisations. Students' are encouraged to develop their leadership through opportunities such as Youth Parliament and Rural Ambassadors.

## 2. Key school documents

Please see the school's website at [www.meningieas.sa.edu.au](http://www.meningieas.sa.edu.au) for all key documents and policies.

## 3. Curriculum

R to 10 student programs are from the Australian Curriculum (English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities & Social Sciences, Health & Physical Education, Technologies, Arts and Languages). Aboriginal students learn Ngarrindjeri and R-6 students learn AUSLAN. Students Year 4-12 can learn an instrument through the Department for Education's instrumental music program. Specialist teachers visit the school weekly.

Students in Year 11 and 12 study highly personalised programs based on SACE (face to face and via Open Access), Vocational Education including School Based Apprenticeships and capabilities development. Aboriginal students can learn Ngarrindjeri through to Year 12.

A broad range of vocational certificates are offered through the Murray Bridge High School Trade Training Centre. These courses are generally offered 1 day a week and school support for course costs and travel costs is available. SAASTA (South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy) is also offered 1 day a week at Murray Bridge High School.

Two written descriptive reports are provided at the end of each semester (July and December). Parent/family interviews run at the end of term 1/start of term 2. Parents/families can request an interview at any time.

### Focus programs

#### Agriculture & Entrepreneurial learning

The technologies and science curriculum have a strong theme of Agriculture (R-12) reflecting a strong local industry. This is celebrated in the annual Enterprise Expo held in August. Students showcase their learning and sell products to the community including our industry partners. The Royal Adelaide Show Team present their animals at the expo as final preparation for the show.

#### Capabilities development

Meningie Area School has a commitment to holistic development of students focused on capabilities and community engagement. Students Year 3-8 participate in the Children's University program [Children's University \(cuaustralasia.com\)](http://cuaustralasia.com), students year 8-12 participate in the Duke of Edinburgh program [dukeofed.org.au](http://dukeofed.org.au)

Meningie Area School is engaged in the SACE capabilities pilot to develop ways of recognising student capabilities as well as academic achievement in the SACE record of achievement.

#### Ngarrindjeri Language

All Aboriginal students have the opportunity to study Ngarrindjeri R-12. The community have instigated this program as a key component of reviving language and providing students the opportunity to learn culture while at school. A

specialist language instructor delivers the courses. The course has won awards and is a lead in delivering Aboriginal Languages at the Stage 2 SACE level.

## Student support

All students have access to computers. R-3 students have iPads and laptops in their classrooms. Year 4-6 have an allocated laptop in their classroom. Secondary students are provided a laptop which can be taken home for learning. The school has an ICT SSO available for support in using their equipment.

The school undertakes all mandatory standardised testing as well as a range of diagnostic assessments to track students. Students with additional needs are on a “OnePlan” which set goals and identifies supports. Department for Education speech pathologists, psychologists and occupational therapists provide advice and strategies for staff to use to support students. A dedicated team of School Support Staff provide support to individuals or small groups working on literacy, numeracy and social skills.

A breakfast club runs each morning from 8:30am in the Home Economics space. Lunch orders are available through Freshies Café Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

A homework club operates in the Community Library from 3:05 – 4pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays.

## Transition

There are extensive transition programs:

### Meningie Kindergarten to Meningie Area School

There is a combination of formal and informal transitions. Meningie Kindy visit Meningie Area School regularly for play sessions, library sessions, attending events such as Book Week. There is a formal process for transition with visits of increasing length to support children prepare for school.

### Raukkan Aboriginal School to Meningie Area School

Raukkan students attend Meningie Area School fortnightly for two lessons all year. They go into their year level class and complete class work with their peers. Raukkan students are invited to participate in events such as Sports Day, Swim Carnival.

From week 6, term 3 students transitioning to secondary school attend full day Fridays, and from week 4, term 4 full days Thursdays and Fridays.

## 4. Extracurricular activities

Meningie Area School highly values extracurricular activities to support students expanding their experiences beyond Meningie.

**Sport:** the school runs a School Sports Day in term 1 and a School Swim Carnival in term 4. The focus of the days is participation and team spirit in earning points for the two houses No:ri and Kungari. Students are selected from these days to compete in Interschools Carnivals against other schools in the Upper South-East. From the interschool competition students may be selected to represent the Upper South-East in Adelaide.

A number of sports are offered as interschool competitions e.g. Tag Rugby, Netball, Frisbee Golf, Cross Country. Classes participate in these as part of their Health & Physical Education programme.

**SAPSASA and SSSASA:** students wishing to participate in regional teams can nominate via an APP. Notifications of these sports is sent home via the school communication system EDSMART and Facebook. Parents/families can nominate their children and are responsible for transport to trainings and events.

**Sailing:** Meningie Area School partners with the Meningie Sailing Club to teach sailing to students in year 6 & 7 as part of their Health & Physical Education programme. The school and club also run after school sailing on Wednesday afternoons (3pm-4:15pm) in terms 1 and 4 for any students interested in sailing. Teams are formed to participate in the State Secondary Schools Team Sailing competition held in the April school holidays. A regional competition is held as a lead up to this event in mid March.

## 5. Co- Curricula Activities

### Arts

**Instrumental music:** students can choose to learn an instrument through the Department for Educations Instrumental Music Program from year 5. Teachers visit the school once a week to deliver lessons.

**Choir:** students can join a choir which participates in regional concerts and attends the Festival of Music in Adelaide.

**School production:** a whole school production is held biennially.

### Agriculture

**Royal Adelaide Show Team:** the region has a strong agriculture focus and the school curriculum reflects this. Agriculture is offered as a subject from year 4. Committed students year 6-12 can join the “Show Team” and attend the Royal Adelaide Show exhibiting steers, sheep and goats.

### Reading

All students are encouraged to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge throughout the year. Book Week is celebrated in Term 3, Week 5 with activities and an assembly – families welcome.

### Community Connections

The school has strong connection to community. Primary students have a long-standing program with Jallarah Homes engaging with residents. Secondary students engage with career education locally with visits, work experience and school-based traineeships. Students exhibit art pieces at the local community “Coorong Industries and local public spaces. The agriculture program is supported by many businesses including the donation of stock, equipment and expertise.

### Camps & Excursions

There is a program of camps and excursions across R-12. R-3 have “sleep overs” and excursions to local venues such as Monarto Zoo, Taillem Town. From year 3 students attend camps in Adelaide and other excursions. Students’ year 7-10 have opportunities such as aquatics camps, outdoor adventure camps and a Canberra Camp. Senior students have an annual camp in Adelaide for the Adelaide Fringe to experience performances and exhibitions to support their learning.

## 6. Staff (and their welfare)

### Staff profile:

#### Teaching:

There are approximately 17 teaching staff (including leaders) with a mix of long serving teachers and newer teachers. Some teachers live and are part of the community others commute into Meningie. R-3 teachers generally teach in the early years, upper primary teachers in the upper primary. Specialist secondary teachers take some classes in years 4-6. As a R-12 site staff are flexible and teacher composite classes. Specialist hourly paid instructors are used for specialist programs e.g. Ngarrindjeri language.

#### Support staff:

A Business Manager oversees support staff. Grounds staff maintain the extensive grounds and manage the agriculture block. A Community Librarian Assistant supports students and community members in the School/Community Library. A team of administration staff manage all the administrative requirements for the school. A large team of curriculum support staff work are integral to the learning of students and work with teachers to support students with individual needs and intervention programs for students requiring extra support.

#### Staff support systems:

Professional learning is supported by weekly Teaching & Learning meetings held on Tuesday afternoons. Professional Learning Communities are determined by priorities each year and may be linked to local partnership PLC's. Primary and Secondary Intervention & Support meetings are held 3 times per term (Thursdays) for identifying students requiring support and strategies for them. Staff can apply to undertake professional learning through their line manager.

Staff are required to undertake performance development and are allocated a line manager to negotiate a minimum of two performance meetings a year to discuss teaching and learning programs, professional development, career pathways and wellbeing. New staff are allocated a "buddy" to support them in settling into the school. Early Career Teachers are supported to undertake the Department for Education Early Career Teacher training. Their assigned mentor is also supported to undertake their role.

Local Education Team and Regional Services are available to staff for specialised support.

#### Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff:

- Complexity placement points :Refer to EA Schedule 2.1
- Isolation placement points :3.0
- Shorter terms : No
- Travelling time :No
- Housing assistance :Yes
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance :Yes
- Additional increment allowance :No
- Designated schools benefits :No
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools :No
- Medical and dental treatment expenses : No
- Locality allowances :Zone 2
- Relocation assistance :Yes
- Principal's telephone costs :No

## 7. School facilities:

The school has modern learning spaces which were completed mid-2019. All classrooms have natural light, ventilation and technology. Stage 2 development replacing the administration block and school/community library will commence in 2024.

The R-3 block is self-contained with classrooms, a shared multipurpose room, self-regulation room and spaces for individual and small group work. The R-3's have their own yard and playground and also access the wonderful nature playground.

The primary block houses primary students, a Wellbeing Hub and a Cultural Room. The secondary block houses learning spaces, a study room with facilities for students studying independently and a STEM space. Primary students access specialist spaces.

All areas use WiFi networks, have interactive screens and devices for students. The school uses EMS for administrative tasks and is transitioning to FROG as a learning platform.

Specialist facilities include:

- School/community library
- An agriculture block with approximately 5 hectares of land (an additional 10 hectares leased from council) with machinery sheds, animal handling facilities for cattle, sheep, goats and poultry, paddocks for grain production, aquaculture facilities and vegetable gardens.
- Gym/Hall – used for physical education, assemblies and events.
- Arts area – performing arts learning space with individual music rooms and a visual arts space
- Technologies – kitchens and materials workshops
- Swimming pool – used for primary swimming lessons, splash days and fun days.
- Oval, outdoor basketball/netball court, nature playground and traditional playgrounds.
- Facilities are wheelchair friendly

Staff facilities

- Each teacher is allocated office space and all staff are able to access workstations in the spacious staffroom.
- All staff are allocated a laptop for work including marking attendance, completing student notes in EMS, and curriculum planning. Teams is used for collaborative work including consultation, assembly and event planning.

Buses

- The school has one Department for Education bus that does the Raukkan bus run. This bus is available during the day for excursions at no cost.
- BuzBiz are the contractor for two bus runs – one north and one south. These buses are available during the day for a cost.

## 8. School operations

### Decision making structures:

Meningie Area School practises participatory decision-making where appropriate. A committed leadership team is responsible for the main decision-making for the school, although proposals for improvement are also generated from staff, Governing Council, committees and community individuals. Staff, students and Governing Council are consulted on all major changes in policy or direction.

A structure of committees and task groups contribute to planning and managing specific functions of the school and events. Student Voice is able to contribute and/or sit on committees/tasks groups through Student Representative Council.

## Communications

### Families

**EMS:** sends messages of student absences to families

**EDSMART:** school broadcasts, newsletters and CONSENT forms are sent by email via EDSMART.

**Newsletters:** are published three times a term (week 3, 6 and 9), sent via EDMSART and are on the website. A hard copy can be requested. Newsletter items are also published in the community “Lakelander”

**Facebook:** general posts on student success and upcoming events.

**Email:** staff may email individual families with specific information.  
*Please respect teacher work-life balance only email staff from 8am – 6pm school days.*

**FROG:** FROG is the Department for Education Learner Management System. Whole school notices, student class programs, resources and information are available to students and families (through the parent portal – link on webpage). The school will transition to this in 2024/2025. Teachers not using FROG will post class notes, resources on Teams which students access through EDPASS (link on webpage).

**Website:** provides general information about the school and programs, key documents and newsletters are uploaded to the website.

**School sign:** a sign on the main road posts information on upcoming events.

### Staff

**Calendar:** is on FROG.

**Notices:** staff can put in “staff notices” visible to staff or “whole school” visible to staff, students and families

**Collaboration:** Teams is used for collaboration by staff and linked to Sharepoint.

**Documents:** The curriculum drive is used for storage of school documents.

### Finances

The school is in a very sound financial position and operates within the Department for Education funding requirements. The Finance Committee meet twice a term and report to Governing Council who oversee the budget. Facilities and equipment are managed through an asset management plan and a cyclic replacement plan.



## 9. Local community

### General characteristics

Local industry is based around agriculture and the fishing industry. Local primary production includes dairying, beef cattle, wool and meat sheep and cropping. Many of our students come from these farming enterprises. There are a number of enterprises in the town servicing these industries. A significant number of fishermen undertake sustainable fishing operations in Lakes Albert and Alexandrina and the Coorong for species such as Coorong Mullet, Redfin, Callop and Carp. A number of our students live at the Raukkan Community, located approximately 48 kms from Meningie on the shores of Lake Albert.

### Feeder or destination schools

There is a transition program for students who attend the Meningie Kindergarten and start Reception at Meningie Area School. Students from the Raukkan Aboriginal School transition to Meningie Area School during the primary years.

### Other local care and educational facilities

The town has its own childcare centre and kindergarten both of which are located separately from the school site.

### Parent/family involvement

Meningie Area School has an enthusiastic and active Governing Council. Their successes include ensuring the funding of the Stage 2 development, facilities and grounds improvements. A PaCSS (parent and caregiver school support) is currently inactive but can be revitalised by interested family members. Volunteers are welcome in the community library and the school. The school engaged COMMSHAKE to undertake a broad community consultation to develop a new vision, mission, motto, values and logo in 2023.

### Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

The centre of Meningie has a supermarket, a coffee shop, takeaway food outlets, a bakery, a café, hardware store, service station, bottle shop, a hotel, two motels, a restaurant, and a caravan park. Other local facilities The town and district are well served by a local hospital and medical centre with a number of doctors on staff. There is a large recreational area servicing the local football, netball, and cricket clubs. There is also a well-regarded golf course with 18 watered greens.

### Availability of staff housing

There are some government houses available for rent, but in most cases teachers who rent housing are situated in private rental properties and have their rent subsidised.

### Accessibility

It takes approximately 2 hours to drive to Adelaide while Murray Bridge is just under an hour away. A bus service is available to get to Murray Bridge in the morning and to return in the afternoon, and there is a regular bus service that will take passengers to and from Adelaide.

Portfolio: Murray Bridge 1

Partnership: Coorong/Mallee

Meningie Area School, Meningie Kindergarten, Raukkan Aboriginal School, Coomandook Area School, Tintinara Area School, Karoonda Area School, Lameroo Regional Community

School, Pinnaroo Primary School, Pinnaroo Kindergarten  
Council: Coorong District Council (satellite office in Meningie)  
Local State Electorate: McKillop  
Federal Electorate: Barker