



## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 03/24

**School number: 0289**

**School name: MOUNT COMPASS AREA SCHOOL**

### School Profile

Mount Compass is a Reception to Year 12 community oriented school with a focus on high quality teaching and learning that supports all students to thrive and achieve their best. Mount Compass Area School was established in 1899 and has been at its present site since 1934.

#### *Our vision:*

Is for Mount Compass Area School students to graduate to be lifelong learners who are inquisitive, persistent in their learning, confident in their abilities, resilient to the challenges life brings to them and connected to the community and world around them.

We pride ourselves on providing:

- care and compassion for every child
- a safe and inclusive learning environment
- knowledge of students and how they learn
- highly effective teaching strategies
- comprehensive subject knowledge and a focus on student success
- a strong and connected partnership with parents and carers

#### *Our values are:*

**Integrity:** doing the right thing even when no-one is watching

**Respect:** appreciating ourselves, others, our school and community

**Kindness:** being helpful and caring for others

### 1. General information

School Principal name: **Mrs Lucie Walker**

Deputy Principal's name: **Mr Andrew Cousins**

Year of opening: **1934**

Postal Address: **PO Box 54, MOUNT COMPASS SA 5210**

Location Address: **School Road, MOUNT COMPASS SA 5210**

DfE Region: **Fleurieu Partnership**

Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km): **59Kms**

Telephone number: **08 8556 8219**

Fax Number: 08 8556 8471

School website address: [www.compassas.sa.edu.au](http://www.compassas.sa.edu.au)

School e-mail address: [dl.0289.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0289.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: N/A

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: **OSHC is open each day from 7:00am to 8:50am and 3.15pm to 6.00pm.**

#### February FTE student enrolment

Year Level	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
Reception	30	36	29	25	28	25
Year 1	27	31	36	27	25	30
Year 2	37	33	30	41	33	30
Year 3	28	39	34	30	45	39
Year 4	30	32	38	39	35	48
Year 5	29	31	35	36	37	38
Year 6	31	27	30	35	40	37
Year 7	45	33	27	32	37	48
Year 8	42	44	25	25	39	37
Year 9	35	41	39	23	25	39
Year 10	35	33	34	36	22	26
Year 11	21	39	25	33	42	27
Year 12	27	17	24	16	26	32
Year 12 Plus	2		1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>457</b>
August FTE	413	437	409	392.4	435	
Male FTE	207	225	208	193	205	
Female FTE	206	212	201	199	230	
Schoolcard	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
<b>Total</b>	146	116	84	103	97	
NESB Total (Persons)	12	12	11	9	6	12
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	15	16	13	21	22	25

#### Staffing numbers (as at February census):

30 teaching staff (32.6 FTE)
26 Ancillary Staff (606.25 hours)
Leadership positions – 1 Principal, 1 Deputy Principal, 4 x Band 2 Leaders, 1 x Band 1 Leader

#### Public transport access:

Public transport access is via the LinkSA service to Victor Harbor but this does not coincide with school starting and finishing times. There is no east-west public transport.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

As an area school, we are fortunate to be able to keep students in our community for their entire schooling experience and have a structure in place for us to meet the developing needs of our students within a familiar and secure environment.

The school is organised in three sub-schools:

- Junior School (Reception to year 5)
- Middle School (years 6-9)
- Senior School (years 10-12).

At Mount Compass Area School, we prioritise student wellbeing and work hard to ensure every student feels a sense of belonging. Wellbeing is supported through a comprehensive pastoral care program which is accessed by all students. In addition to whole school responses, we also have a targeted provision to cater for students with specific needs.

Students are supported in their learning and wellbeing by all staff, however, we have a team of staff members with a focus on support and interventions including:

- Inclusive Education leader
- Wellbeing leader
- On-site Social Worker
- Youth workers
- Aboriginal Education and Community Worker
- Pastoral Care Worker
- School Support Officers (SSOs)

## 3. Key School Policies

Relevant school information may be sourced from the school website at [www.compassas.sa.edu.au](http://www.compassas.sa.edu.au) including current policies, Site Improvement Plans and Annual Reports.

## 4. Curriculum

Mount Compass Area School delivers a comprehensive learning program from Reception to Year 12. The R-12 connectedness of Mount Compass Area School provides the opportunity for all students to access all learning areas and we continue to explore ways to involve students in mentoring programs, provide student access to the practical learning areas and engage our local community in supporting learning beyond the classroom.

The **Junior School** builds on the foundation laid in the child's first five years at home, childcare and/or preschool.

Strategies include

- Using play-based learning including the Walker Learning Approach to support Early Years learners.
- Creating a warm, supportive and secure learning environment in which students take risks to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Creating a culture of lifelong learning.
- Providing an integrated curriculum which fosters independent thinking, problem solving skills, creativity, self-management, teamwork and social competence.

- Encouraging students to recognise and develop their individual skills, interests and strengths through participation in a wide variety of activities outside the classroom, and through a range of teaching approaches.
- Using a synthetic and systematic approach in the early years that explicitly and effectively teaches phonics, which includes phoneme/grapheme correspondence, segmenting and blending, expanding vocabulary and decoding texts with fluency.

Every child is encouraged to develop knowledge and skills at a rate appropriate to their level of maturation in all learning and teaching situations. The aim is to keep motivation high, embrace failure as a learning opportunity and not intervene too quickly in providing correct information but, alternatively, to provoke children to think more deeply or from another perspective.

**Middle schooling** at Mount Compass recognises the needs of the adolescent learner and provides a broad curriculum that allows students to develop independent learning skills in an environment of mutual respect and trust. Successful learning in the Middle Years builds upon the engagement, wellbeing and cognitive skills developed in the Early Years. The culture of this Reception to Year 12 School is supportive of the development of these important elements which foster the essential learning qualities of persistence, conscientiousness and a sense of self-efficacy.

Middle School students are challenged with greater ownership for their own learning as they engage in collaborative problem solving, inquiry learning and interdisciplinary learning in flexible learning spaces. The learning environment in Middle School is more diverse than the Primary Years and there is an expectation that students become independent learners with the capacity to be inventive and innovative.

Students in Years 6-9 undertake a range of subjects aligned with the Australian Curriculum. Their learning occurs through a continuous mixing of explicit teaching and negotiated learning. Students are provided with the skills to analyse their own learning style and negotiate a preferred method of preparing and presenting their learning.

**Senior schooling** at Mount Compass Area School provides a comprehensive learning program that is multi-faceted. Learning at this level is based upon preparing our students to be life-long learners, willing to learn new skills and open to the diversity and challenges that they may face as they learn. We cater for all career pathways and work to support our student to be best prepared for life in and beyond school.

Students can choose from a range of subjects in the senior years: Agriculture, Art, Biology, Chemistry, Community Studies, Design and Technology, English and Essential English, Food and Hospitality, Psychology, Mathematics (Essential, General and Specialist), Physical Education and VET (Vocational Education and Training).

The Senior School places high expectations on students as role models within our Reception to Year 12 community to promote excellence at every opportunity. We want all student striving to be the best version of themselves that they can in order to have as many opportunities as possible as they embark on life post our school. We work to support our students on their learning journey through programs such as time management, study skills and exploring post-school options.

An overview of student achievement is presented for all students as a written report at the end of each Semester and three-way interviews are conducted at the end of Terms 1 and 3.

## **Special Needs**

Mount Compass Area School staff monitor and track students to ensure ongoing progress and engagement for all learners. As well as innovative and tailored classroom practice we also offer targeted learning responses to meet the needs of identified students.

Some of the programs and responses include:

- Phonics program
- Reading army
- Reading doctor
- Phonological Awareness Intervention
- Speech Intervention
- Extension/Stretch small group novel study
- Big Ideas in Number & QuickSmart Numeracy Interventions

Students with disabilities receive additional support according to their needs and this is documented in consultation with parents into a One Plan.

Responses include:

- Differentiated classroom learning
- In class support
- Individual and small group programs
- Alternative timetables and intensive support

## **5. Sporting Activities**

The school is equipped with a Gymnasium and a range of outside sporting facilities. In addition, the school has a joint agreement with Mount Compass War Memorial Community Centre to use the Town Oval on a needs basis.

Our R – 12 School Sports Day, a major event in our school calendar provides students with opportunities to achieve their personal best in individual events as well as achieve success in a variety of team games. All students have the opportunity to participate in a range of sporting activities throughout the school year. A full Physical Education program is offered to all year levels. A large number of SAPSSASA and SASSSA teams are fielded each year. The Fleurieu Golf Club is located within the township of Mount Compass and is used by students as part of the Physical Education program.

The SACE PE subject is enhanced through practicals in our local environment including venues in historic Willunga, Aldinga Beach and the Murray River.

## **6. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

In addition to the delivery of core learning, the school provides the following;

- Vocation and Education Training through the Southern Adelaide and Fleurieu Secondary Schools Alliance incorporating secondary schools on the Fleurieu Peninsula with the delivery of Certificate III Agriculture through TAFE delivered at the school and the opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students to engage in a range of learning within the trades accommodated through this alliance.
- Access to the Mount Compass Area School farm which is a high quality agricultural education facility, comprised of 16Ha grazing area, feedlot paddocks, chook production, goat area and beef and dairy cattle yards.

- Participating in the Royal Adelaide Show across 5 different agricultural exhibits which gives students an opportunity to interact with industry and make important connections within the Agricultural field.
- “Cows Create Careers’ program in partnership with a local dairy
- A comprehensive camping policy including a broad range of exciting incursion and excursion experiences.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award as part of the Year 10 Personal Learning Plan. Students engage in the Bronze Award as part of their school program and can continue independently to achieve a Silver and Gold Award which contributes to their SACE achievement.
- A heritage listed Fleurieu swamp that is unique to the area. The swamp is conserved for public access, with many visitors stopping to view the boardwalk area, watch the birds and appreciate the fauna. The focus is on protecting and enhancing this unique and valuable asset, as well as monitoring and reducing the impact of our farming practices on this environment, due to the close proximity of these resources. The swamp provides an outdoor classroom for our students and is also utilised by other local schools, tertiary institutions and environmental groups.
- A STEM initiative to facilitate increased integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics across all learning areas and into general life skills.
- Explicit pathways in the learning of Mathematics.
- Access to the practical learning areas of Agriculture and Technology in the primary years.
- Target works program developed with a trade and entrepreneurial focus to provide students with practical skills and a pathway to trades.
- Operation Flinders an outdoor expedition conducted in the northern Flinders Ranges for students meeting the criteria.
- The opportunity to experience a snow trip every two years.
- A Distance Learning program to accommodate other Government schools without specific specialist learning area teachers. This delivery of learning, currently at Stage 1 Physics, Stage 2 General Mathematics and Stage 2 Specialist Mathematics and further learning areas dependent on the need.
- Volunteering program where students and linking in to a range of in school and beyond school opportunities.
- Work experience as part of a vocational preparation focus in year 10.
- Peer tutoring and mentoring where older students work with younger students as part of the pastoral care program.
- Lunchtime activities where students can go to singing club, play various sports or engage in a range of fun activities in the resource centre.
- Student leadership initiative where these students organise a variety of activities for the school community such as casual days, Compass has Talent and fundraising events. Student leaders also represent the students as advocates and to raise ideas and any other suggestions from their peers.

## **7. Staff (and their welfare)**

Most staff reside on the South Coast and surrounding hills and plains with some commuting from the southern suburbs. The staff social committee provides opportunities for shared activities. Teachers work in sub-school teams and Curriculum Learning (R – 12) teams. Leadership structure: Principal, Deputy Principal, four Sub-school Leaders (Junior, Middle, Senior), Student Wellbeing Leader, Inclusive Education Leader and Business Manager.

**Staff support systems:** Learning-centred Leadership at Mount Compass Area School seeks to create conditions under which all members collectively and individually, through a focus on learning, make sense of the issues and opportunities they face and take effective action. Staff are accorded the opportunity to engage in organisational learning through facilitating and convening whole-school planning and learning development groups. These groups may include Priority Groups administering Site Improvement Plan objectives, Action Groups, environmental and nature play planning, school farm planning and school-based committees like WHS, ICT and Sport.

### **Performance Management**

Teacher Performance Development Policy is supported by the DfE Performance Development Policy, the Australian Teacher Performance Development Framework and the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. We are committed to developing goals based on our school priorities, sharing aspects of progress in small teams and observation of practice with peers. Each staff member is assigned a line manager, and is expected to plan and collaborate to identify areas for their own personal and professional development.

### **Access to special staff**

The school hosts a Pastoral Care Worker and supports on a continuous basis a Pre-service Teacher and Social Work program with Flinders University.

## **9. School Facilities**

In 2020/21, as part of the Government's Capital Works program, Building Better Schools, there was the construction of new buildings to replace the old prefabricated classrooms.

The new look includes:

- State-of-the-art Design & Technology Centre
- Food & Hospitality Hub
- Art Studio
- Modern Resource Centre
- Inviting Administration Centre offering meeting spaces, offices and excellent staff room
- Modern Canteen facilities
- Upgrade to school gymnasium
- New classrooms
- CCTV system
- Landscaped grounds, gardens and lawns featuring a terraced stone wall entrance and new irrigation systems.
- Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Centre (completed in 2019)

The school has a joint-use agreement with the Mount Compass Community Centre, and uses the adjoining town oval, tennis and netball courts and Town Hall. It also has an agreement with the Lutheran Church for access to its parking area and hall.

OSHC ('Kidzone') utilises the Trade Training Centre on the school grounds from 7:00am until 8:50am and 3.15pm until 6.00pm each school day.

## **10. School Operations**

Decision making is designed to incorporate the fundamental principles of learning-centred leadership where staff are involved in key decision-making through specialist priority groups, committees and working parties.

There is a weekly staff meeting with a rotation of whole school meetings, sub-school and faculty areas. The Leadership team meets on a weekly basis and all decisions developed through the committee

structure are ratified by this group. Staff and parents serve on a wide range of committees. The Principal Advisory Committee (PAC) is elected for a two-year term at the beginning of term 2 each year.

The [school newsletter](#), (1 per term) is emailed to families and available on the school web site, and Schoolstream app provides information to our school community. Daily staff and student bulletins are provided via the school intranet and are constantly updated. A school [Facebook Page](#) is regularly updated to share news with the wider community.

The [school website](#) provides information about the school to the wider community, along with its Bushfire Policy Procedures, Anti-bullying Policies, ICT Policies, Uniform Policies and Grievance Policy.

## **11. Local Community**

### **General characteristics**

Mount Compass services a diverse agricultural community. Whilst dairy farming is the predominant agricultural industry there are also many successful enterprises in horticulture (berries, ornamental plants and flowers, other fruit and vegetables), livestock (beef, pork, venison), aquaculture (marron) and, increasingly, viticulture.

Mount Compass is well known for its quality sands and loam. There are also many small industries catering for specialty markets and tourism. There is an increasing range of services as a result of a new shopping complex including post office, pharmacy, doctor, physiotherapist and a comprehensive IGA. The Mount Compass community has grown considerably over the last decade with the development of the Fleurieu Golf Course, "Willowburn", "Compass Rise" and other housing estates.

### **Parent and community involvement**

The Parents and Friends committee is active and driven by passionate parents who raise funds to support programs and the learning environment. A significant role is developing opportunities to implement activities and events that cultivate wellbeing in our community. A Parents and Friends Facebook group creates links for families. A committed band of parents sit on Governing Council and are proactive and supportive of driving school improvement.

### **Feeder or destination schools**

As an R-12 school many students spend a significant amount of their education at Mount Compass Area School after transitioning from the local preschool. Mount Compass Area School has a local catchment area where we accept enrolments from.

### **Other local care and educational facilities**

Mount Compass Preschool Centre

### **Accessibility**

Trains run from Seaford Station. There are also local buses to Adelaide.

There is public transport access via LinkSA service to Victor Harbor. There is no east-west public transport.

## **12. Further Comments**

Teachers are encouraged to strive for certification as a Highly Accomplished, Lead Teacher, or Advanced Skills Teacher. Opportunities for teachers to develop their skills in leadership are embedded in the school culture.