

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: August 2023



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

Centre number: 6608

Centre name: Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director Vanessa Wegner
- Postal address PO Box 42 Booleroo Centre SA 5482
- Location address 26 Campbell Street Booleroo Centre SA 5482
- DfE Partnership Flinders Partnership
- Geographical location – i.e., road distance from GPO (km) 258km
- Telephone number (08) 8667 2055
- Fax number (08) 8667 2039
- Preschool website address: <https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/booleroo-centre-district-kgtn>

- Preschool e-mail address dl.6608.director@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance

Enrolment

	Enrolment by Term			
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2019	12	12	12	12
2020	14	N/A	14	14
2021	9	9	9	9
2022	11	11	11	12

Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2019 centre	91.7%	89.6%	91.7%	100.0%
2020 centre	91.2%		85.1%	88.4%
2021 centre	95.6%	88.9%	95.6%	62.2%
2022 centre	86.4%	72.7%	87.2%	82%
2019 state	90.8%	88.2%	86.8%	87.6%
2020 state	89.8%	83.6%	86.2%	87.2%
2021 state	88.6%	86.5%	88.6%	85.6%
2022 state	84.9%	79.8%	80.3%	77.5%

- Co-located/stand-alone.
Stand-alone
- Programs operating at the preschool.
 - Sessional Kindergarten: This part-time site provides sessional kindergarten for eligible children. Regular sessions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, accounting for 13 hours per week from 8.45am to 3.10pm. The kindy runs a block of additional sessions every year to make up the remaining hours for each child. These additional sessions may be subject to change each year.
 - Rural care is a childcare service that runs alongside the kindy program. It provides long day care and before and after school care for children from birth to 12 years old. It also incorporates Melrose Rural Care. 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, including school holidays.
 - Booleroo Centre Playgroup: 9.30am to 11.30am every Wednesday, excluding school holidays. Melrose Play Centre: Wednesday morning.
 - Preschool Support: may be accessed if required.
 - Bus service: If a child lives outside of Booleroo Centre, they may be able to catch the school bus to kindy if seats are available.

2. Key Centre Policies

- The centre operates under DfE policies. These are available at www.education.sa.gov.au
- Refer to website www.preschools.sa.gov.au/booleroo-centre-district-kgtn for site specific policies for:
 - Statement of Philosophy
 - Healthy Food & Nutrition
 - Sun Protection
 - Emergency Management Plan
 - Water Safety Procedure
 - Arrival & Departure Procedure
 - Behaviour Guidance Code
 - Sleep & Rest Procedure
 - Safe Transportation Procedure

3. Curriculum

- Belonging, Being & Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia is used throughout the process of observing, analysing, planning, implementing, and evaluating children's learning.
- Children's learning is also assessed with reference to the Preschool Indicators of Literacy and Numeracy.
- Core Values - We provide a welcoming, respectful, and fun learning environment where children can learn and explore through play. Parent involvement is encouraged, and we value those relationships to strengthen each child's sense of belonging at our kindy and rural care services.
- We meet with both staff from Booleroo Centre District School and Melrose Primary School, building relationships and sharing aspects of our practice and ways we can support children's learning. Throughout the year we support transition with visits between the schools and preschool. Twice a term our children visit the local aged care facility. This is greatly valued by our preschool children and the residents.

4. Centre Based Staff

A single Director oversees operations at both locations. At Booleroo Centre preschool, the Director takes on a teaching role and is assisted by an Early Childhood Worker (ECW). This preschool operates on full days every Tuesday and Thursday, as well as every third Monday of the term. Meanwhile, the Melrose site is staffed by Early Childhood Workers holding Diplomas and Cert

III qualifications. There is a degree of staff overlap between the two sites. The Melrose and Booleroo Rural Care facility offers its services from Monday to Friday and is overseen by the Centre's Director.

5. Centre Facilities Buildings and grounds

Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten and Rural Care has a spacious outdoor learning area, including a log scramble, swings, sandpit and water pump, vegetable garden and fruit trees, mud kitchen, lawn area, stage and chook run. The original building arrived in 1980 and was redeveloped in 2007 when long day care commenced.

Melrose Rural Care has a spacious outdoor learning area, including a vegetable garden, swings, sandpit, fixed playground, mud play area, a beautiful fig tree, lawn area and an enclosed outdoor learning area. The indoor space is a stone building which one housed the local school's principal.

- Capacity (per session)
 Booleroo can accommodate a total of 28 children in terms of physical space. On kindy days, Rural Care accommodates a minimum of 4 children, while the preschool can accommodate a maximum of 26 children per session. At present, rural care offers a program with two workers (enabling long daycare for approximately 14 children) on days that are not kindy days. In comparison, Melrose Rural Care has a physical capacity of 19 and offers long day care for a maximum of around 14 children per day.
- Centre Ownership Department for Education (DfE)
- Access for children and staff with disabilities Yes

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten and Rural Care is a quaint rural preschool and care facility situated in a serene countryside setting. The establishment offers preschool sessions catering to eligible children, comprehensive long day care for youngsters up to school age, and convenient after school/vacation care for school children up to 12 years old. The facility's location is just across the street from Booleroo Centre District School (catering to Reception to Year 12 students).

Nestled in the heart of a region predominantly dedicated to grain and sheep farming, Booleroo Centre serves a population of approximately 300 residents, many of whom belong to farming families. The local occupational landscape features a blend of farming and agricultural enterprises, healthcare services

including a hospital, medical centre, and aged care, educational institutions encompassing both school and preschool, as well as a variety of small businesses such as a bakery, IGA store, insurance firm, hair salon, and engineering ventures.

The facility extends its reach to children commuting from nearby towns like Willowie, Tarcowie, Melrose, and Yandiah, spanning a radius of up to 30km, for attending school, preschool, and care services. Most of the children enrolled in the facility hail from dual-income households, while a smaller segment comes from families facing social isolation or economic vulnerabilities.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
 - Parent Information Sessions
 - Parent-run playgroup
 - Parent 'chats' for preschool children in Terms 1 and 3
 - Parent volunteers on excursions and with dedicated events

Presently, we maintain a partnership with the Booleroo Centre District School Governing Council. Additionally, we possess an independent parent committee that assumes the role of aiding and assessing the operations of

the Preschool and Rural Care services. This committee is accountable for reporting its findings and activities to the Governing Council.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool.
Booleroo Centre District School
Melrose Primary School
- Other local care and educational facilities
Booleroo Centre District School
Melrose Primary School
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Booleroo Centre IGA
- Other local facilities
Booleroo Centre Gym, Booleroo Centre Hospital, Booleroo Centre Medical Centre and Pharmacy, Booleroo Centre Swimming Pool and Children's Playground, Air Strip.
- Availability of staff housing
Limited availability of Government Employee Housing.
- Accessibility
The distance from Booleroo Centre to the nearby regional centres are as follows: 67 kilometres to Port Pirie, 84 kilometres to Port Augusta, and 259 kilometres to Adelaide. It's important to note that there is no public transportation available in Booleroo Centre and Melrose.

- Local Government

Booleroo Centre is situated within the southern Flinders Ranges region of South Australia. This town falls under the jurisdiction of the Mount Remarkable District Council, which is divided into two Wards: Telowie, represented by 3 Councillors, and Willochra, represented by 4 Councillors. Encompassing an expansive land area of 3422.8 square kilometres, the Council oversees a total of 5 primary towns within its boundaries. ([Booleroo Centre | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](http://Booleroo Centre | District Council of Mount Remarkable (mtr.sa.gov.au)))

7. Further Comments

The Centre is part of the Flinders Partnership and larger Port Augusta 2 portfolio of DfE schools and preschools.

Community links are maintained with Booleroo Centre District School via regular visits to their school library and with their early years class.

In the event of a 'Catastrophic' fire rating declared by the CFS for the FLINDERS district, Booleroo Centre District Kindergarten and Rural Care will remain operational, although school bus services will not be in operation. However, due to its classification as a high-risk bushfire location, Melrose Rural Care will be closed on days when a 'Catastrophic' fire alert is issued.