



## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025

As part of our funding agreement with the Australian Government, we provide our 'School Performance Information' and have it publicly available to the school community. The information has been posted on our website at [www.stmarks.sa.edu.au](http://www.stmarks.sa.edu.au) and is also available at the school office.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please direct them to the Principal, Mr Andrew Boesch, newly appointed in 2026.

### **Contextual Information**

In 2025 St Mark's Lutheran School operated with a Foundation to Year 6 structure providing 2 classes in each year level. In July 2025 we offered a Foundation midyear intake class. 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 Purpose and Values, which we strive to bring to life each day with all our interactions within and beyond the school community.

### **Our Purpose**

Our purpose is to inspire each learner today to shape the world of tomorrow, encouraged and cared for in a community drawn together by shared Christian values.

### **Our Values**

**Love** - We reflect God's love for us by caring for others and treating everyone with kindness and respect

**Courage** - We welcome challenges as opportunities to learn and grow, moving forward with optimism and confidence

**Curiosity** – We view the world in wonder, open minded and inquiring, seeking opportunities to explore, discover and learn

**Service** – We give generously of our time and talents for others.

## **St Mark's Lutheran Strategic Plan Outcomes**

### **Learning and Growth**

#### VISION

A consistent, whole school approach to contemporary teaching and learning.

#### PRACTICE

Teaching and learning practices that:

- Challenge and support each student to grow academically to their potential.
- Develop the whole person academically, socially, spiritually, physically and emotionally.

#### DATA

Above average whole school academic results and growth.

#### IMPROVEMENT

Staff engage proactively in outward-looking inquiry and investigation to continually develop their professional skills, collaborate with colleagues and incorporate the best methodologies into their practice.

## **Connection and Wellbeing**

### COMMUNITY

Students, families and staff feel welcomed, that they belong, are supported and valued and are connected to each other and the school through shared purpose, values and a commitment to helping each other to succeed.

### COMMUNICATION

The quality, quantity and mode of access to information is highly effective and meets the needs of students, families and staff.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The school cultivates an understanding of wellbeing and positive behaviour and how this supports positive relationships.

### SERVICE

The school has a heart of service.

## **Future Focus**

### VISION

A clear vision of the school's direction for growth, relationships, structure, location.

A clear St Mark's vision for Lutheran Education in Mount Barker.

### ENROLMENTS

A sustainable flow of students into Foundation

Increased retention and growth in enrolments.

Increased brand awareness and positive perceptions of St Mark's in the wider community.

Increased percentage of parents of pre-school aged children considering St Mark's.

### SUSTAINABILITY

A clear vision and plan to care for and connect with the Earth.

A clear plan for ongoing improvement of spaces and facilities, including marketability.

A sustainable long term financial and funding plan supports delivery of operational programs and capital improvements.

## **SCHOOL LIFE**

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.

Through staff professional learning and opportunities for reflection, Learning Principles have been thoughtfully refined into three core principles that continue to guide our teaching and learning practices:

1. We are valued for who we are.
2. Our learning is real life.
3. Feedback helps us grow.

Areas of subject specialisation in 2025 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.

#### Social Justice

Support of national and local charities through our chapel offerings i.e. Australian Lutheran World Service Walk My Way Project, Nifty Knitters

#### Leadership

Student Representative Council, House Captains, playground Peer Mentor Program, Student Representative Council lunch clubs, Choir Captains, Band Captains

#### Excursions

Art Gallery, Museum, Laratinga Wetlands, Parliament House, Adelaide Zoo, Hahndorf German Excursion, Year 6 Survivor Day, HILS Day, Morialta Conservation Park, Monarto Zoo, The Cedars Hahndorf, Space Discovery Centre

#### Incursions

Music is Fun, German Day

#### Outdoor Education

Year 1 – Year 5 Camps as well as Year 6 Aquatics Camp & Foundation Stay & Play Afternoon, Nature Play Day

#### Music/Drama Program

Senior Choir, Band, Individual Music Tutor Programs for varied instruments, Senior School Musical and Sounds on Sunday performances

#### Community Events

Eat, Meet & Greet, Colour Run, Parents & Friends PJ & Pizza Night, Student Representative Council Reading Fest, Parents & Friends Student Disco, Year 6 Graduation Dinner, Remembrance Day and Inform and Empower Parent Information Webinar

#### Sport

SAPSASA Swimming, SAPSASA Netball, Barker Districts Athletics Day, Inter-Lutheran Athletics, Cross Country, Pedal Prix, Lightning Carnival, Courier Cup, House Sports, Sports Day, Swimming & Water Safety and Dance programs were all highlights in 2025.

#### Related Curricula

ICAS Competition, Premier's Reading Challenge and Book Fair, National Science Week activities, International Maths Day and Maths Olympiad

#### Learning Support

Targeted intervention programs for Numeracy and Literacy including MiniLit & MacqLit, Phonemic Awareness

Pastoral care at St Mark's is grounded in nurturing, respectful relationships across our school community, with a strong emphasis on active parent involvement. Our dedicated staff, alongside our Pastoral Support Worker, provided compassionate support to students and families - attending to their wellbeing in both every day and challenging life moments.

The *Whispers of Hope* initiative extended this care by inviting families to be a 'whisper of hope' to others—through acts of kindness such as preparing meals, assisting with emergency school drop-offs or pick-ups, offering babysitting, or helping in other practical ways.

In 2025, our Year Level Carers continued to play an important role by serving as contact points for families and coordinating *Stay & Play* afternoons. These gatherings were well attended and offered a valuable opportunity to foster connection, belonging, and community spirit among families at St Mark's.

In 2025, guided by its Mission and Ministry Framework, St Mark's School continued to nurture meaningful connections between the congregation and the student community. Members of the St Mark's congregation faithfully mentored at-risk students through the school's Kids Hope Program, offering consistent support and care. The board games club was a vibrant part of school life, with congregation members generously sharing their time with students. In a further expression of faith and encouragement, Year 2 students were each gifted a Bible, fostering their spiritual growth and connection to God's Word.

In 2025, staff continued to embed the 'You Can Do It' program and Circle Time into classroom routines, further strengthening our whole-school approach to student wellbeing. These practices align with and support our restorative approach to behaviour management. Throughout the year, our Wellbeing Leader provided ongoing guidance and support to teaching staff, enhancing their capacity to foster positive, respectful classroom environments.

The school held fortnightly assemblies where classes were invited to present their learning experiences. Assemblies are also an opportunity for the Student Representative Council to share initiatives i.e. lunch time clubs, fundraising foci as well as reminders of the school value/s for the term. Weekly chapels are another occasion that our students come together. Chapels were either led by the school's Pastor or individual classes.

In 2025 students from Cornerstone College (sister school) were able to support student learning through the college's Legacy Project.

At St Mark's, the safety and wellbeing of our students in the digital world is a key priority. In 2025, students from Year 1 to Year 6 took part in the Inform & Empower Cyber Safety and Digital Wellbeing Program, proudly endorsed by the eSafety Commissioner. Across four interactive online sessions, students explored how to become safe, respectful, and responsible digital citizens.

At St Mark's we believe that educating the whole child is a shared responsibility, and strong partnerships with parents and caregivers are essential. To support this, our parent community was invited to an Inform & Empower webinar, which covered important topics including social media use, screen time, online gaming, current child and tween online trends, cyberbullying, and managing devices at home. Together, we're equipping our students—and their families—for a safe and balanced digital future.

### **Our Students**

In 2025 St Mark's provided enrolment for 351 students comprised of 171 girls and 180 boys. 1% of students identified as indigenous. 6% 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 Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care Training and DHS Working With Children Check.

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

Masters	Bachelor
3	27

In 2025 the school was served by 30 teaching staff and 13 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 Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy testing**

In 2025 the school participated in the online National Literacy and Numeracy testing. Students at St Mark's continued to achieve at high levels with the percentage of students achieving above the national percentages in the new category of 'needs additional support' above national averages.

Percentage of Students above the Needs Additional Support Benchmark

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy	% of students absent or withdrawn
Year 3	95%	95%	92%	89%	98%	1%
Year 5	98%	86%	92%	88%	94%	0%

## **Student Attendance**

The student attendance in 2025 across the school is reported below for the two collection periods for all students in Years 1 to 6.

Semester One	
Year level	% attendance
Year 1	91.6
Year 2	91.8
Year 3	92.5
Year 4	92.2
Year 5	93.3
Year 6	90.7
<b>School Total</b>	<b>92.0</b>

Term Three	
Year level	% attendance
Year 1	90.6
Year 2	88.8
Year 3	92.2
Year 4	91.3
Year 5	89.5
Year 6	88.2
<b>School Total</b>	<b>90.1</b>

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 of 5 or more days. Parents used a variety of mediums to inform the school if their child was absent.

## **Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction with the School**

In 2025 we continued to be affirmed by our community anecdotally through the following indicators.

- ✓ Our school has again been greatly supported through the wonderful efforts of a dedicated team of Parents and Friends.
- ✓ Student Representative Council hosted numerous events to promote the school's values. Initiatives included National Reconciliation Week, Harmony Day and a Non-perishable Food Drive for Service. Our Student Representative Council also hosted numerous lunchtime clubs which were well attended by students from Foundation to Year 6.

- ✓ A caring community - Our Pastoral Support Worker oversaw our 'Whispers of Hope' which provided valuable support and care for many families in need. He also provided programs of support for students to assist them to feel safe and respected in our school i.e. Seasons for Growth & What's the Buzz? Parents and extended family feedback consistently affirmed the care provided to families in times of difficulty.
- ✓ Graduation of students. Families with students graduating from St Mark's in 2025 continued to express their deep gratitude and thanks to our staff for the care, nurture and education provided to their children.

### **School income broken down by funding source**

Below is listed the income received by the school in **2025**. 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 Funding:	\$3,902,157 – 58%
State Funding:	\$1,073,093 – 16%
Tuition Fees:	\$1,585,811 – 24%
Other Income:	\$ 180,149 – 2%

**Total** **\$6,741,210**

Thank you for taking the time read our 2025 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