1. General information

Part A

School name : MEMORIAL OVAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No. : 0479
Principal : Mr Paul Pitkin
Postal Address : PO Box 408, Whyalla 5600
Location Address : Bradford Street, Whyalla 5600
District : Eyre and Western
Distance from GPO : 380 kms
Phone No. : 08 86457991
CPC attached : NO
Fax No. : 08 86451812

February FTE Enrolment
During the year we generally pick up 15-20 reception enrolments.

Part B

- Principal
  : Mr Paul Pitkin

- E-mail address
  : paul.pitkin748@mops.sa.edu.au

- Website
  : www.mops.sa.edu.au

- Deputy Principal
  : Ann Fargher
  : ann.fargher@mops.sa.edu.au

- Staffing numbers
  Under the Single Funding Model we have 8 classes in 2013, but due to our continuous enrolment process for our Reception students, the decision was to begin a new Reception class in Term 3, 2013. This will assist staff decision, to support lower numbers in our junior primary classes. This is where we have a concentration of students at some level of risk, due to learning difficulties. This has been a decision which is not sustainable in the long term. Staff chose not to have KT or Coordinator in 2013.
• There are a number of SSO’s who have permanent part time hours. This is because there are NEP students moving through who have required specialist skills eg Braille. A significant number of hours have been transferred to Whyalla High at the beginning of 2013.

• There is a Principal, Deputy Principal approx 0.3, Counsellor .34. We employ a groundsman for 10 hours a week and the lawn mowing is outsourced. The groundsman’s hours will be reduced once the maintenance level after a major backlog is reached. We began OSHC in 2012 as the need had been surveyed in 2010 and 2011 but we did not have a location while BER construction was underway and numbers are just starting to grow after a slow start.

• Both the Principal and DP position become vacant and there is the opportunity to re configure the leadership structure for 2014.

• Enrolment trends:
  Enrolments have been consistent over the last three years but are less than our capacity which could reasonably be 10 classes. We have had a couple of troughs at year levels which have affected class structure and staffing as they have moved through the school.

• We pick up students from more than one local feeder preschool because of changing demographics in the area. We have had a number of changes of staff within previous years, which has been destabilising. The leadership team has been stable. These were because of parenting leave, staff winning leadership positions etc but an unusually high number for a small school.

• In 2013 four staff are in contract positions. Three positions at least will be behind staff on parenting leave or in seconded positions in 2013. There are large and small cohorts per year level across year levels. Houses are beginning to change hands, which is bringing some younger families into the near vicinity. The February figure was 210 and we expect that the October figure will be around 240.

• Memorial Oval Primary School opened in 1945 as the second school in Whyalla as Whyalla South Infant School. Children come to the school from all over Whyalla, some even from outlying stations. Some children are brought to school by a bus service from Iron Knob.

• Year of opening
  1945

• Public transport access
  There is a public bus route, which passes the school. Several students use this bus.
2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**
  The school has continuous admission throughout the year with children starting on the Monday after their 5th birthday. This will change. They are placed into already established classes in which they have spent time during a Preschool to School transition program. In 2013 there are four Junior Primary classes (Term 3, 2013 – new Reception class), and five Primary classes. We have a 1:26 ratio for JP and 1:30 as we are an Index of Disadvantage Level 5.

- **(Pastoral) Care programs**
  Most classes are composite groups to provide some flexibility in student placement. We have some High Sustained Students with Disabilities mainstreamed across Junior, Middle and Upper Primary classes with S.S.O support. The Disability is predominantly either Hearing or /and Vision. We have an experienced group of SSO’s.

- **Support offered**
  Our ACEO is employed for 10 hours a week. Our AET is .2 (a day – Thursday) a week. Students with NEP’s work with SSOs either one to one, or in small groups in the classroom. The support is mostly in literacy and Numeracy.

- **The school has a commitment to standards set by Whyalla Schools Eyre Western for progress in Running Records and Oxford Sight Words. Our Literacy block runs according to some effective teaching strategies via John Fleming, however the entire model has not been adopted by the school.**

- **There is a strong Support Programme as we currently have some students with complex hearing disabilities. All staff, who work specifically with those children, are trained in the management of these students. There is a Special School in Whyalla and special classes at Hincks Ave for Junior Primary and Nicolson Ave for Primary Students. These classes have waiting lists. Student at MOPS are mainstreamed.**

- **Behaviour Management**
  The Student Behaviour Management Policy is displayed in all classrooms and given to all new parents. There is a well-documented process, which informs parents and involves them in decisions. Teachers are supported in the implementation of the policy by leadership. The Wellbeing, Values and Child Protection Curriculum further develop positive strategies. We have anti Bullying and Harassment policies.
• Student government
The Student Forum was reviewed to change more from an SRC to a Student Voice group/Working Parties groups, which influenced areas of school life including grounds, facilities, student interactions, curriculum and healthy life styles.

3. Key School Policies
• Statement of Purpose
Mission statement
The school’s vision statement is Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Cooperation.
Our Site Learning Plan priorities for 2013 are Literacy and specifically improving Reading and Maths.

• Subject offerings
We do not offer a LOTE currently because of difficulties with continuity for staffing of the subject. There is a couple of staff who can support LOTE in the curriculum as they have expertise. There has not been a vacancy, which could be used which was not held for a Right of Return. We are reporting and assessing using Australian Curriculum for Maths, Science, History and English. Our Health and Physical Education, Design and Technology is partly via NIT. We are part of a National Partnerships programme for Maths in year 6/7 which means we access a Numeracy Coach.
Specialist music teachers from the Music Branch offer instrument lessons for students from year 5 and up. There is also a Whyalla Schools Band.

• Special needs
There are several students with special needs attending the school. At Present the school attracts Disability Services, South Australian School for Vision Impaired, Kilparrin and Novita Children’s Service assists these students and has provided additional SSO time.
Ramps, special taps, yellow strips for vision impaired and other modifications have been made to the school.

• Special curriculum features
Class teachers work in a cluster which promotes shared expertise. Our new building has four classrooms as two pairs with shared office space. Our main building had four classrooms refurbished under BER and the remaining two are due for painting new air cons and new ceilings during 2013. All teaching classrooms have Smart Boards. The school is being painted externally during 2013 and a new roof line put in to replace box gutters as well as underpinning of a wall. We have also had a grant in 2012 of $38,000 to remove a number of trees which were coming to the end of their life and for major pruning of some large gums.
• **Teaching methodology**
  Teachers are encouraged to experiment with different methods and have access to training and development on a regular basis. Training and Development is funded heavily at Memorial Oval PS. Whyalla does offer T & D options through the year across schools.

• **Assessment procedures and reporting**
  We try to show parents our assessment of their students in a manner that is clear to them and how we plan to overcome gaps in student’s learning.

• **Joint Programs**
  Instrumental music tuition by specialist teachers is available and we have a year 4 recorder programme.

### 5. Sporting Activities

• The school takes part in all Inter-School Carnivals and SAPSASA. We have Coaching Clinics and are part of Be Active and OPAL.

### 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

• **General**
  The school is regularly represented in the Combined Schools’ Choir performances and the instrumental music students are members of the Combined Schools Band. We have a Choir for 2013 and will see what changes may happen.

• **Special**
  There are various theme days and there has been an Annual Twilight Festival. This was changed to a lawns performance basically of carols and celebration songs and items. There are a range of Value Added activities and our Rural Index Funding goes to bring in performances for all students to access.

### 7. Staff (and their welfare)

• **Staff profile**
  The staff members are changing from an experienced group who had been teaching for over 10 years, to more teachers who have been teaching for less than 6 years and new Graduates.
Leadership structure
At present there is an Acting Principal, Deputy Principal (.3 and Counselling time (.29) The DP has also been the teacher librarian and has coordinated support services for NEP’s The principal liaised re support services for SBM The Counselling was advertised internally for consecutive years because it is such a small allocation however in 2012 that role was advertised and no appointment made absorbed into leadership for Term 1 and 2.

Staff support systems
Staff work closely together and are often involved in whole school activities. The Eyre Western Region offers options at various sites through the year

Performance Management
There is a performance management structure, which has been negotiated with staff. Regular meetings are held with line managers.

Access to special staff
There are Support Services Personnel based locally and access to visiting Support Officers from Adelaide. There is Eyre/Western District Office at both Whyalla and Port Lincoln.

8. School Operations

Decision making structures
Decision making structures are documented in the administration folder, which together with a Staff Share Curriculum Policy Folder are available on the Curriculum Server accessible to every staff member.

Regular publications
The school newsletter is published once every two weeks with a Bulletin if needed in between. The school distributes information pamphlets to all the kindergartens throughout Whyalla. Teachers also send home individual class newsletters. There is an information book in the staffroom for daily notes and term planner whiteboards for forward planning and information. There is also a web site and an Induction package accessed via the Curriculum Server.

Other communication
An information brochure is available for parents new to the school and all relevant policy documents are aligned with DECD policy on the DECD website to sight. All teachers send home a folder for each child as part of the school’s “Reporting to Parents” strategy. This is called the Student Reporting Folder. Parents/Caregivers often request informal interviews and formal interviews are held twice a year. We have a web page, which is available on: http://www.mops.sa.edu.au/
We have responded to requirements of the new Common Reporting.

- **School financial position**
  The school is in a sound financial position. The Governing Council are regularly informed on financial matters and have a good understanding of financial affairs.

9. **Local Community**

- **General characteristics**
  Parents of students attending the school work in various industries in the town; some own or manage local businesses. English is the predominate language spoken at home.

- **Parent and community involvement**
  There is a strong commitment from parents to the school supporting school activities. Parents/caregivers expect to be consulted and are encouraged to express their opinions. Concerns are acted upon promptly.

- **Feeder schools**
  The students come from a number of kindergartens around the town.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**
  Pre-School Centres are available as well as Child Care Centres which cater for babies as well as children.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  Whyalla is serviced well by department chains such as Target, Harris Scarfe, Harvey Norman and Spotlight. There are a selection of supermarket and take-away chains and many local businesses.

- **Other local facilities**
  There are a number of local doctors and dentists with specialists visiting regularly from Adelaide. Whyalla offers wide variety of sport and recreational activities for the community. There is a twin cinema and theatre complex, parks and a new Civic Library. University of South Australia (Whyalla Campus) and TAFE run many courses in the evening and on weekends.

- **Availability of staff housing**
  Housing is available through REM and local estate agents. Housing costs are reviewed and long and short-term rentals are available.
• Accessibility
Whyalla is approximately a four-hour drive to Adelaide. The road is very good with many passing lanes. Stateline Bus Company frequently run buses to and from Adelaide at a reasonable cost. Rex fly planes between Whyalla and Adelaide several times daily.

• Local Government body
The local governing body is the Whyalla City Council (phone 8640 3444).

10. Further Comments

• Memorial Oval Primary is a school with extensive parental support and the school has a continuous improvement ethic about academic excellence, community involvement and student behaviour.

• Ms Rowena Fox is the District Superintendent of Eyre Western District. There is a DECD office on Nicolson Avenue. Contact Number 08 8645 6568