

Welcome to Morgan Primary & Preschool

Morgan Primary and Preschool is a school where students demonstrate genuine care for each other and take pride in their learning environment. Academic achievement is frequently above state and similar school averages due to the strong focus on achievement.

Morgan is a small rural town situated 160km north-East of Adelaide where the Murray River turns South. Morgan Primary and Preschool is part of the Murray Bridge 2 Portfolio of schools. The school is central to the local community, with most students living in the town along the river or surrounding farms.

For 2023, there are 41 students enrolled in the primary school, and 7 enrolled in the preschool taught in four classes: Preschool, Junior Primary, Middle Primary, and Upper Primary. Students who require additional support are well catered for through the implementation of evidence-based intervention programs and the appointment of additional staff in every classroom to assist students when and where it is needed.

A Preschool is located on the site, which is also supported by local families and also families from neighbouring towns. The majority of students enrolled at Morgan Primary and Preschool transition to Waikerie High School at the end of their primary schooling.

The Australian Curriculum provides the framework for learning programs. Japanese and the Arts are taught at the school by specialist teachers. Maintaining the established vegetable gardens designed by the students and utilising our fully equipped kitchen are features of learning at Morgan Primary School. Our preschool is guided by the Early Years Framework and National Quality Framework. The formative assessment cycle is responsive to analysis of documentation and informs child centred goals.

School Captains are appointed each year as school leaders, ably supported by Sports Captains who play a significant role in the sporting participation and development of all students. Student Voice is empowered through the Student Representative Council, where there is representation from each year level. Members are voted in each semester, and actively generate new initiatives.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT**Updated: 01/02/2023****School number: 0282****School Name: Morgan Primary School****School Profile:**

Morgan Primary School is part of the Waikerie Partnership of Schools and the Murray Bridge 2 Portfolio. The core values of the school were revised in 2021 with the voice of all stakeholders and they are: Respect, Responsibility and Community. There are currently 48 students enrolled. 4 classes; Preschool, Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary. 5 Teachers, 3 SSOs, 1 Pastoral Support Worker and a Principal work with the children.

At Morgan Primary School we offer a range of specialist subjects apart from the excellent teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms. At every year level our students have weekly lessons in Japanese, Creative and Performing Arts, Outdoor Education and PE. There are 5 buildings. The Preschool is located in a separate fenced off safe area. The Upper Primary and Japanese Rooms are located together as is the Middle Primary, Junior Primary and Art Room. The modern Library and Kitchen are located under the same roof. While the main building houses the front Administration area, Principal office, staffroom and staff preparation area. Outside we have our recently completed Nature Play area with a mud kitchen, sandpit, chimes and rocky creek bed with wooden stepping logs and large trunks for sitting or climbing on. This area can also be utilised as an outdoor classroom. There is a large area of playground equipment, paved areas for tennis, handball and basketball and a beautiful green oval surrounded by Gum-trees for Athletics, Cricket, Softball and any other sport that requires it.

We provide many opportunities and encourage all members of our community to be actively involved and engaged in all facets of school life. This includes open days, assemblies, shared lunches, family dinners, extra-curricular activities and community events. The revised Morgan Primary School closed Facebook page, and parent / student Seesaw communication programs have allowed us to continue to improve and further strengthen communication for our students, staff, families and the wider community. Students work collaboratively with organisations within the community such as the Morgan Library, Mid Murray Council, Morgan RSL, Morgan & Cadell Lions Club, Morgan Museum and the Morgan Community District Tourism Association (MCDTA).

We support the Sporting Schools program providing our students an extra physical activity particularly in new sports. Students are actively involved in recognised sport, interaction days, and transition programs. Students are encouraged to be involved in local service groups such as the CFS.

We have developed activities and events focusing on learning from B-6, promoting parental support and education, supportive intervention programs, successful transition programs and an early years focus on 'play' and literacy and numeracy development. All students enjoy Outdoor Classroom in the Gully (across from the school) Monday afternoon for the preschool and Thursday afternoon's for the primary in terms 2 & 3. This allows opportunities for further exploration, mastery, creativity and leadership.

School Purpose

The purpose of Morgan Primary and Preschool is to enable a quality teaching and learning environment that results in high standards of learning and care for all learners.

Philosophy Statement

At Morgan we believe learning is a life- long process where all parties are valued. We aim to provide a safe, supportive and caring environment, in which children have access to an education, which will equip them to live confidently and independently in an ever-changing world. This is achieved through professional and knowledgeable staff working in a supportive environment with families and the community to provide a well-resourced program that is responsive to the learning needs of our children. Striving for positive attitudes toward learning improvement and excellence is encouraged and valued.

‘Our learners will be confident, capable, and adaptable and prepared members of our local and global community.’

1. General information

- School Principal name: **Mrs Carol Colbert**
- Year of opening: 1880
- Postal Address: 1A Fourth Street, Morgan, SA, 5320
- Location Address: 1A Fourth Street, Morgan, SA, 5320
- DfE Region: Waikerie Partnership
- Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km): 160 km
- Telephone number: 85402102
- Fax Number: 08 85402217
- School website address: www.morganps.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: dl.0282.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: Playgroup is part of our School-based Preschool
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE Student Enrolment: 48

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Student Enrolment</i> | <i>School Card %</i> | <i>Non - English</i> | <i>ATSI</i> |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 2020 | 38 + 6 Preschool = 44 | 65 % | 0.5% | 0.5% |
| 2021 | 32 + 10 Preschool = 42 | 60% | 0.5% | 7% |
| 2022 | 43 + 7 Preschool = 50 | 70% | 0.5% | 12% |
| 2023 | 41 + 7 Preschool = 48 | 68% | 2% | 6.25% |

Student enrolment trends: Our student numbers are stable, however at times we note that due to lack of employment opportunities, housing availability, family circumstances, drought and the financial climate of our area enrolments have been changeable over the last five years.

Staffing numbers (as at February census and including school based preschool staff):

- Principal/teacher
- 3.7 teachers (including school-based preschool)
- SSO 2 - 27 hours per week – Front Office / Finance / Admin
- SSO 2 - 30 hours per week – Library / IT / Admin / Classroom Support
- SSO 1 – 11 hours per week – Classroom Support
- SSO 1 – 15 hours per week – Japanese Assistant and Early Childhood Support Worker
- GSE - Groundsman 13 hours per week
- Pastoral Support Worker – 13 hours per fortnight
- Public transport access: No

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics:

Morgan Primary is a small school with a family and community atmosphere. The school draws students from the local town and surrounding rural communities.

Student well-being programs:

The school is a Trauma Aware School using the Berry Street Program, values education, and healthy breakfast and lunch events.

- Trauma Aware School - Berry Street
- Buddy reading
- Counselling sessions – CAHMS, Relationships Australia & Centacare
- Curriculum – classroom lessons
- School Values
- Pastoral Care
- Restorative Justice Principles
- Caring, safe and supportive environment
- Outdoor Classroom – Gully play- based and mastery learning
- Student’s families are supported by all staff, the Principal and our Pastoral Support Worker. Intervention and specific programs are and will continue to be used for students / families requiring additional support.
- Staff implement SMART Strategies and teach the Child Protection Curriculum on an annual basis.
- Mental Health programs including Kids Help Line online sessions visits
- Four year old checks held pre entry to Reception

Student government

School Leaders are elected at the beginning of each year. There are two House Captain (Blue and Gold) and School Leaders from our Year 6 cohort. The Student Representative Council is made up of 2 other students per classroom assisting the School Leaders, Principal and staff, and students with issues raised by the student body, fundraising and model appropriate social behaviours.

Special programmes

Preschool – children are entitled to access 4 terms (1 year) of government preschool in the year before they start school.

2023 will introduce a mid-year intake into preschool. This means that from 2023 children who turn 4 years old:

- before 1 May are eligible to start preschool at the beginning of the year.
- on 1 May to 31 October can commence preschool through the mid-year intake at the start of term 3 of that year
- after 31 October will be eligible to commence preschool at the start of the following year.

Regardless of whether your child starts at the beginning of the year, or through a mid-year intake they will undertake 4 terms of preschool.

Preschool sessions are held over a fortnightly cycle so children attend:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 3x6 hour sessions (Odd Weeks) Monday, Tuesday 2x6 hour sessions (Even Weeks)

- This equates to a total of 600 hours per year compliant with the Universal Access Program.
- Pre-entry sessions are held during term 4 for those starting at the beginning of the year and in term 2 for those starting mid-year; the term before the children start full time preschool. Times and dates will be communicated to eligible families.
- There is one Playgroup session per week held on Friday mornings between 9.30 am and 10.30 am. Playgroup is run by the parents.
- Support programs are provided for children based on individual needs (speech/language/behaviour/physical needs etc.) which are reviewed each term.
- 'Pair Reading' is used as a reading readiness program
- Information sharing between all levels of schooling occurs regularly as teacher efficacy is valued

Student well-being programs

The school staff work proactively with parents, students and community members to support student well-being. The school is following a Social and Emotional Learning Plan based on the Berry Street Domains. This is to further develop students' self-regulation, confidence, responsibility to be ready to learn, resilience and ability to get along with others. We also teach emotional awareness and regulation using the Kimochis program in the preschool and school. We have a Pastoral Support Worker on staff whose main role is to support student and community well-being.

Student support offered

Individual, group and whole class support is provided by both teachers and SSOs. Our classes work in two groups (R/3 and 4/6) Friday's. Small group reading support is provided by teachers and SSOs for all students who are identified through our whole-school data monitoring processes. SSOs support individual students to achieve their One Plan goals. The size of our school enables all staff to know each student well allowing us to easily identify, and then plan, interventions for students who may need support with their emotional wellbeing, behaviour or learning.

Student management

Behaviour is managed through a clear process that involves positive reinforcement and clear consequences. Parents are very supportive. The Principal and staff are actively involved in counselling children. The SRC, Governing Council and staff have developed a whole school code of conduct. At Morgan Primary & Preschool, high-level behavioural incidents are rare.

3. Key School Policies

We aim for academic excellence across our key learning areas of Maths, Science, Literacy, Geography, History, English, The Arts, Physical Education, Civics and Citizenship, Sustainability, Creative and Critical thinking. We provide a high quality educational program that will develop in each student a passion and purpose for learning and a commitment to maximising his/her learning potential. Included in our activities is the Gully – Mastery in Play Based learning for all children, fitness for a healthy body and mind, a focus on reading for pleasure as well as learning and of course the core subjects of literacy, maths and sciences.

High quality teaching, good resources and an outstanding school environment contribute to maintaining educational excellence. Students are encouraged to the highest standards, to think critically and creatively, work collaboratively, act ethically and responsibly, engage productively with difference, and develop a commitment to contribute to the broader common good as well as their own personal development. We believe these ideals meet the challenges of 21st century Australia.

Long Term Objectives:

Morgan Primary School 2021 – 2024 Site Improvement Plan outlines our long term objectives for literacy- to improve writing and numeracy- to increase student growth to higher achievement. The School Improvement Plan includes goals, targets and challenges of practice.

The School Based Preschool QIP **Quality Improvement Plan** priorities are:

- To improve children's ability to express their understanding of their place and space in the world.

Students are encouraged to:

- Develop the dispositions for learning of, Adaptable, Self-Motivated, Switched On and Challenged in a safe and welcoming environment
- Use their 'voice' to learn
- Experience a relevant, challenging and interesting curriculum
- Be motivated and flexible powerful learners
- Develop the abilities of independent and co-operative learning
- Develop skills and abilities in all curriculum and cross-curricula learning
- Be aware of themselves and their role in the social environment of the broader world and operate effectively and autonomously within it.

4. Curriculum

Like all South Australian Government schools, at Morgan Primary School we use the Australian Curriculum.

Subjects taught in our school:

- English
- The Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technologies
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Languages Other than English (Japanese)
- Health & Physical Education

Open Access/Distance Education provision:

We currently do not use Open Access. Our language program is delivered face-to-face

Special needs:

Approximately 2% of our students are verified as students with a disability. We have highly committed SSOs working with these students and receive excellent support from both DfE and NDIS support service providers if required.

Student Assessment Procedures & Reporting:

Term 1 – Parent Acquaintance Night

Week 10 traffic light reports

Term 2 – Week 2 – 3 way discussions

Mid-Year Written Report

Term 3 – Week 9 traffic light report and interviews offered

Term 4 – End- of-Year Written Report

Parents/Teachers are encouraged to discuss student progress at other times of the year as needed. We follow a yearly Assessment Schedule that includes PAT testing, NAPLAN on-line, and Phonics Screening. Teachers continuously monitor student learning using formative and summative assessments.

5. Sporting Activities

Regular sporting clinics are held on site through the Sporting Schools Program.

Swimming and Water Safety lessons are held on site and at Waikerie Town Pool.

The Mid Murray Sports Day is held at the Waikerie Recreation Oval and is combined with Blanchetown, Ramco and Waikerie Lutheran School and is held at the end of term 1 each year.

Students are provided with the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA events over the course of the year once they are in year 4.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

The annual School Christmas Assembly Celebration is a long standing tradition and one of the highlights of the school year.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

Leadership

1.0 Principal (0.7 admin & 0.3 teaching)

Teaching Staff

1.0 Class teacher

0.8 Class Teacher

0.9 Class Teacher

0.6 Preschool Teacher

0.2 Class Teacher

0.2 Specialist Teacher (HASS and Japanese)

Non-Teaching Staff

Finance/Administration Officer

3 Student Support Officers

Pastoral Support Worker

Grounds person

Staff at this school work together as a supportive and dedicated team. Strong working relationships have been developed. Teaching staff meet once a week (Thursday) for professional development and discussion.

Staff support systems

Opportunities to work collaboratively with staff from other sites are provided regularly.

Budgets are set each year to support staff training, especially when it is relevant to the school's priorities. Morgan PS teachers meet with other teachers in the Waikerie Partnership to moderate learning in writing and maths. Combined student free days occur at times to support similar goals on the SIP and PQIP. Partnership leaders meet regularly to plan professional development. (The partnership includes Ramco PS, Blanchetown PS, Swan Reach Area School, Waikerie Primary and High, & Waikerie Children's Centre).

Performance Management

In line with the Department for Education's performance development guidelines, performance development meetings occur each semester, and consist of observations, discussions, sharing of practice, formal recording of successes and written feedback. Participation in training & development, shared curriculum leadership and peer observation & feedback is encouraged. Discussion on programs to support the school's Site Learning Plan are an embedded part of weekly staff meetings.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points: nil
- Isolation placement points: 3.5
- Shorter terms: N/A
- Travelling time: Approximately two hours from Adelaide
- Housing assistance: See Rental Agency in Waikerie
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance: N/A
- Additional increment allowance: N/A
- Designated school benefits: N/A
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools: N/A
- Medical and dental treatment expenses: N/A
- Locality allowances: N/A
- Relocation assistance: Refer to DfE
- Principal's telephone costs: No

9. School Facilities

Buildings and grounds

- The school consists of one stone building, three buildings and two portables.
- The main building houses the front administration office, staff room, SSO workspaces, Japanese room, teachers' resources and preparation area, meeting rooms, and Principal's office.
- The playground has been upgraded with the inclusion of new play equipment and a nature play area.
- The Preschool building has a large activity area, office, resource room, laundry, store-room, children's toilets, disabled adult toilet and ramp and enclosed kitchen. An enclosed outdoor deck area allows for extended indoor play area. The nature themed grounds are fully established consisting of a large grassed area, sandpit, cubby house, succulent and sensory gardens, a covered learning area and playground equipment. There are also two very large outdoor storage sheds and a shared vegetable patch.

The school community takes great pride in maintaining the buildings and grounds to an immaculate condition.

Heating and cooling

- All buildings have ducted and/or split system units providing heating and cooling.

Staff facilities

A teacher preparation room is available for staff use. The library has a designated office area for use by staff. An extensive professional library is available for staff use.

Access for students and staff with disabilities

There is disabled access to all classrooms areas. There is disabled access to toilets both in the primary and preschool.

10. School Operations

Decision making structures

- Democratic decision making is practised through staff meetings, Governing Council, class and the SRC
- The main committee of the Governing Council is Finance with working parties formed for specific short term events or issues
- Our PAC committee consists of all staff and meets as the need arises

Regular publications

- A fortnightly newsletter and monthly preschool newsletter are sent home to provide information about school events, priorities, successes, developments, directions, and to seek feedback and support from families
- Information is also available on our website such as Information Handbooks, Policies / Procedures, Annual Report, and the Improvement Plan

Other communication

- All classroom teachers, parents and students use Seesaw to communicate.
- A weekly email is sent to staff communicating upcoming events, changes to the timetable, and feedback on professional learning classroom practice
- Class newsletters are sent home each term sharing planned learning overviews and learning areas of the Australian Curriculum that will be taught.
- There is a closed school Facebook page which shares school events.
- School website which is updated with latest policies and information

School financial position

The school is in a stable financial position with some reserves allocated for continual upgrades and improvements to facilities and equipment.

Special funding

The school is fortunate to receive various grants and funding to support students and learning.

- Rural and Isolated Students Index allowance
- Disadvantaged Schools Program
- Better Schools Funding
- Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Funding
- Sporting Schools Grants

11. Local Community

General characteristics

- Morgan is situated on the River Murray and is a very popular tourist area, catering for various water sports including skiing and fishing. A high quality caravan park and many riverside shacks cater for increased population during the summer months.
- The Morgan Community Development and Tourism Association, Morgan & Cadell Lions Club and Mid Murray Council are very active in the community and support the school wherever possible.

Parent and community involvement

- There is strong parental involvement in the school
- Parent helpers – soup days

Feeder or destination schools

- Students come from the general community to enrol in the preschool class and usually stay till Year 6.
- Students usually enrol at the local high school - Waikerie High School and can access the department bus for transport

Other local care and educational facilities

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

- Post Office
- Take Away Stores
- Supermarket
- Hardware Store
- Bakery
- Caravan Park
- Service Station
- X2 Hotels

Other local facilities

- Internet Centre
- Day Activity Centre
- CFS
- St. John Ambulance Service
- Pharmacy
- Gym
- Museum
- Medical Centre
- Mid Murray Council Office (Community Hub)
- Town Library
- Small Bore Rifle Club
- Netball/Tennis courts
- Town Oval
- Bowling Club
- Golf Club
- Youth Hub
- Go-Kart Club
- Lions Club
- Tourism Association
- RSL
- Cricket Club
- Speedway
- Motocross track and club
- Pistol shooting club
- Interactive Playground

Availability of staff housing

See Rental Agency in Waikerie

Accessibility

Accessed by road from Adelaide 160km.

No public transport

Closest regional centre Waikerie 45km east

All sealed roads

Local Government body

Mid-Murray Council

10 Fourth Street

Morgan 5320

Ph: 08 85400060

Fax: 08 85691931

Email: postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au