



**Learning
& Growing
with Christ**

*Lutheran Education
in the Adelaide Hills*



*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go,
I will counsel you and watch over you.*

Psalm 32:8

St Mark's Lutheran School

St Mark's is an independent co-educational primary school providing outstanding Christian education to families in the Adelaide Hills.

As a parent there are countless decisions you will make that affect the welfare of your children and one of the most important is their education.

It is vital that a quality education in the formative years is nurtured in a supportive learning environment shaped by dedicated and richly skilled teaching staff who bring life and energy to the whole curriculum.

This prospectus reflects the values and quality education provided by St Mark's. It has been developed to guide you in this most important decision. We invite you to make an appointment to visit our school, meet the principal and stroll through our teaching spaces.



Our **Mission Statement** reflects a
Christ Centred Education...

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

Our History

St Mark's was established in 1982 by the St Mark's Lutheran Church, Mt Barker. A group of dedicated people within the congregation saw the need for a Lutheran Primary School that would provide a Christian Education for their children and just as importantly for children of families in the wider community.

Visionary leadership and a highly committed staff have seen St Mark's develop high quality education programs delivered within modern facilities.

Our Values

Our Biblical VALUES define who we are...

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.

Christ Centred Education

Why a Lutheran School?

Lutheran schools have been a part of Australia's educational landscape since 1839 and now extend into every state and territory of Australia except the ACT. Lutheran schools have experienced significant growth which has led to system support at regional and national levels. Lutheran schools are schools of the Lutheran Church of Australia and as such, are based on the central message of the gospel, namely the good news in that our acceptance by God does not depend on our own worth or achievements, but on His unconditional commitment (love) for us, evidenced through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The promotion of Christian growth and development in our students is a reflection on what Jesus has done for us.

Lutheran schools offer quality teaching and learning experiences for each child to reflect their individual uniqueness. Lutheran schools are communities where caring and respectful relationships are developed. These strong relationships form the binding element that allows St Mark's to actively share its ethos and values. As a learning community, St Mark's proclaims hope for the future grounded in the Lutheran tradition.



We celebrate the word of God through...

- Regular Worship and Chapel Services
- Christian Studies Program
- Service Learning



Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6



"Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way".

Edward de Bono



Within the Classroom... **Learning**

At St Mark's we value ongoing curriculum development. This means that your child is being taught by committed teachers at the forefront of the educational landscape for teaching and learning.

At St Mark's, our dedicated and richly skilled teaching staff bring life and energy to the whole curriculum through their collegial efforts and God given abilities.

Christ Centred Education

In Christian Studies students come to learn about the love Jesus has for them and how their lives can reflect His grace. The Christian Studies program is in harmony with our Mission Statement and Values and this is reflected in our teaching and learning programs as well as our commitment to the local and wider community.

Teaching & Learning for the Future...

All learning areas are supported by extensive ICT facilities.



Opportunities for **All Students**

To meet the needs of children with learning difficulties, St Mark's provides support within the context of the classroom or through small group work with specialist teachers and support staff.

Our emphasis is on **Core Skills...**

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Integrated Studies (Society & Environment, Science, Health)
- Design & Technology
- Christian Studies
- Chinese & German Language
- Physical Education
- The Arts

Through the **Inquiry Process** for learning, students at St Mark's:

- Develop the skills to locate, select, organise and communicate information to others;
- Acquire the skills to analyse, interpret, synthesize and evaluate information through the skills of reading, writing, viewing and listening;
- Develop as critical thinkers and creative problem solvers; and
- Extend their cultural understandings and their information competencies through increasingly complex contexts using a range of information sources, formats and technologies.

Beyond the Classroom...

Music

St Mark's is well known for the breadth and quality of its Music Program. Children are encouraged to learn an instrument through a school based music tuition program. The school also provides performance opportunities for students through the Choir Program, Chapel Ensemble, Junior and Senior Bands.

Social Justice

Developing a Social Justice perspective with our student body is an important goal at St Mark's. Through our association with local, national and global organisations our students come to better appreciate the world around them and how they are called to selflessly serve others. This is Christ at work in our young people as they develop a disposition towards service learning.

Outdoor Education

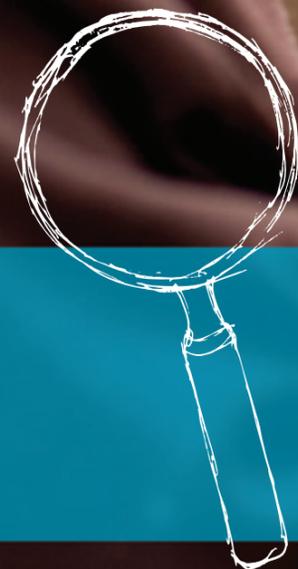
St Mark's has an extensive Outdoor Education program which sees our students undertake a range of learning experiences in harmony with classroom programs which include camps, excursions and diverse cultural activities.

Educating the Whole Child...

At St Mark's we provide students with a wide variety of experiences. In addition to our Outdoor Education program, Social Justice, Music program and Pedal Prix, our students have opportunities in:

- State (SAPSASA) and Inter-Lutheran sporting events including swimming, athletics, cross country
- Swimming Instruction (Reception to Year 4)
- Tournament of the Minds
- Chess Club
- School Concerts
- Pedal Prix
- Artists in Residence
- Assembly
- Church Services

Schooling at St Mark's certainly extends 'Beyond the Classroom'!



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

Nelson Mandela



We are a **Community.**

At St Mark's Lutheran...



**it's more than children...
it's families too.**

We are a community ... We offer support to families during times of hardship through our School Community Carer as well as other programs and events which encourage community participation. Support provided includes:

- Care Program
- Seasons for Growth Program
- Service Learning through local and global development projects
- Multiple Community Celebrations
- Parents & Friends
- Outside School Hours Care

**it's more than rules...it's about
developing relationships.**

As our community is grounded in Christian values, our students learn to restore peace in their own relationships through...

- Behaviour Education Policy based on Restorative Justice Practices
- Peer Mentoring Program





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