



SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016

As part of our funding agreement with the Australian Government, we are required to ensure that specific 'School Performance Information' is made publically available to the school community. The information has been provided by this report which has been posted on our website at www.stmarks.sa.edu.au and which is also available at the school office.

If you have any questions regarding this information please direct them to the Principal, Mr James Heyne.

Contextual Information

In 2016 St Mark's Lutheran School operated with a Foundation to Year 6 structure providing 2 classes in each year level. St Mark's continues to operate as a systemic Lutheran school located in the Adelaide Hills. In harmony with our Lutheran ethos, the School is centred on the gospel of Jesus Christ as described in our Mission and Values, which we strive to bring to life each day with all our interactions within and beyond the school community.

Our Mission

'Led by God, St Mark's provides a quality education, developing individuals' potential and encouraging all to reflect Christ's love in care and service to others.'

Our Values

God's Word, as revealed in the Bible, is the authority of what we do and teach. Therefore, we foster and support the following 11 values.

Love

We daily reflect God's love for us in our interactions with others.

Forgiveness

We forgive others as God forgives us and in doing so, we recognise the wrong, seek reconciliation and begin anew.

Integrity

We display a moral character based on honesty, truthfulness and faithfulness.

Patience

We display patience through perseverance and self-control.

Respect

We are considerate of others, honour their role and recognise their worth as individuals.

Justice

We interact with others in a fair and equitable manner.

Cooperation

We work together harmoniously, and in doing so, acknowledge differences but remain focused on achieving common goals.

Service

We give selflessly of our time and talents for others.

Hope

We face the future with confidence, in anticipation of the possibilities God holds for us.

Compassion

We care for, and have empathy with, the situations of others as we walk alongside them.

Excellence

We encourage all to aim for excellence through realising their potential.

To provide focus and direction to our operations and activities we provide our strategic plan as a statement of intent. The plan is the result of a consultative community process building upon our strengths and focusing our improvement endeavours in four key areas.

St Mark's Lutheran School Strategic Direction 2015 - 2018

Learning and growing with Christ.

"St Mark's vision is to provide a student-centred learning community that engages in 21st century practices while we embrace, value and nurture community in an environment grounded in Christ."

Our Strategic Priorities**1. Focusing on our students being front and centre**

"Provide an innovative and engaging learning community that is student-centred and reflects 21st century learning practices."

We achieve this by

- 1.1 Reviewing and restating St Mark's definition of 21st Century learning.
- 1.2 Delivering curriculum in alignment with the school's interpretation of 21st century learning.
- 1.3 Supporting the adoption of inclusive learning practices throughout the school that are relevant to 21st century learning.
- 1.4 Engaging in assessment practices that provide direction for ongoing development in teaching, learning and reporting.
- 1.5 Maintaining ongoing development of our student wellbeing strategies to ensure the needs of students are being met.

2. Supporting a first class community of staff learners

"Provide a satisfying and supportive workplace that encourages people to embrace and develop their skills, abilities and talents as God-given gifts."

We achieve this by

- 2.1 Fostering a strong culture of respect, grace and love of Christ within the school.
- 2.2 Ensuring the core values of the school are firmly embedded within the operations of the school.
- 2.3 Ensuring policies, practices and procedures define and support clear roles and responsibilities in a dynamic staff team.
- 2.4 Maintaining professional development strategies to ensure staff effectively undertake their role in the school, engaging in a culture of continuous improvement.

3. Providing sustainable, high quality facilities and environment

“Provide an excellent and effective learning environment through responsible and strategic management and planning practices.”

We achieve this by

- 3.1 Aligning and implementing developments and improvements reflective of the priorities in our strategic plan, to provide for first class learning spaces and resources that facilitate 21st century learning for all students.
- 3.2 Maintaining best practice financial and management systems, ensuring their alignment with the expectations of School Council and the LSA.
- 3.3 Developing an awareness of funding opportunities that are relevant to the school and maintain a proactive approach to funding application.
- 3.4 Ensuring that the school site meets the needs of students and staff, and maximises opportunities for development.

4. Building an engaged and respected school community

“Establish a respected and significant presence within the local community while implementing the school’s Mission & Ministry objectives.”

We achieve this by

- 4.1 Developing and maximising opportunities for the school community to fully embrace God's Word and mission.
- 4.2 Ensuring communications within the school community are professional and highly effective.
- 4.3 Ensuring St Mark’s fosters strong community support and is easily recognisable.
- 4.4 Developing effective marketing strategies that engage the wider community and maximise opportunities for growth and development that complement the school strategic plan.

St Mark’s adopts a holistic approach to learning where individual student needs are developed through quality educational and pastoral programs.

Educationally, ongoing curriculum development and quality teaching results in a strong emphasis placed upon Literacy, Numeracy and Christian Studies. The integration of technology into the learning programs developed from the Australian Curriculum areas of English, Mathematics, Science, HASS, The Arts, Health and PE, Technologies and Languages – German, underpins quality learning experiences for our students.

Areas of subject specialisation in 2016 included Music, German, Physical Education and collaborative use of our Library/Resource centre.

In addition, students at St Mark’s undertake a wide range of learning experiences through many events, activities and learning opportunities as evidenced by the following examples:

<u><i>Social Justice:</i></u>	Supporting development projects in Cambodia, support of national charities, student involvement at a local aged care facility
<u><i>Leadership:</i></u>	Student Representative Council, House Captains, playground peer mentor program
<u><i>Outdoor Education:</i></u>	Camping program across all year levels in addition to various day excursions
<u><i>Music/Drama Program:</i></u>	Choir, music bands, individual music tutors and the annual school concert
<u><i>Community Events:</i></u>	Parents and Friends events including student discos, sports day, our school fete and many special activities and treats for our students
<u><i>Sport:</i></u>	SAPSASA, Inter-Lutheran Athletics, Cross Country, House Sports
<u><i>Related Curricula:</i></u>	Inter-School Chess.

Pastorally, St Mark's strives to develop caring and nurturing relationships between all members of the school community including active parent participation. Our staff, supported by our Religious Pastoral Support Worker provided support and care for our students and families in all aspects of their lives.

Staff continued to implement the 'You Can Do It' curriculum and further professional learning focusing on the use of Circle time in classrooms was provided to support restorative practices in managing behaviour. Teachers also undertook professional learning to enable The Keeping Safe: *Child protection curriculum* to be implemented in 2017.

St Mark's has excellent facilities including bright and inviting classrooms, a multi-purpose hall, a substantial computer network, a well-resourced library and high quality play spaces.

Our Students

In 2016 St Mark's provided enrolment for 346 students comprised of 184 girls and 162 boys. Two students identified as indigenous. 4% of our students have a language background other than English.

Our Staff

Teacher Standards and Qualifications

All teachers have satisfied the requirements of teacher registration, including child protection training and a criminal history check.

The following table indicates the highest qualifications of St Mark's teaching staff.

Masters	Bachelor	Graduate Diploma
2	20	3

As lifelong learners dedicated to providing excellent learning environments for our students our teachers continue to be involved in a range of professional learning activities. Each teacher has an individual professional learning plan based on the AITSL teaching standards to positively improve our impact on student learning.

In 2016 the school continued to actively support the professional learning of staff, particularly with the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum, the integration of technology into classroom learning, and the use of inquiry as a platform for student learning. A particular focus in 2016 was developing an understanding of 21st century learning practices that focus on collaborative learning and critical thinking. Our focus is at all times to improve our practice to ensure engaging, challenging and relevant learning experiences are provided for our students.

Our definition of 21st century learning was drafted as follows

At St Mark's a 21 century education equips students with skills, knowledge and understandings creating learners who through collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity become active and compassionate citizens in a world of constant change.'

In 2016 the school was served by 25 teaching staff and 11 administration and support staff. No staff identified as Indigenous. Together they form the cornerstone of the quality environment that St Mark's is known for.

Student Attendance

The student attendance in 2016 across the school was 94.4% for all students in Years 1 to 6. This is comprised of the following attendance rate in each Year level from Year 1 to 6.

Year level	% attendance
Year 1	93.4
Year 2	95.5
Year 3	93.6
Year 4	95.0
Year 5	94.3
Year 6	94.5
School Total	94.4

When a student is absent without explanation, a phone call is made to the parents or guardians after the morning roll has been marked. Parents and guardians are required to provide explanations for absences from school and apply for attendance exemptions for extended absences.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy testing.

Percentage of Students at or above the National Minimum Benchmark

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy	% of students absent or withdrawn
Year 3	100	100	100	98	100	4
Year 5	98	100	98	100	100	2

Students at St Mark's continue to achieve at high levels with the percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Benchmark above national percentages.

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction with the School

In 2016 our St Mark's community participated in a Lutheran Education Australia data gathering initiative 'Quality Schools'. The project involved students, parents and staff participating in an online survey process under key headings including teaching quality, curriculum, wellbeing, school connectedness, identity, culture and ethos, supporting learning, governance, leadership and an overall satisfaction item for parents.

The survey results demonstrated high levels of satisfaction across all areas in the mid to high 90% for the majority of survey items. Parent responses to the two overall satisfaction questions are listed below

1. The school meets the learning needs of my child - Agree 96%
2. My child is making good progress at school – Agree 93%

Relative areas for improvement identified included

- Increasing student voice in learning and school decision making
- Increased awareness and teaching of cyber safety and online environments.
- Providing increased feedback to students and parents to support and improve learning.

These relative improvement areas align to our current strategic plan.

We also continued to be affirmed by our community through the following indicators.

- Our school has again been greatly supported through the wonderful efforts of a dedicated team of Parents and Friends. Throughout the year they undertook both fundraising and community building activities. Our school fete was an outstanding community event.
- Student Leadership. Our student leaders set a fine example through their roles in our SRC and House Teams. They modelled a positive approach and service to others through a range of projects.
- Affirming feedback. The school regularly receives many affirming comments from visitors to St Mark's impressed with the settled, caring and warm community they experienced and observed.
- Community participation. Students, parents and friends of the school whole heartedly support a range of event days such as sports day, concerts and musical recitals. A strength of the school, which is valued by our community, is our gathering to celebrate the talents of our students.
- A caring community. Our Religious Pastoral Support Worker oversees our 'Caret' which provides valuable support and care for many families in need. She also provides programs of support for students to assist them feel safe and respected in our school. Parent and extended family feedback consistently affirms the care provided to families in times of difficulty.
- Graduation of students. Families with students graduating from St Mark's continued to express their deep gratitude and thanks to our staff for the care, nurture and education provided to their children.

Key improvements to the school in 2016 continued in the areas of student wellbeing, the integration of technology into classroom learning and the development of a clear understanding of 21 century learning with a focus on collaboration. This was achieved through teams of staff working collaboratively as they conducted research into best practice and now seek to implement new learnings as part of classroom activities.

School income broken down by funding source

Below is listed the income received by the school in 2016. We acknowledge not only the funding provided by the Commonwealth and State Governments but also the significant and substantial level of tuition fees paid by families.

Commonwealth Government Funding	\$ 2,234,319
State Government Funding	\$ 503,705
Tuition Fees	\$ 989,292
Other Income	\$ 232,437
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 3,959,753</u>

Thank you for taking the time read our 2016 School Performance report. I would welcome any questions you may have. The best way to understand the experience we provide for our community is to visit us personally. I would welcome the opportunity to share our story with you.

Respectfully Submitted

James Heyne
Principal
St Mark's Lutheran School.