



# Explore more with St Mark's

Your guide to our school





# WELCOME TO ST MARK'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL



**St Mark's provides excellent education in a welcoming and nurturing environment where each child is supported to develop their individual potential to excel in learning and life, and encouraged to reflect Jesus's love in their care and service to others.**

Welcome to St Mark's Lutheran School, where students are at the heart of everything we do and each child is included and nurtured as a valued member of our community.

Our dedicated teaching staff, support staff and extensive learning programs deliver exceptional primary school education in a welcoming environment where every child is

assisted to develop their individual potential to excel in learning and life.

Our rich curriculum and extracurricular program allow children to explore their own areas of interest to further their individual growth alongside opportunities to develop critical life skills and extend their curiosity beyond the classroom. Through our values-centred

approach, St Mark's students also build personal strengths such as resilience, persistence, respect and service to others.

We invite you to visit St Mark's, meet our passionate and highly-skilled teaching staff and view our modern learning spaces to experience firsthand our welcoming community.

## A PLACE TO EXPLORE AND BELONG

**We believe that a strong sense of belonging is critical to developing children's passion for learning. That's why we support our students to build positive relationships with their peers and educators – as well as a strong curiosity in the world around them – from their formative years.**

At St Mark's, we have created student-focused, innovative learning environments informed by evidence-based best-practice to inspire students to reach their potential.

Our inquiry approach to learning

gives students the skills, confidence and curiosity to explore all areas of the curriculum, while our focus on student wellbeing supports each child's social and personal development.

It's not only your child who will be welcomed into the St Mark's family. Our unique strength is our connected, friendly community so you know that when you choose St Mark's your whole family will belong with us.

***"St Mark's hasn't just been a great place for my children - it has been an incredible place for my family. The staff, students and families all look out for one another and because of that we have made such wonderful friendships through the community."***

***– Debbie Zimmermann (St Mark's parent).***



# OUR STUDENTS

## EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

St Mark's offers excellence in primary school education through a broad and holistic teaching and learning program, underpinned by the Australian Curriculum.

Our nine key areas of learning are: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, the Arts, Technologies, German and Christian Studies.

An inquiry approach to learning develops students' knowledge and skills in a partnership with their teachers as they become active in constructing learning pathways to provide foundations that will support their lifelong learning.

## LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

Our students learn from an early age how to access and use the technologies that are shaping our rapidly changing world. Students adopt the basics of Technology from their first year and we balance traditional learning methods with new tools, techniques and technologies to best equip them for life and learning in our digital age.

All learning areas across our school and curriculum are supported by access to our extensive school-provided technology resources.

Our flexible learning spaces and ongoing facility upgrades ensure our students have access to modern classrooms that facilitate their learning and growth.



## EXPLORE, PLAY, GROW

Through the inquiry process for learning, our students are encouraged to explore all areas of the curriculum and develop their natural sense of curiosity.

Students gain essential skills to locate, select, organise and communicate information to others. They learn how to analyse, interpret, synthesize and evaluate information through reading, writing, viewing and listening – and develop as critical thinkers and problem solvers.

We incorporate lots of fun into our curriculum to encourage learning through play, games, creativity, interactive tasks and excursions.

## A STUDENT-CENTRED APPROACH

We recognise that each child is unique – that's why our students are provided with personalised support and guidance to assist with their learning as required.

We welcome children with learning needs requiring support plans and their families as valued members of our St Mark's family. We offer in-classroom assistance to allow students to work individually or in small groups with specialist teachers and support staff.

Our passionate teachers also work with students seeking learning extension opportunities to further accelerate their academic growth.

***"The additional support for learning provided at St Mark's is amazing. The staff are highly knowledgeable and have a genuine desire to support children in achieving their personal goals. We feel very grateful that our children are receiving the best learning opportunities, while being supported through the emotional challenges that accompany learning difficulties."***

*– St Mark's parent.*



## MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Our comprehensive school-based Music program provides children with the experience of learning a musical instrument with private tutors who visit St Mark's. Our students also enjoy performance opportunities through the Junior Singing Groups, Senior Choir, Senior Band and St Mark's Concert Program.

As part of our Arts approach, students develop their creativity through programs and initiatives in dance, drama and visual arts.



## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Students explore outdoor education through classroom programs including camps, excursions, and school-sponsored activities including dance and swimming instruction. Our playgrounds, sports facilities and nature play spaces provide plenty of planned and spontaneous activity and fun.

We encourage our students to pursue active lives and we support their passion for sport by promoting participation at all levels, including interschool competition.

Our students are given the opportunity to attend the full range of opportunities available in the SAPSASA program, Lutheran Schools Athletics Champion Challenge, Pedal Prix and local and state sporting clubs coaching clinics.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

We strive to develop a social justice perspective in our students. Through our association with local, national and global organisations and charities our students come to a better appreciation of the world around them and how they are called to selflessly serve others.

Students participate in acts of service for their peers and the wider community and provide input into choosing causes to support.



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### STUDENT WELLBEING

Our students are at the heart of all we do at St Mark's, so we go above and beyond to prioritise their wellbeing. We support our students by providing:

- **Peer Mentoring Program** – to connect students of all ages to build positive relationships across year levels throughout the school community.
- **Seasons for Growth Program** – to support and guide students who have experienced grief or challenging life changes. Students are provided with a safe space to share their experience, while also learning effective, evidence-based ways to respond and adapt.
- **Behaviour Education Policy** based on Restorative Justice Practices – to sensitively and effectively manage behavioural issues including bullying, while also developing students' critical skills to learn to restore peace in their relationships.
- **Individual Support** – our Religious Pastoral Support Worker plays a pivotal role in supporting students and their families through life's ups and downs and is accessible for students during the school week.
- **The Hub** – a calm, well-equipped break-out space designed to provide children with a quiet, sensory-friendly place in which they can feel calm, safe and nurtured.
- **Care Program** – our Class Carers and Care Program provide additional support to families experiencing challenging times.
- **KidsHope** one-to-one mentoring program



### EXTRA EXPERIENCES

At St Mark's we focus on educating the whole child by providing a range of experiences. In addition to our Outdoor Education, Social Justice and Music Programs we offer:

- Student leadership opportunities including House Captains, School Captains and Student Representative Council members
- School performances including our biennial whole-school musical
- Chess Club
- Lunch clubs run by our SRC in special interest areas
- School Assembly and Chapel services with student input
- Church services at St Mark's Lutheran Church.

***"The music program at St Mark's is exceptional. Our children have developed significant confidence in live performance thanks to the opportunities of the St Mark's school band and broader music program."***

*– Samuel and Carmen Woodman (St Mark's parents).*



# OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

## OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

We are proud to offer an on-site fun and flexible Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program.

Our private OSHC provider partner offers a reliable, engaging and hassle-free service that is centred on child enrichment and care. Their engaged educators foster a safe, inclusive environment where children can relax, have fun and grow. Options include before and after school care, as well as holiday care.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers play an important role in supporting the learning, social connection and wellbeing of our teachers and students and add to the richness and diversity of our St Mark's community.

Our parent volunteers are highly respected and enjoy a range of opportunities to be involved in school life, from classroom and learning assistance to assisting with our social and community events, and being part of our Parents and Friends (P&F) group.

It's also a great way to meet and connect with other St Mark's families.

## TRANSITION PROGRAM

At St Mark's we prioritise each child's sense of belonging as part of our community. We work with families to ensure their children feel safe, supported and connected to their peers and their school environment so they have the confidence to engage better in their learning.

We offer a comprehensive transition program for our new Foundation students that includes:

- Four informal meet and play sessions at our school where children can meet each other, explore our facilities and get to know our teachers and Principal;
- Two formal visits in a classroom setting to familiarise students with their teacher and the classroom environment;
- A Parent Information Evening to guide new school parents in how they can support their child's learning and opportunities for families to become involved in school life;
- Partnerships with local kindergartens and Early Learning Centres where our staff meet with educators and new students before their first school year;
- Assigning each Foundation child a Year 6 Buddy who will support, mentor and guide them through their first year at St Mark's.

We also welcome families on our Student Led and Principal's Tours.



***"St Mark's provided our daughter with the stepping stones to transition from being on SRC in Year 1 to being school captain in Year 6. She loves being a role model and peer mentor to the younger kids. St Mark's staff provided our daughter with the support and mentoring over the years to grow in leadership to support the school and community."***

*– Stephan Fourie (St Mark's parent).*

## FUN FOR EVERYONE

St Mark's makes learning and the school experience fun with our additional school and community events. We're focused on connecting students, encouraging celebration and bringing students and their families together in our welcoming community.

Our regular events include:

- PJ and Pizza movie night
- Student Disco
- Twilight Sports Day
- School Concerts and Performances
- Special occasions such as Harmony Day, Book Week, National Reconciliation Week, Ride2School Day and more.
- Special events organised by our SRC and P&F.



# SPIRITUALITY

## OUR FAITH

St Mark's is an inclusive school and community, welcoming families from diverse backgrounds who share our values and aspirations to deliver the best in education for our students.

As a Lutheran school, St Mark's offers quality teaching and learning experiences for each child to reflect their individuality. Our faith is the cornerstone of St Mark's and is lived through our core values.

This values-centred approach guides students' growth in their individual learning, as well as their personal and spiritual development, empowering them to live and act with love, care and respect.



## OUR VALUES

At St Mark's, our values define who we are, who our students aspire to be and how we aim to live, learn and grow:

- By showing **love, forgiveness, compassion** and **respect** for ourselves and those around us, we honour our worth and purpose and value others.
- We display our **integrity** and moral character based on honesty, truthfulness and faithfulness and strive for **justice** and equality for all.
- We aim for **excellence** through striving to realise our own unique potential, and display **patience** through perseverance and self-control.
- Through **cooperation** and **service** we work together to achieve common goals and give selflessly of our time and talents for others.
- We live in **hope** and face the future with confidence in anticipation of the possibilities waiting for us.



## ENROLMENT INQUIRIES AND TOURS

St Mark's regularly holds guided tours throughout the year – or choose to take a private tour at a time that suits you on request.

We welcome enrolment inquiries for all year levels. Our Foundation classes have a single intake in line with the start of each school year.

We understand how important it is to find the right school for your child and we're here to answer any inquiries you may have.

Please get in touch on (08) 8391 0444 or email [enrolments@stmarks.sa.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@stmarks.sa.edu.au). You can also find more information or book a tour via our website at [www.stmarks.sa.edu.au](http://www.stmarks.sa.edu.au).

## CORNERSTONE COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

Through our partnership with Cornerstone College, our students can extend their Lutheran education beyond primary school through to the end of their senior schooling.

Our students build strong links with Cornerstone College from their early years at St Mark's. We provide regular connection opportunities with Cornerstone College, building our students' familiarity with the school, its teachers and facilities. This ensures that many of our students who go on to senior schooling at Cornerstone College already have a strong sense of connection and belonging from the start of Year 7.

***"I am always grateful for the nurturing, guidance and academic opportunities which St Mark's provides for my children to reach out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves. It has helped them to gain confidence, resilience and success and will continue to be an important skill which follows them for life."***

*– Peita Arbon (St Mark's parent).*





**St Mark's**  
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