

Ernabella Anangu School
Context Statement 2018



School Location number: 1034

Vision:

“Listening, Learning and Looking after each other”

1. General information

Principal:

Erin McQuade

Deputy Principal:

Nic Finn

Anangu Coordinator:

Dirk Jackson

Family Engagement Coordinator:

Eva Wells

Year of opening:

1970 (replaced Presbyterian Church Mission school established 1940)

Postal Address:

Ernabella Anangu School, PMB 63, Via Alice Springs NT 0872

Location Address:

Ernabella/Pukatja PMB 63 via Alice Spring 0872 APY Lands-Far north of South Australia

DECD Region:

Anangu Lands Partnership

Location i.e road distance from Adelaide GPO:

1336 km north of Adelaide (Category 1, Band B-5)

Telephone number:

08 8956 2977

Fax number:

08 8956 2930

School website address:

www.ernabella.sa.edu.au

School email address:

dl.1034.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Early Years Programs:

The Early Years programs at Ernabella include Family Centre (Family and birth-3) and a Pre-School (3-5yr olds). All non-teaching employees have either completed or are undertaking their Certificate 3 in Children's Services, educators in the Family Centre have also completed Families as First Teachers Training.

Ernabella Children and family Centre:

The Family Centre is open Mon-Friday 8.40-12.30. Parents and caregivers can access the centre and participate in playgroup activities, health program and Families as First Teachers early literacy program. A full time teacher and two AEWs work as a team to ensure the program runs effectively. In 2018 there are 35 children under the age of 3, an average attendance for children at the centre is 14-16 babies. Services such as CMAHS, CAFHS and NPY will visit the centre to keep in touch with clients and run their own programs. A QIP is developed annually in consultation with Governing Council and community members.

Ernabella Preschool:

The preschool enrolments are approximately 22 children. Attendance varies, in 2017 we averaged 55% attendance, however we have put in support structures including allocating 2 AEWs to form the preschool teaching team. We will continue to unpack 'what is working well' in the site and monitor any attendance trends.

In 2013 our Preschool was assessed using the NQS assessment. The assessment revealed our preschool was meeting the NQS. We achieved exceeding in the area of Relationships with Children.

Approximately

The Pre-School Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) is available on the website.

School enrolments February 2018 FTE student enrolment (school):

94 of which 100% are EALD learners.

Student enrolment trends: steady

Ernabella is a growing community and the school has mirrored this growth. A significant factor for any Anangu community and school is the transient nature of the population. A current trend for Anangu families is to relocate to Adelaide. Although many families move, the average time for relocation is 6 months. Often the move for families schooling is a priority after housing, this can affect our attendance data as students remain on our system until enrolment in another site. The school works closely with The Walk Along Project Team in Adelaide to monitor and track Ernabella families and support their transition to other schools.

Despite this, there is a steady growth in the school population and this is expected to continue. Retaining enrolments of secondary students is a partnership priority, creating meaningful pathways for future employment. Significant resourcing including creative arts, Duke of Edinburgh Award and VET training at the TTC will continue to be a focus.

Staffing numbers

- Principal (PCO5)
- Anangu Coordinator (AEW 3)
- Family Engagement Coordinator (AEW 3)
- Early years Coordinator (AEW 3)
- Deputy Principal (B-2)
- 13 Teachers (9 classroom plus 3 NIT)
- 13 AEWs (including 2x Anangu Coordinators)
- Finance Officer SSO 3,
- 2 SSO's
- 1 GSE

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics

Over 90% of students at Ernabella are Anangu and their first language is Pitjantjatjara or Yankunytjatjara as this is usually the language spoken at home. The students are often only introduced to English when they commence school. Another significant factor for Anangu communities is

the transient nature of the population. There are regular movements of families between the 8 APY Lands Schools, mostly for the purpose of attending funerals (Sorry business). As a result, students may attend at a school for only a few weeks before returning to their home communities.

Student well-being programs:

Ernabella School staff all liaise with various community programs and outside agencies to support student wellbeing. We employ a whole school approach in consultation with families and teachers regularly speak to parents and caregivers regarding the students in their care.

Regular communication between agencies such as the NPY Youth Team and Sky Light is valued by all staff. We promote their after school programs and access to services to both students and families.

A school breakfast program is offered each morning, along with paid school lunch program.

Student support offered:

Anangu leadership in the school is pivotal for effective communication between families, educators and students. For 2018, Ernabella School has employed an Anangu Coordinator, as well as an Anangu Family Engagement Coordinator to strengthen relationships and information sharing between the school and community, with a focus on sharing positive stories in relation to teaching and learning.

An Aboriginal Education Worker (AEW) is allocated to each class to assist both the teacher and students to understand each other. We encourage a team approach to student engagement throughout the school. We refer to the partnership between AEWs and teachers as 'Teaching Teams'.

Class numbers are generally small, averaging (10-15) students per day. Each room has a 'Sound Field' amplification system to assist with instruction due to most students suffering intermediate to severe hearing loss.

Ernabella Anangu School receives support from the local LET team based in Flinders Park, Adelaide (ED, EY leader and Principal Consultant). We also

have the AES partnership team, which includes FLO support, SLIPP, Families as First Teachers Coordinator, FLMD Coordinator, Wellbeing Coordinator, Staff Wellbeing Officer and Community Engagement coordinator. You can access a Partnership profile on our school website.

Support Services based in Adelaide employ one staff member to cover hearing, special education and behaviour support for each hub. The hub support representative for Ernabella, Kenmore Park and Fregon (the Central Hub) visits termly according to site needs. There is one Speech pathologist allocated to the partnership who tries to visit twice a term.

Student management:

In 2017, our school developed a Student Behaviour System in consultation with Anangu staff, parents and community that addresses the many issues of behaviour in the school. Importantly, this system focusses on the positive learning behaviours we want to see daily. The system is based on explicitly teaching school behaviours to students, negotiated rules and consequences, reinforcing positive school behaviours and providing a structure for negative behaviours that is understood by all students. Visual representations of these processes are displayed in community and around our school. You can access our behaviour system on our website.

3. Key School Policies

Our aim is to provide Anangu with the necessary skills and abilities to be self-determining. Consequently, we strive to benefit all Anangu who attend and work at our school. Based upon both the Partnership Strategic Directions and the PYEC Statement of directions, staff and leadership have developed a Strategic Improvement Plan that states our vision, goals, objectives, targets and strategies.

Ernabella's site priorities are based on directions set from our External Review process. Our School Strategic Improvement Plan is available on the website

www.ernabella.sa.edu.au.

4. Curriculum

Australian Curriculum

At Ernabella our approach to Australian Curriculum delivery is being continuously developed and improved. It is in response to the Lands context particularly mobility of students and considerations of the complex needs of our students. The goal is that our students are successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens. We plan teach and assess against the Australian Curriculum through:

- Rich relevant integrated units. The units have a specific agreed structure including genre focus, literacy embedded and numeracy elements
- Keeping Safe Curriculum
- The Literacy/ English Block which feeds into units
- The Mathematics Block which feeds into units
- Pitjantjatjara FLMD program implementing Aboriginal Languages First Language Learner Pathway
- Strong cultural connections to units realising much of HASS learning area (Bush trips, Anangu stories and history)
- Site based development to implement aspects of Learning Areas such as HPE (e.g. through CAFHS Nurse programs e.g. trachoma, diabetes, sport clinic visits) The Arts (through music specialist visits e.g. drumming, ceramics, and music and media through Ninti Media projects) which connect to the units.

SACE

There is a shared and targeted focus on coherent secondary pathways including FLO, Wiltja, TTC, SACE and VET. Students regularly attend the Trade Train Centre (TTC) to achieve SACE credits and VET certificates as well as working in class to achieve Stage 1 and 2 SACE.

Numeracy

A mathematics agreement supports staff to know what is expected in order to provide students with common and coherent learning experiences underpinned by shared understandings of effective teaching in mathematics research¹.

Coherence is about shared understandings which lead to clarity about common teaching practice. Shared cohesion is about understanding the depth of complexity in the nature of our work.

We provide maths learning sessions that enables students to:

- Know and understand the learning intention
- Hear, see, speak and use mathematics vocabulary
- Solve problems through exploration and explicit teaching of strategies
- Be efficient in mental computation strategies
- Make connections in their learning through feedback and reflection

5. Sporting Activities

Ernabella School is one of 3 schools selected to trial a new initiative from SANFL. During 2018 SANFL will provide 40% of a teacher salary to offer after school programs Mon-Friday. This is an exciting space to think creatively and offer targeted activities for students at risk, and who attend school every day.

Students in Years 5/6/7 have the opportunity to participate in either of the statewide SAPSASA softball and football carnivals held once a year in Adelaide.

In the summer terms (1 and 4) students are transported to the swimming pool at Mimili for weekly swimming sessions.

Willpower (Port Power) provide a sporting and health curriculum program across the year which culminates in the annual football carnival for boys and girls. (Usually held at Alice Springs) Students also participate in a competition to design the team jumper for the carnival.

6. Other activities

Ernabella Anangu School hosts and participates in the highly prestigious Ernabella Dance Competition in September of each year. The organisation and running of this event requires considerable logistical effort. This is the calendar event of the year! Each of the Anangu Lands Partnership schools travel to Ernabella where we host a sports day, and then a “Dance off” in the evening. This event attracts families from each community travelling with school to support and cheers on all students. Links to the dance can be found on our website.

We have a longstanding and successful exchange program with Emmaus Christian College from Adelaide. The Year 11 students from Emmaus visit the school for a week in Term 2 of each year and participate in the day to day running of the school as well as bush trips and cultural activities. In return, the junior secondary students from Ernabella visit Emmaus in Term 3. This exchange program is highly valued by both parties.

Special Programmes:

Nintintjaku Project:

Funded through PM&C with the purpose of projects that promote sharing of culture with students. The art centre holds the funds for this projects, however the Principal and Art Centre Manager have worked very closely to ensure each band level of children is included in this project. Art Centre workers attend the school weekly to work on the below projects:

- Early years – Milpatjunanyi (traditional story telling in the sand)
- Secondary – Jewellery / Ceramic with Jam Factory artists-
- Family Stories- Artists working with staff and students in family groups to document family stories in kinship groups.

Extra Curricula:

The Anangu Lands Partnership is often a hot spot for extra curricula Activities. Regular funded visits the below ensure Ernabella Students access a range of programs. 2018

- Ready Set Crow 9Partnership with Adelaide Crows)
- WillPower Program (Port power)
- KESAB
- Circosis

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Leadership structure

Ernabella Anangu School has a Principal (PCO 5), an Anangu Coordinator (and Deputy) and a Deputy Principal (B-2) who share the leadership roles. We have a Governing Council and Principal Advisory Committee (PAC) Performance and Development conversations occur once every term with the Australian Professional Standards used as a platform for staff to improve. All staff develop and use their Performance and Development Plan which guides discussions and feedback. This document aligns tightly with our school priorities.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff*

Teachers at Ernabella may be eligible for multiple incentives:

(All of which are elaborated upon below) Housing provision, relocation assistance and Travel days. Financial incentives include Country incentive, Locality allowances and Special Class allowance which add up to a minimum of \$21,000 per annum. Those who attain permanency may become eligible for a one-off payment, Study leave, and various forms of priority placement upon their return to the city.

*(This information is a general guide and is not meant to be relied upon without reference to your particular circumstances)

Housing provision:

Exceptional rent free housing is available although there is an expectation that sharing with others might be necessary. There is no up-front bond. Staff also receive free electricity, water and bottled gas.

Relocation assistance:

DECD will pay for reasonable removal expenses and some other costs associated with taking up an appointment.

Travel Days:

Teaching staff are allocated 2 days of paid leave at the beginning and end of each term in which to travel. This equates to 16 days per annum. Consequently the teaching term starts and concludes on a Wednesday.

Country Incentive:

Ernabella is a Zone 5 school for Country Incentive purposes. From \$9,133 per annum for the first 5 years (only) at this location.

Locality Allowances:

This is a diverse collection of allowances for such things as “Compensation for adverse environment”, “compensation for the cost of commuting to and from distant schools”, “motor vehicle depreciation”, “increased cost of living” and “some aspects of isolation”.

Collectively, they add up to a minimum of \$10,665

Special Class Allowance:

Teachers of Anangu classes are paid an allowance of \$1259 per annum.

Upon attaining permanency:

One-off Incidentals payment:

There will be a payment of \$946 upon recruitment to permanency.

Study Leave:

After 2 years of teaching, (one of which is permanent) teachers may be eligible for one term of paid study leave.

Priority Placement:

After 2 years of teaching (one of which is permanent) teachers are eligible to apply for a transfer (G Code), after 4 years, (H code) and after 8 years, (I code). Staff wishing to avail themselves of these provisions need to apply in May of the year prior.

Other:

Medical and dental treatment

Staff have access to the local clinic and are eligible for subsidy around specialist costs and travel.

Some staff may be eligible for the Federal Government Zone Tax offset available under Australian Taxation Law. (Ernabella is in Zone B)

9. School Facilities

Art room- ceramics shed

Tech shed

Music room

Gym

Outdoor synthetic turf basketball court

10. School operations

All Lands schools are locally managed. The Principal is responsible for the staffing, daily operation and administration of the school. Ernabella Governing Council, Personnel Advisory Committee, School Improvement Team, Early Years Team, Work Health and Safety Committee, Finance Committee and Leadership meet regularly. Staff meetings are held weekly on Tuesdays after school. The Governing Council meets twice per term and is integral to the decision making of the school. Anangu staff meetings occur each week to address community and school initiatives.

11. Local Community

Ernabella is an Anangu Community on the APY Lands in the far north west of South Australia. (approx. 200km south of Uluru) Ernabella is set in a valley in the Musgrave Ranges south of Mt Woodroffe (the tallest mountain in South Australia) Kinship ties cover three groups within the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia. These are the Pitjantjatjara, Ngaantatjarra and Yankunytjatjara peoples. Homelands, consisting of two or three families are serviced from Ernabella.

Ernabella has a store, roadhouse, art centre, youth shed and community offices.

12. Further Comments

Brief history:

In the 1930's a Presbyterian Christian mission was established at Ernabella. The population has remained static since the mid-forties to the present day. In the early 1970s the Church passed control of education to the government.

Over the years Anangu have sought greater involvement in school issues and policy directions. At the request of Anangu, this movement was formalized in an agreement with the Minister of Education, Anangu Education Services and Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC). Each community has representatives who serve on the PYEC. This body meets regularly to make determinations related to policy and curriculum matters associated with education across the APY lands. The Anangu Education Services (AES) office located in Adelaide and Ernabella, led by the Education Director, provides administrative, financial and curriculum support and training and development facilities.