

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 07/13

School Name: Cowell Area School

School Number: 0735

1. General Information

Part A

School name : COWELL AREA SCHOOL
School No. : 0735
Principal : Mrs Julie-Anne Byrnes
Postal Address : 42 Story Road, Cowell 5602
Location Address : 42 Story Road, Cowell 5602
District : Eyre & Western
Distance from GPO : 495 kms
CPC attached : NO

Courier : Cowell

Phone No. : 08 86292150
Fax No. : 08 86292486

	2015	2016	2017
February FTE Enrolment			
Primary			
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.			
Reception	20.0	22.0	11.0
Year 1	15.0	19.0	20.0
Year 2	10.0	16.0	18.0
Year 3	14.0	12.0	15.0
Year 4	12.0	16.0	10.0
Year 5	21.0	12.0	13.0
Year 6	16.0	21.0	10.0
Year 7	14.0	17.0	17.0
Secondary			
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.			
Year 8	11.0	14.0	15.0
Year 9	11.0	9.0	13.0
Year 10	8.0	8.0	5.0
Year 11	11.0	7.0	4.0
Year 12	5.0	10.0	7.0
Year 12plus			
TOTAL	168.0	183.00	158.0
July total FTE Enrolment			
Male FTE	87.0	98.0	91.0
Female FTE	81.0	85.0	67.0
School Card Approvals (Persons)			
NESB Total (Persons)	2.0	2.0	3.0
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	10.0	9.0	10.0

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's name
Mrs Colleen Peters
- School e-mail address
dl.0735.info@schools.sa.edu.au.
- Staffing numbers
16.6
- OSHC
:No.
- Enrolment trends
:Numbers have been relatively stable around 170-180, however fell to 158 this year due mostly to low Reception enrolments. A downturn in the mining and oyster industry has also affected employment in the town.
- Special arrangements
:N/A.
- Year of opening
:1908.
- Public transport access
:Daily Ferry service from Wallaroo to Lucky Bay (not operating during winter)
Daily Premier State-liner service to Adelaide

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
Cowell Area School is a R-12 school catering for students in a small rural community (farming, aquaculture, service industries and mining). The school underwent a major renovation 6 years ago to replace old buildings. We now have a new specialist learning area building which houses Food and Hospitality, Science, Art, Local Delivery, a Meeting Room and offices. The Middle School has its own classrooms and offices in a space adjacent to their own recreation area.
Our Senior School students also have a defined area and the use of a wide deck for recreation.
The school is situated on landscaped grounds and boasts a large oval and a swimming pool which we share with the community. The school also has an accommodation facility which is used for visiting schools and those associated with education.

A major renovation has been completed on the “Skills” area of the school and this includes the Design Technology Area. This area compliments our Aquaculture Centre and Marine Science Area.

Student behaviour is generally very good and reflects supportive family backgrounds within an active community.

School card holders comprise 33% of the school population. The school is serviced by 3 DECD school buses which transport approximately 17% of the student population.

Care programs

A 5 minute morning and 5 minute afternoon home group session is scheduled for the beginning and end of each school day.

A Pastoral Care programme using a Skillstreaming programme from R-6 andfrom 7-12 occurs once a week in each home class.

A Mentoring programme through Eyre Futures was established in 2016 - we now have 5 trained mentors working with identified students on a weekly basis and we are planning to grow this programme over the next few years.

Support offered

A Student Wellbeing Leader offers support for the R-12 student population and works with individual students and small groups across the school. The school has a Pastoral Care Worker who also provides support across the school.

A Family Focus/Attendance worker is based at our school and works across the Partnership.

Course/Career Counselling – General student counselling via homegroup teachers and leadership.

A Homework club was established in 2016 and operates on 3 nights, out of the school community library – staffed by volunteer teachers.

Support is accessed through DECD and outside agencies as required

The school has an annually reviewed code of conduct, teacher and parental support in line with DECD policies.

- Student Voice
 - R-12 Student Representative Council is elected annually and meet on a regular basis. Students are actively involved in school decision making processes and relevant committees. They receive training and support in both leadership and meeting management. House leaders support sports events and school events.
 - Senior SRC students across Eyre and Western meet once a term by video conference and assist in organising a face to face event.
- Special programmes: A Trade Training centre has been established which offers Certificate 1 and 2 in Aquaculture and Seafood Operations. The school operates its own 2 hectare oyster lease, managed by an Aquaculture committee, and engages regular with local industry.
- Local Delivery – some senior school subjects are received and delivered by our site.
- SSO support for students with specific needs is implemented across the school.
 - Community volunteers provide assistance with Reading programmes.
 - Extra curricular homework sessions after school may be delivered.

3. Key School Policies

- Statement of Purpose

Our core business at Cowell Area School is teaching and learning in a caring and supportive environment. Our actions are guided by Department of Education and Children's Services (DECD) and school policies.

The school's vision is '**Developing a positive and innovative community.**

The school's purpose is '**Achieving our potential now and in the future.**

The school's values are **Respect, Learning, Success and Responsibility.**

The schools Vision and Values are currently under review.

- **Priorities for 2016-2017**

- **Literacy**
- **Numeracy**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Wellbeing**

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

R-10 curriculum is based upon the Australian Curriculum

Wide ranging courses offered in academic and vocational pathways. Certificate 1 in Seafood and Certificate 2 in Aquaculture (oysters) are offered to students in Years 10-12 and Aquaculture is taught at Years 8 and 9. Maritime competencies (boating skills, diving and elements of shipboard safety) are also offered as part of the Certificate 2 in Aquaculture.

The school operates its own 2 hectare oyster lease in the waters off Franklin Harbour. We currently have around 300 000 spat (growing oysters) out in the bay. We are working towards being self -sufficient. The lease is overseen by a Farm Manager and managed by the Aquaculture Committee. We work closely with local industry and government bodies such as PIRSA and NRM to further enhance student learning

We are committed to high levels of ICT across the school and using digital resources to provide access to learning.

Indonesian is taught from R-6

- Open Access

: Access to Open Access College is available, as is access to subjects via Local Delivery from other schools in our Region. A specialised video conferencing room has been established to support students involved in Distance Learning Subjects, it is equipped with room based video conferencing facilities.

- Special Needs

The school has allocated funds to have a teacher with a Special Education focus, who coordinates the referral process, administration around Support Services, NEPs, ILPs, SSO support, special programmes, resources, liaises with parents etc

Dedicated intervention programmes for a number of students R-12 with disabilities and/or learning difficulties are implemented. Support from other agencies is actively sought.

- **Special curriculum features**

Wide ranging vocational courses including Australian School Based Apprenticeships. Students across the school are exposed to Marine Science /Aquaculture, using the school Oyster Farm and surrounding Mangrove areas as a valuable resource.

- **Teaching methodology**

Where possible small classes support student learning. Teachers have a current focus on Transforming tasks, particularly Closed to Open and the use of Socratic questioning.

Video Conferencing is utilised to enhance some learning programmes.

Internet access is available for every student and staff member within the school supported by an IT Technician. Students from years 6-12 have laptops and there are Interactive Whiteboards in every classroom. The school has a central computer room and classes also have various access to technology.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

R-6 – Continuous assessment and reporting structure complemented by interviews and written reports each semester.

7-9 – End of term written report twice per year, complemented by optional interviews

10-12 – Interviews in Terms 1 & 3.

10-11 – End of each semester written report.

12 – End of first semester written report.

Result statements posted to students at end of year by SSABSA.

- **Joint programmes**

Students are able to access a variety of sporting experiences with schools in our region. An annual Interschool athletics carnival is held.

Programs with community organisations are encouraged

Partnerships exist with TAFESA

Vocational courses shared with other schools.

5. Sporting Activities

The school actively participates in a wide range of sporting activities including SAPSASA, SASSA, Interschool Athletics, Community and Eyre Peninsula Sports Clubs.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
- Assemblies are a highlight each term.
 - School Choir (Movers and Groovers)
 - A Dance programme for students R-9 is offered on site, once per week by a private dance teacher
 - Private music lessons are offered on site, once per week
- Special
 - Working partnerships with Eastern Eyre Aged Care & Health supporting curriculum initiatives eg school based immunisation program, Health Expos, Drug Strategy Program, postural screening program.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
 - 18 active teaching staff: 13 female, 5 male, who teach across 3 sub-schools – Primary R-6, Middle 9-7, Senior 10-12. 16 ancillary staff : 11 female, 5 male. ^7% of teachers are permanently employed. A highly competent and committed staff working across a range of learning areas. There is some turnover of teaching staff most years. Currently the school has 5 teachers on Step 9 and 2 teachers going through the certification process. We have 4 Early Career teachers
- Leadership structure
 - Leadership positions are Principal (female), Deputy Principal (female), R-6 Coordinator (male), Senior School Coordinator (female) and Student Wellbeing Leader (female).
- Staff support systems
 - Weekly staff meetings are held on a Tuesday
 - Regular SSO meetings are held.
- Performance Management
 - All staff are involved in performance and development meetings and the development of a plan with their line managers.
- Staff utilisation policies
 - There is an emphasis on non teaching staff supporting student learning and Tier 2 staffing is directed at NEP students.
 - Grounds person and Aquaculture Farm Manager are employed.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
 - :4.0
- Isolation placement points
 - :5.0

- Shorter terms
:N/A
- Travelling time
:approximately 5.5 hours by road
- Housing assistance
:Subsidised rental in Government Housing
- Cooling for school buildings
:air-conditioned.
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
:As per DECD Policy.
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:N/A
- Locality allowances
:Apply to this school.
- Relocation assistance
:Available as per DECD policy.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
:The property consist of 8.14 hectare. A brick Administration/Community Library was constructed in 1999.
In 2010/11 the school underwent a major re-development and saw a new multipurpose secondary building, two sets of classrooms purpose built for small area schools completed. The 2009/10 BER funding saw two sets of Primary buildings constructed. This project finished with the opening of the new school buildings held in August 2013
The school has an oval, swimming pool and an accommodation facility.
School Pride money was used for the renovation of the Junior School and outdoor painting.
The School Community Library is an integral part of the school and open to the public.
- Specialist Faciities
Community Pool, Home Economics, Technical studies, Computer lab, Community Library, Art room, Science Lab, Aquaculture facility (tanks, processing shed), Video conferencing room
- Access to bus transport
:DECD buses are available for student travel purposes.
Cowell manages a CAP bus which is shared with Cleve Area School and lease a 12 seater HiAce

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

These are clearly mapped for access by all members of the school community with staff meetings and Governing Council providing the main forums for discussion of issues and decision making.

Separate Committee meetings deal with issues relevant to the school. All staff are involved in the implementation of agreed current school priorities through meetings and performance development. There is an emphasis on consultation with parents.

An active Parents and Friends group is in operation.
- Regular publications

Teaching and SSO staff information is published and updated regularly.

School newsletter published weekly.

Curriculum information handbook published for Senior Secondary cluster group annually.

Annual School Magazine.

Daily staff/student bulletin notices and Student Absentees on Intranet

Copies of meeting minutes for all committees are available.
- Other communication

Local media – newspaper, television, radio.

Facebook page

Website address: www.cowellas.sa.edu.au.

Feature articles re school and courses.

Eyre Peninsula Field Day exhibitions and at other locations
- School financial position

The school is in a sound financial position.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

The town and district supports Agriculture (wheat, barley and sheep) and extensive Aquaculture developments (oysters, fish).

Employment is also available at Iron Duke, mining ore, and with service providers.

Cowell is a monocultural community with a strong emphasis on participation in sport.

Community groups always welcome new members eg Art/Craft, Community Development, CFS, Air Sea Rescue, SA Ambulance, Church Groups etc.
- Parent and community involvement

:Parents are involved in the school through Governing Council, Mentoring, Volunteering and other classroom support programs. There is a range of active sub committees eg. Finance, Parents and Friends, Swimming Pool Management, Uniform, Aquaculture, Grounds and Facilities

- Feeder Schools
 - None.
 - Other local care and educational facilities
 - Cowell Early Childhood Centre, located in the school grounds, operates Tuesday and Thursday (school bus transport available). Occasional Care is available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Centre and Playgroup operates on Friday mornings.
 - A highly successful transition program currently exists between the centre and school.
- Aged Care Hostel is located on the hospital grounds.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - The township provides a range of goods and services.
 - A number of small commercial industrial sites are located within the town.
- Other local facilities
 - The town currently has no police officer or regular medical practitioner. There are visiting specialists and allied health professionals, hospital and Aged Care facilities.
 - A range of sporting facilities including football, netball, basketball, golf, cricket, tennis, table tennis, lawn bowls, softball, swimming club and darts.
- Accessibility
 - Daily bus service to and from Adelaide.
 - Daily plane services available from Whyalla (107 kms away) and Port Lincoln (160 kms away).
 - Daily Wallaroo to Lucky Bay (11 km away) ferry services. (not in winter)
 - Bitumen roads Lincoln Highway (Whyalla to Port Lincoln) – Cowell, Cleve and Cleve/Kimba, Lucky Bay. All other arterial roads are gravel or have gravel sections.
- Local Government Body
 - Franklin Harbour District Council, phone 8629 2019, services a population of approximately 1,300 people. Publications describing the local area are available upon request from the Council office, Cowell Tourist Information Centre or visit the council website at www.franklinharbour.sa.gov.au