

Penong & Coorabie Districts School



Early Learning Centre (Pre-school) Context Statement

2018



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2017

Centre number: 6681

Centre name: Penong Preschool

1. General information

- Preschool Director/Principal Mrs Karen Murray
- Postal Address : C/- Post Office, Penong SA 5690
- Location Address: Eyre Highway, Penong 5690
- District Eyre
- Distance from GPO 850 kms
- Phone No: : 08 86251017
- Fax No. : 08 86251009
- Preschool website address: www.penongps.sa.edu.au
- Penong Primary School Website address: www.penongps.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: karen.murray109@schools.sa.edu.au

- Enrolment / Attendance
 - Our attendance fluctuates between 5 & 10. Numbers have varied to those scales over the last 6 years.

- Co-located/stand alone
 - Penong is a School Based Preschool supervised by the school principal and located on the Penong Primary School site.

- Programmes operating at the preschool
 - Associated Programmes
 - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - Lunch / full Day Programme
 - Preschool Support

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Our Philosophy States:

At Penong & Coorabie Districts Early Learning Centre, young people are at the centre of everything we do.

We believe that every child has the right to a safe healthy environment with spaces and places which enhance their learning development, engagement, initiative, self-worth, dignity and shows respect for their contributions.

We acknowledge that children are competent learners and we build an active community of engagement and inquiry.

We honour the children's right to play, both as a process and context for learning.

We believe that each family deserves to feel they belong and are included.

We strive for sound relationships and partnerships with families.

We believe in ensuring a high range of high quality early childhood programmes for all children, modelling high quality practices.

We employ a holistic approach based on research. Acknowledging and accepting diversity is paramount in our centre. Our planning programming is based on reflective practice.

3. Curriculum

- Guiding Frameworks

Our Preschool is run under the frameworks of:

- Early Years Learning Framework
- Reflect, Respect and Relate
- National Quality Frameworks
- Literacy / Numeracy Indicators

- Core Values

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Caring excellence

- Special Curriculum Approaches:
 - As we are a very small Early Learning Centre, it is important that we use a specific approach to our work with preschoolers. We have a routine and structure which ensures all our students have every opportunity in the start of their education.

- Joint Programmes / Special Curriculum Projects:

The Preschool works closely with the School in the areas of:

 - Transition
 - Communication (newsletter, assemblies etc)
 - Special days
 - Staffing Training & Development

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:

We have one 0.5 teacher who is supported by school SSO's. The Preschool is line-managed by the school principal who teaches 0.5 in the school and administers both the school and preschool.

- Performance Management Programme:

Performance Management is a focus as all staff are committed to 'teachers as learners' and performance management is a tool for reflective development. All staff members including SSOs are involved in two performance management meetings a term.

The make-up of a small school means there is an underlying basis that all staff members know all children and much informal professional interaction amongst staff is paramount.

SSOs are a most important cog in our machine and they are highly respected professionals. SSOs work with and for teachers as well as being responsible for individual children.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings & Grounds:

Our preschool building is located on school grounds; it has its own boundary fence and is fully self-contained. It is relatively new and the play/outside area has been updated recently. There are appropriate toilets plus a disabled facility. The building has a kitchen, playroom, conference room and storage area. Outside includes a cubby house, sand pit, a bike track and grassed area.

- Capacity:
Our preschool could hold 26 children but this is not our usual situation.
- Centre Ownership:
The centre is located on school grounds and consequently, is owned by the school/DECD.
- Access for Children and Staff with Disabilities:
The centre is disability compliant with ramps and disabled toilets.

6. Local Community

- General characteristics
Penong is located in the drier part of the Far West; it is close to the coastline.
Many families are from the land but an equal proportion, are children of service providers within the town. A number of our students live at the beach and children come from the aboriginal home lands area.
A local salt works and gypsum mine also provide work for individuals.
- Parent and community involvement
The Penong community is supportive towards the school. Parents understand the necessity of a sound primary education and work with their children to support us. Parents spend much informal and formal time on school grounds and our open door, you are welcome attitude, has gained positive results.
- Feeder schools
Children at Penong come from an area surrounding the school of 82kms. For their secondary education there is a bus into Ceduna daily (150kms return). Some children may board in Ceduna or go away to Adelaide or Port Lincoln for their secondary education.
- Other local care and educational facilities
A playgroup is run each Monday morning.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Penong has a general store, hotel, police station and a 24 hours a day roadhouse. Most people use Ceduna as their shopping venue. The nearest Medical Centre and hospital is 74kms east in Ceduna.

- Other local facilities
Penong houses a local sports club and large hall.
- Availability of staff housing
Three, three bed roomed teacher houses are situated adjacent to the school.
- Accessibility
Penong can access Pt Lincoln, Whyalla and Adelaide by road. Airlines operate from Ceduna to Adelaide with various timetables. There is no public transport.
- Local Government body
Penong is out of District Council boundaries and is under the jurisdiction of the local Penong and District Progress Association, in line with the Outback Communities Authority.

7. Further Comments

Penong Preschool offers a uniquely wonderful teaching and learning experience, which is inherent in small school settings. Working at Penong School allows individuals to become a real part of their community and to work with students and families who are committed to education. Children are interested and genuine.

The opportunity of combining a country life style with excellent teaching and learning opportunities is what one would find in Penong.

I certify that these are true and accurate statements.

Karen E Murray (Mrs)
Principal
Penong & Coorabie Districts School
Date: 24th February 2016