SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

School number: **0423** **updated 3/25**

School name: **Swan Reach Area School**

School Vision & Profile:

Swan Reach Area School develops learners with **integrity, resilience, confidence** and **respect**.

Our students are encouraged to actively pursue **life long learning skills,** enabling them to be **successful thinkers** and **collaborative** contributors, in the communities they are part of – now and in the future.

Our values: Respect, Integrity, Success, Participation and Care. In 2025 Swan Reach Area School achieved satisfactorily with state and like school averages in SACE & VET outcomes. NAPLAN and Progressive Achievement Test results were steady, with a good percentage of students achieving the Department's new 'developing' and 'strong' outcomes, and some gaining 'exceeding'.

Swan Reach is a 'WeMatter' site that actively promotes the development and improvement of students' and staff wellbeing and mental health. We acknowledge the importance of wellbeing as an integral requirement for improving academic, social and physical needs of students, staff and families.

In 2025, we have a term 1 enrolment of 86.80 FTE. 14% of students identified as Students with Disabilities and 9% as ATSI. 75% of families are School Card Holders. We continue to experience an increase of enrolments from low socio-economic families seeking smaller classes and greater teacher time for their children. 68% of the school's enrolments over the past 3 years are from out of the district, especially from neighbouring townships of Blanchetown and Cambrai.

Programs are tailored to individual student's needs and include a broad range of subject choices including university pathways, vocational education and training options. The school with its excellent resources and facilities, together with the co-located Preschool and Community Library, form a Community Hub that we are proud of.

In 2018, The Swan Reach Area Kindergarten (SRAK) and Area School amalgamated to continue preschool services. The Early Learning Centre (SRAK) is modernised and hosts education for Preschools, and up to Year 1 students (when needed), as well as providing Playgroup and Occassional Care service. The Preschool traditionally attracts a number of children from Blanchetown, as it is the closest preschool, however SRAS doesn't tend to be their future school.

SRAS is geographically in the centre of 3 main regional towns. Murray Bridge, the Barossa District and the Riverland District. Our school is serviced from Murray Bridge DfE District Office (leadership and educational support) and also DfE Berri District Office (Disability support).

1. General information

- Principal : Troy Cowland
- Postal Address : Box 31, Swan Reach SA 5354
- Location Address : Showground Road, Swan Reach SA 5354
- Partnership : Murray Bridge 2
- Distance from GPO : 140 km
- CPC attached : No
- Phone No : 08 8570 2053
- Fax No : 08 8570 2325
- Email : dl.0423_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Year of opening :1972
- School website address : www.swanrchas.sa.edu.au

February FTE student enrolment:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Preschool	11	5	6	6	15	9	5
Reception	5	5	5	5	5	7	4
Year 1	5	4	6	5	7	5	7
Year 2	5	4	6	5	6	8	7
Year 3	2	2	4	8	7	9	9
Year 4	3	3	4	4	10	7	8
Year 5	5	4	5	5	4	10	8
Year 6	3	6	3	4	3	4	12
Year 7	13	6	3	7	5	5	5
Year 8	5	5	9	6	5	5	5
Year 9	6	5	4	6	7	5	7
Year 10	7	4	5	4	4	6	6
Year 11	4	6	6	4	4	5	5
Year 12	5	4	3	5	4	3	5
Total	79	62	66	74	86	88	93
Aboriginal enrolment	6	5	6	6	6	8	8

- Student enrolment trends: slightly decreasing from 2015 due to a number of families moving for work and family reasons. Also because of higher numbers at senior level graduating than reception enrolments. However, future reception enrolments through the Preschool are steady for the foreseeable future, and enrolment trends from 2021 show an increase across all sub school sectors, particularly in the primary sub-school.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census): 12 Teachers at 10.1 FTE and 11 Non-teaching staff (1.0FTE GSE, 1.0FTE Business Manager, 9 Part time SSOs. In 2017, we secured funding and appointment of a Pastoral Care Worker, whose role continues throughout 2024.
- Public transport access: The Mid Murray Council provides a bus service to Murray Bridge several times a week.
- Special site arrangements: Swan Reach Area School is a partner of the Riverland Trade School.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

  Swan Reach is located in a relatively isolated rural area of South Australia. Broad acre mixed farming, intensive irrigation for horticulture and viticulture, and small tourist ventures account for most of the economic activity in the district.
  Three school buses bring a majority of our students to school each day.
  There is a strong sense of community in our school and in the district, and our school is the centre of much community activity. Parents demonstrate a high level of involvement in school events, and generally are very supportive of the purposes of our school.

- Student wellbeing programs

  Home class teachers direct a home class for a period of 20 minutes at the beginning of each day. Attendance is accounted for and students are informed about daily school activities. New in 2022 was the introduction of B-12 'The Resilience Project' (TRP) curriculum being conducted during home group. The Resilience Program Curriculum assists students to gain and further develop skills in Grattitude, Mindfulness, Empathy and Emoyional Literacy, which build Resilience and are essential for successful Life Long Learning needs.

  A fitting conclusion to the year for year 10,11 &12 students is their attendance at the Self Esteem Course. This annual course allows the students to practice life skills in real learning environments.

  As part of the school's commitment to a partnership agreement, SRAS implemented KidsMatter & MindMatter initiatives (At SRAS we call it WeMatter – Kidsmatter and Mindmatters changed to the National Education Initiative known and 'BE YOU' in

2019). These initiatives aim to; improve student mental health and wellbeing, reduce mental health difficulties amongst students and increase support for students experiencing mental health difficulties. The initiative is implemented through reviewing and applying 4 key components:

1. Positive school community
2. Social and emotional learning for students
3. Working with parents and carers
4. Helping children with mental health difficulties

SRAS staff have trained in and implemented components 1,2 & 3 and will upskill staff and community of the 'Be You' components replacing the ones outlined above. This work continues through The Resilience Program, which also provides staff and families with wellbeing resources, webinars and strategies.

SRAS engages with the community and wellbeing organisations annually at our 'WeMatter Events' The inaugural event in 2016 received the 'Community Event of the Year Award' from the Mid Murray Council.

- Student support offered

  Teachers of classes with IESP students with a One Plan and Wave 2 students are provided with School Support Officer time to assist them in developing individualised learning plans in the class. SRAS prides itself on budgeting extra to ensure adequate teacher and SSO support for ALL learners.
  Course and career counselling is provided as a part of the curriculum offering at the school.

  Literacy intervention is done through the Kilpatrick's Reading Success program for identified students who are engaged with 3 half hour sessions a week with trained SSOs. In 2025 SRAS will introduce the Numeracy intervention in line with Big Ideas in Number concepts.

- Student management

  The school has a published code of conduct. A well-established set of procedures for dealing with inappropriate behaviours whole-school supports procedures / expectations developed and fostered in each classroom by the teaching staff.

- Student government

  A Student Representative Council has a focus on student advocacy and on broader community issues such as fund raising for charities usually directly linked to local health issues.
  Two School Captains are elected by staff prior to the start of the school year; their role is to act as role models and represent the school both at school and interschool functions.
  House Captains are elected by the two school teams - the Murray Kangaroos and Mallee Eagles (established in 2013).

- Special programs

  Students are encouraged to source and take part in VET programs linked to their primary vocational choices. 2019 saw the first students accessing certificate 1,2 & 3 courses at the TAFE trade Centre in Berri, in partnership with our Riverland Secondary Alliance Schools (Waikerie HS, Loxton HS, Berri Regional HS and Renmark HS). SRAS delivers the Doorways to Construction, Certificate 1 in Information and Communication Technology and Certificate 2 in Horticulture on-site.
  SRAS has a close relationship with the Cadet Unit of the SR CFS. In 2012 SRAS and the SR-CFS won the SA Area Schools Leaders Association Best Practice Award for their collaboration.
  Several community members volunteer their time to the Primary School Literacy program.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Learning Plan (SLP), Priority Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP for the preschool and other key statements or policies:

The newly developed 2025 SLP & PQIP can be found on the school website; the 2025 foci are Foster students' ability to reflect on and extend their thinking to become Effective Learners who engage in Meaning Making across all learning experiences.

Other site priorities are building resilience, de-privatisation and sharing of practice and moderation to ensure consistency in reporting.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings:

Primary School Students (R-6) experience English, Maths, Science, History in line with the Australian Curriculum and we fully implemented the AC all learning areas: Geography, Art, Health & Physical Education, Design & Technology, Music, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business and Language (Auslan).
Secondary Students experience the above in addition to Agriculture, Home Economics and have electives including, but not restricted to, Pedal Prix, Agricuture and Music Ensemble.
Senior School students have access to a wide variety of Stage 1 & 2 subjects for such a small school. In 2024 these choices include: English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Auslan, Material Products, Performing Arts, Music (Music Technology, Ensemble, Solo, Special Interest), PLP, Research Project and Information Processing & Publishing

- Open Access/Distance Education provision:

Curriculum choice is extended in the Secondary classes by accessing some courses of study through the Mallee Local Delivery Cluster and the Open Access College; this is not encouraged and has been decreasing in recent years. Recently only a few students have chosen to access subjects of their choice through this mode.

- Special needs:

One Plans for ATSI, students under care and Inclusive Education Support Program (IESP) students. These plans are worked through with a Special Education leader, teachers and parents. Older students with an IESP are included in the development of the plan.

- Special curriculum features:

SRAS also offers Pedal Prix and Enterprise as subjects for students in Years 7–10, providing opportunities for teamwork, innovation, and practical skill development.

- Teaching methodology:

Learning Design and Moderation is promoted for all teaching areas in line with the TfEL framework. Teachers are expected to aim for the Highly Accomplished level of the NPST which includes; knowing students and how they learn, incorporating ICT and developing their personal learning.

- Student assessment procedures and reporting

Reports on student learning are carried out through brief reports (7-12) in terms 1 & 3, in written reports in terms 2 & 4 (R-12), Parent / Carer / Student / Teacher conferences are held once per year in term 1. A Portfolio of student work (R-6) each semester, and DfE results in NAPLAN tests in term 3. PAT – R and PAT- M are done in term 3 along with Early Years PAT. DIBELS Assessments are taken every term for all primary and identified lower secondary students to track and monitor their reading proficiency.
In addition, our Senior Secondary students receive SACE Board of SA reports each semester.

5. Sporting Activities

House & Inter school competition in swimming and athletics occurs in Term 1. SRAS is part of the River Mallee District (RMD) zone along with Mannum Community College, Lameroo Area School, Meningie Area School, Coonalpyn Area School, Coomandook Area School and Karoonda Area School for secondary students. Primary students are part of the Murraylands SAPSASA.
Our Sports and Community Centre offers further opportunities for school activities as well as community sports.
There are also opportunities for students to participate in SAPSASA, USE & SSSSA activities. School endorsement of participation in these events relies on student adherence to the school values whilst on-site.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

A community fair is conducted each year (beginning in 2016) to for the community to have a fun afternoon / evening to celebrate success and promote positive relationships and Mental Wellbeing. External agencies and local organisations are invited to the fair to showcase their services and support for the community.
A Self Esteem course is offered annually to our year 10 to year12 students.
Our senior students have the opportunity to complete a Senior First Aid Certificate.
Pedal Prix is offered as an extension studies subject for students 7-12.
Swimming, football and dance lessons are offered annually to our R –6 students.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Before 2016 there were relatively few staff changes, due to high permanency of staff. However, retirements since then have seen a number of teaching changes. In 2025, SRAS retains a relatively unchanged teaching and support team. A few staff have more than 20 years experience at SRAS and we welcome 2 new members to the team in 2025.

POSITION	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
SSO / GSE	3	8	11
Teachers	3	7	10
Deputy Principal	1		1
Principal	1		1
B1 Leader		1	1
PCW		1	1

- Leadership structure

The leadership structure has principal as the leader of the site management, along with an assistant principal who leads the Special Education & Daily Organisation leader, and a Sports Coordinator who is released to assit in administration. Leadership is supported by a B1 who leads secondary school through SACE, VET, OAC and wellbeing. The principal, due to increased demands to be off-site will not have a teaching load in 2025 and the assistant's teaching load was also reduced from 2022.

- Staff support systems

Support to teaching staff is available through Professional Learning Communities within SRAS and neighbouring schools, line management, peer to peer observation, personnel counselling, and a word-processing service and construction aids by the SSOs. Professional Development is provided for staff in line with Professional and Site needs aligned with Australian Standards for Teachers.

- Performance Management

The leadership team recognises the need for support staff to meet whole school goals and personal goals. Each staff member meets formally with their line manager in termly and informally throughout the year. All staff receive written feedback twice a year (minimum). The Principal is line manager to all leadership members and teachers. The Assistant Principal line manages SSOs

- Staff utilisation policies

Support staff are involved in classroom activities as well as withdrawing students with learning needs including the Reading Succes program for identified activities, Speech, Interoception and, in the future Big Ideas in Number numeracy intervention.
Every effort is made to offer as many subjects as possible to Secondary students whilst minimising class sizes in the Primary School. This leads to multi year level composite classes for all years:

- Preschool (can be integrated with Receptions if preschool numbers are under 6)
- Reception – year 2
- Year 3/4
- Year 5/6
- Year 7-10 Home Group and elective subjects (music, Ag, Home Ec, Pedal Prix)
- 7/8 for core subjects (English, Maths, Science & HASS)
- 9/10 for core subjects (English, Maths, Science & HASS)
- 11/12

- Access to support staff

Special Educators, Behaviour Coaches and Attendance officers are available through the Berri Education Office.
Learning Education Team (LET – Education Director, Principal Consultant, Early Years Leader & Curriculum Lead) are located at the Murray Bridge Education Office

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Housing assistance

There are 5 Government houses available locally for staff to rent. Currently 2 are vacant due to renovations.

- Additional increment allowance

Teaching staff are entitled to the Country Placement Incentive.

- Relocation assistance

There is departmental removal assistance available for teachers at SRAS.

- School mobile telephone costs

There is a mobile phone available for the office, excursions and library.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The air-conditioned school buildings are located on well-kept, attractive grounds. The major learning block, Tech studies centre and Early Learning Centre have all been painted recently. This makes the learning rooms fresh and inviting.
Land for agricultural and horticultural activities is part of the outdoor learning area.

A Community Library, a grassed playing oval, heated swimming pool, sealed courts for tennis and basketball and netball are located on the school grounds.
A Sports and Community Centre is situated next to the school oval.
The Home Ec centre and Science Laboratory were all upgraded as part of the BER program.
Classrooms are undercapacity.

In 2017 SRAS upgraded the front garden beds and had a swing set erected. Construction of an outdoor learning area was completed in 2018.The gym will have reverse cycle air conditioning installed in 2024, making it a valuabe community space.

- Heating and cooling

Cooling/heating for buildings - reverse cycle air conditions are installed in each learning area, the Community Library, Administrative and office areas.

- Specialist facilities and equipment

Specialist facilities and equipment are available for sport/physical education, library for school and community, information technology, technology studies, science and home economics.
An established orchard for agriculture, horticulture and viticulture is a specialist facility for VET subjects.

- Student facilities

A school has out-sourced canteen services to the local store from Monday to Thursday. Year 11/12 students have access to a study room with minor kitchen facilties.

- Staff facilities

A general staff area is available for all staff, and wireless computer access is available in all teaching areas. Each staff member has access to a laptop. There are Interactive Whiteboards in most teaching rooms.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

Entry ramps have been provided to all classrooms, library, Technical Studies, Performance room, and administrative block.

- Access to bus transport

There are two private contractor buses and one DfE bus to provide transport for most of our students to school.

- The West River Bus crosses the river andextends toward Sedan
- The Bakara Bus runs East toward Bakara Well and then north toward Blanchetown
- The Purnong Bus travels south as far as Purnong
- SRAS purchased a commuter bus in 2017

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

The Principal and Governing Council are the decision-making body for school wide issues and concerns. The Finance sub-committee determine and validate school expenditure.
School operation decisions are made through staff consultation.
PAC deal with teacher workloads and other staff concerns. Membership includes Principal, staff representative, AEU representative and SSO representative.
The school is identified for Rural Index funding. This money is used to support a wide range of learning activities within the school and for travelling to other places such as Inclusive Travel funds, Reading program, payment of Open Access & VET courses etc.

- Regular publications

A school newsletter is published on-line and distributed each fortnight; it is also emailed to families who are on the emailing list, along with being available on the school web site.
A community calendar is published with the newsletter.
The staff and student handbooks are reviewed annually.
Notices for staff and students are published through DayMap along with timetables, learning outlines & overviews. DayMap is the Learner Management System adopted by the school in 2020 and includes major functions such as roll marking and communication with families. Primary and preschool classes also use SeeSaw to communicate daily learning snapshots and activites.
A school magazine is published annually. School achievements are published in the River News, a weekly publication in the Riverland District.
The school uses a DayMap and FaceBook, to notify parents and carers about upcoming events or remind them of important dates.

- School financial position

Finance Reports are presented twice each term to the Governing Council, and reported annually to the school community. The Finance Committee meets once per term. The school's Finance Officer uses the School Budget PlanningTool to manage the school funds. The school is in a healthy financial position.

- Special funding

SRAS receives funds through the Country Areas Program, and specific students receive funds through the Inclusive Education Support Program.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

The town has a wider population of approximately 200 people, and services include a hotel, a general store, caravan park, Police station, Post Office, and a garage. Other services are available from nearby towns such as Waikerie, Mannum and Angaston.
The school community is characterised by a high level of parent involvement in school-based activities. Sports days, special assemblies and visiting afternoons typically attract a high percentage of parents.
The Mid Murray council operates from Mannum.
Active local sporting organisations include football, netball, golf, bowls, 8-ball, tennis on a regular basis. Swimming, fishing, skiing and other river sports are available on a casual basis.
Bank SA has an agency at the General Store. Money can be accessed through the post office section of the general store or through an ATM at the Swan Reach Hotel.
Local bus charter is available.
Volunteer CFS, SA Ambulance, Progress Association, Local History Group and Museum exist within the community.
Tourist attractions are: Big Bend by Night, Yookamurra and Illawonga.

- Parent and community involvement

Parents & Friends conduct two meetings per term and raise funds for targeted school programs. They also have a Facebook Group to stay in touch with the school community.

- Feeder or destination schools

SRAS has had a lot of students transfer from metropolitan schools in recent years although there are no trends regarding specifically where they have come from. Reception students feed from the co-located Swan Reach & Area Kindergarten. SRAS is gaining secondary enrolments from Cambrai and Blanchetown communities.

- Other local facilities

There is a doctor that visits the town once per week.
A police officer resides in the town.
There is subsidised childcare available through the Occasional Care Program in the Preschool on Fridays.

- Availability of staff housing

There are 5 Government houses available locally for staff to rent. There are generally few other houses to rent although multiple houses for sale.

- Local Government body

The local Mid- Murray Council is very supportive of the school and its aims, especially through the network and support of the Mid Murray Families Connections working on raising outcomes for our younger students.