



St Michael's

Lutheran Primary School



2025

**School Performance
Report**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A warm welcome to St Michael's Lutheran Primary School, Hahndorf.

St Michael's is a co-educational Lutheran primary school with a reputation for providing high quality; Christ-centred education in the Adelaide Hills.

Educating students from Foundation to Year 6, St Michael's students work in multi-age classes to learn.

Utilising our beautiful outdoor spaces, including a creek which runs behind the school, St Michael's provides opportunities for our students to experience their environment in 'hands on' ways; encouraging them to wonder and discover new thinking as they make sense of the world around them.

2025 was an exciting year which saw the long awaited construction of our brand new, fit for purpose Early Learning Centre constructed adjacent to the school. Another highlight was our nomination for a National Landcare Award for the valuable work that our students do to rewild the Hahndorf Creek. Toward the end of 2025 we were honoured to be accepted as one of only 9 schools in Australia to take part in the Federally funded ASEAN Bridge Program, matched with Bihn Phu Lower Secondary School in Vietnam,

This report provides a snapshot into the life at St Michael's. For more information, or to book a tour, please contact the school by emailing enrolments@stmichaels.sa.edu.au or book online, via our website at www.stmichaels.sa.edu.au

Kind regards,

Terri Taylor
Principal

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At St Michael's, we create opportunities for children to wonder, discover and grow into confident learners who make a positive difference in the world.



INTRODUCTION

St. Michael's Lutheran School is a co-educational primary school offering contemporary education from Foundation through to Year 6. Located in the township of Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills, St. Michael's has been offering Lutheran education to the Adelaide Hills Community since 1839.

St Michael's offers the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program from Foundation to Year 6. Through a careful balance of direct instruction and inquiry, students learn to be independent thinkers with a passion for learning. The school provides a wide variety of experiences for students, designed to enable all students to fulfil their potential. St Michael's students are supported to wonder and think as they explore the world around them.

Organised into multi-age learning communities, St Michael's students think outside of the box. We embrace the diversity of every child, and support students as they strive to reach their potential.

With outstanding facilities, St Michael's is a school where students have abundant opportunities to learn both inside and outdoors as they develop skills and contribute to the community.

An enthusiastic and hard-working Parents and Friends group and a dedicated School Board support St Michael's students. St Michael's is an outstanding learning community in the Adelaide Hills.



2025 IN REVIEW

Throughout the year, St Michael's has provided a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for our students. We foster students' desire to wonder about their world, embrace challenge, and explore openly and so that students can make new and creative discoveries.

As an International Baccalaureate World School, St Michael's is committed to developing globally minded students who are diverse thinkers, with a heart for service.

At the core of our school are the Christian beliefs and values, which underpin all that we do on our school. Students participate in worship, devotion and Christian Studies lessons as a normal part of the school week. The school has a close relationship with St Michael's Lutheran Church and share facilities for many events and opportunities to gather.

At St Michael's, student achievement is not just measured in academic pursuits. Students are encouraged to live out the IB Learner Profile through Physical Education, the Arts, Languages, Science and indeed all curriculum areas. Students inquire into their interests and passions. In addition, we understand that a student's social and emotional wellbeing is critical to ensuring that our students are balanced people prepared to contribute to the community.



2025 IN REVIEW

Learning Community Restructure

2025 began with a new class structure, better aligning our multi age classes with the curriculum stages. The chart below outlines the change:

| Learning Community | Past Structure | Max Class Size | Current Structure | Max Class Size |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Beginning | Foundation/Year 1 | 28 | Foundation Only | 21 |
| Junior | Year 2 / Year 3 | 28 | Year 1 / Year 2 | 28 |
| Middle | Year 4 / Year 5 | 28 | Year 3 / Year 4 | 28 |
| Senior | Year 6 | 28 | Year 5 / Year 6 | 28 |



2025 IN REVIEW



St Michael's Representatives in the Courier Cup

Physical Education

In 2025 St Michael's continued our record of strong sporting success. Highlights from our interschool participation include:

Courier Cup – Champions Adjusted Category

The annual School Sports Carnival was won by Prince George House.

Girls Knockout Netball – 3rd Overall (small schools)

Cross Country – Isaiah Richardson won his way through to the State and National competition

Camps and Outdoor Education

A highlight of the St Michael's school experience is the SLC Canberra Trip. Students travelled by plane to Canberra and visited a range of venues including Parliament House, The National War Memorial, Questacon, The National Museum, The Deep Space Centre and the Australian Institute of Sport.

The Middle Learning Community participated in a two night camp at She-Oak Run in Finnis South Australia. Supported by Active Ed. The students were involved in a wide range of experiences involving environmental studies, team building and problem-solving.

At St Michael's, we understand that camps create lifelong memories for our students and plan carefully to ensure these events are memorable and important school life experiences.



Senior Learning Community Canberra Trip

2025 IN REVIEW

Parents and Friends Events

The Parents and Friends committee began the year with a large increase in numbers. It has been wonderful to see so many parents involved in supporting St Michael's school through fund raising and community building. During 2025 the P&F held numerous special food days, organised a school disco, held a quiz night for parents, sold goods on a Mothers and Fathers Day stall, and held 'stay and play' events at school to encourage families to get to know one another. These events raised funds for our new filtered water fountains.

Class Carers

Each Learning Community has several parents who volunteer to be Class Carers. Like the name suggests, Class Carers provide care and promote community connection for our families. This happens in various way, such as:

- Coffee catch ups
- Meals for families in need
- Family Picnics
- Mums or Dads dinners

The Class Carer program helps our families to connect with others and develops a real sense of community and belonging at St Michael's.

Lunchtime Clubs

In order to support the diversity of our students' interests, as well as to provide creative and stimulating experiences, St Michael's offers many lunchtime clubs. In 2025, these clubs include golf club, Lego Club, Making Club, Creek club and Digital Technologies Club. Students also requested a dance club be formed and while this club was supervised by a staff member, the students led and choreographed the dances. The dance club performed a fabulous item at the end of year Christmas lunch.

These clubs are supported by school staff and volunteers from our school community.



P&F Organised Cupcake Day



Woodhouse Playdate organised by the Class Carers



Lego Club

2025 IN REVIEW

Student Leadership

St Michael's places a high priority on student leadership and in 2025, numerous leadership opportunities enabled students to take an active role in the decision making and running of the school.

The House Captains participate in the organisation of Sports Day, work at Kinder gym each week and organise House Devotions several times a term.

Leadership roles also include; Library Leaders, Friendology Coaches, Environmental Leaders, Journalists and BLC Helpers.

School Captains, James Pulford and Esther Wilson ably led school assemblies and fulfilled roles representing our school at ANZAC day, Remembrance Day, the Student Voice Awards and in public speaking at school events.

Each week our Senior Learning Community dedicate time to developing leadership skills.

Robotics and Coding

Using digital technology to enhance learning for students is a natural part of schooling at St Michael's. With a 1:1 iPad program, the school is well placed to provide opportunities for students.

From Foundation to Year 6, students are involved in robotics and coding experiences.

Digital Technologies are integrated into units of inquiry as students learn to use technology to create and present learning. Digital media creation continues to be a large part of the curriculum as students of all ages use the green room to create media.

A dedicated 'maker space' provides an area for students to get creative and work on long term, creative projects, both during class time and in lunchtime clubs.

The school continues to add to its array of 'tools' for digital learning and in 2025 we purchased Edison Robots for use throughout the school.



2025 IN REVIEW

Outdoor Learning

St Michael's has a number of beautiful outdoor spaces constructed specifically for outdoor exploration and learning. It is our belief that the school is for the students and therefore all spaces should be areas of wonder and learning. The school has a sensory garden and nature play space which are kept natural for stick, dirt, mud and water play.

Science Week

Each year National Science week is celebrated at St Michael's. With a theme of 'Decoding the Universe', the students enjoyed several scientific activities throughout the week exploring the patterns and mysteries of nature.

Some of our students explored animal tracks, others investigated the Fibonacci sequence, and our senior students explored the Solar System.

We also held our annual 'staff dress as a scientist' guessing competition, which is much loved by our students.

PYP Exhibition

As part of our commitment to the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, St Michaels holds an exhibition of learning for our Year 6 students each year.

The Exhibition is the 'culmination' experience of our students learning at St Michael's. The students spent the best part of a term researching, collaborating and creating presentations of their learning. They present to family and dignitaries alike, with confidence and authority in their chosen topic.

Additionally, each student needs to produce a creative piece which represents their learning and a combined performance representing the Central Idea as a whole. Exhibition is an exciting, challenging and very engaging part of the curriculum at St Michael's.

All staff members are mentors for our students, supporting them to inquire deeper into their topic of choice. The Central Idea was **Financial and consumer decisions effect individuals, community and the environment** under the Transdisciplinary theme of Sharing the Planet. This Central idea enabled students to explore a wide range of world challenges.

2025 IN REVIEW

Showcases

Learning Showcases are one way that St Michael's students demonstrate their learning to their parents. These evenings are an interactive culmination of a unit of inquiry, providing our families with detail about specific outcomes.

In 2025, all students were involved in a Learning Showcase during the year. Learning Showcases form part of the schools' reporting processes. Beginning Learning Community considered how people live, work and play in communities. Junior Learning Community explored how people use technology to solve problems and care for the world. And Middle Learning Community considered how creativity can be used to make a difference in the world around us.

On Showcase evenings the school is buzzing with visitors exploring our students learning.

ICAS Achievement

Each year many St Michael's students participate in the International Competitions and Assessment for School (ICAS). ICAS online assessments are held in a variety of subject areas, across 41 countries. This year, several of our students received Credits, Distinctions and High Distinction certificates for their efforts. We were very excited to celebrate with James (Year 6) who received a Medal for English.

Medals are given to the student who achieves the highest score in Australia for their year level. Congratulations James!

Bene Nursing Home Visits

During 2025 the St Michael's Beginning Learning Community continued our practice of visiting and making connections with some of the residents Bene Nursing Home. Just prior to Christmas, our Senior Choir also visited Bene to entertain the residents with carols and choir favourites.



BLC & JLC Showcase



James (Year 6) with his ICAS English Medal



Senior Choir singing at Bene



Active Travel Day



Messy Fun at the Annual Colour Run



Father's Day Breakfast

Active Travel Days

As a Way2Go school, St Michael's strongly encourages students to find active ways to get to school. Each term we hold an Active Travel Day where students walk, ride or scoot to school.

These days are immensely popular with our students and since this initiative began, we have seen a distinct rise in the number of students using active ways to travel to school.

Colour Run

The annual Colour Run is always highly anticipated by our students. Held at the end of the year, this event includes a variety of land and water activities designed to be fun and interactive. A whole heap of messy fun is had by all.

Specialist Subjects

At St Michael's our students study Creative Arts, German, Sport, Movement (F-2) and STEM (3-6) with specialist teachers. Each of the subject teachers work with the classroom teachers to enhance the units of inquiry being studied each term, through integrating their specialist area into the Unit of Inquiry. This enhances engagement and provides depth to the area of study, showing children the integrated nature of learning, in action.

Father's Day Breakfast

The Father's Day pancake breakfast is held in our courtyard on the Friday before Father's Day. Many dads attended the casual breakfast, followed by our special Father's Day worship. We enjoyed the opportunity to thank our school dads for all that they do to support students at St Michael's.

2025 IN REVIEW

Reconciliation Action Plan

In 2025 we updated our R.A.P which was subsequently endorsed by Nurragunnawali. The Reconciliation Action team consisted of staff, students, external consultants and Ros Cameron, proud indigenous woman and cultural representative and advisor. We are grateful to Ros for her support of our RAP.

The 2025 vision for reconciliation was:

We believe in a reconciled Australia, where all Australians have a great sense of pride in, and develop an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures.

We believe First Peoples cultures and continuing contributions are an integral part of who we are as Australians.

We commit to actively respect the wisdom and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As educators, we will continue to learn so that present and emerging generations can be enriched learning from this wisdom and these cultures.

We acknowledge that reconciliation must involve an understanding of the true histories of Australia, justice and healing.

We will work towards greater understanding, learning and respect within our school community to continue to work towards a reconciled Australia. We continue building strong, authentic relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in particular with the Kurna and Peramangk peoples, who are the Custodians of the Land on which we learn, work and play. We also acknowledge neighbouring language groups and the connection they have had and continue to have on the shared Kurna and Peramangk Country.

Throughout the year a wide range of professional learning experiences occurred with staff and students were engaged with integrated learning opportunities. Across the year a number of guest speakers visited our classrooms to share first hand knowledge and understanding. Each learning community incorporates a number of indigenous perspectives into their units of inquiry and the school celebrates Reconciliation Week each year with a day of activities and celebration.

Choir

In a collaboration with Cornerstone College, St Michael's continues to provide our students the opportunity to be in the Senior Choir. Led by Cornerstone Music Teachers, our MLC students and SLC students made up the choir in 2025. Throughout the year they performed at school events, Balhannah Carols and Bene Retirement Homes.

2025 IN REVIEW

Wellbeing at St Michael's

The Wellbeing room also has an external garden. This garden is well utilised by students who find the peaceful space assists them to self-regulate.

Catering for and respecting diversity is deeply valued at St Michael's. For this reason, our classrooms are designed with flexible learning spaces which consider the needs of all students in the classroom.

Each year we celebrate Harmony Week with special activities to highlight and develop mutual understanding and appreciation for our sameness and difference as individuals within the local and wider community.

Throughout the year, our Diverse Learning Coordinator presents children's talks and whole school activities designed to educate students in areas such as self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills and responsible decision making (Casel, 2017).

Students are also offered targeted, individual/small group assistance, as required. Within this context, students are provided with the opportunity to develop their own understanding of themselves as learners, and identify and practice strategies to maximise their sense of well-being.

Evidence-based and highly regarded programmes including "What's the Buzz" and "Seasons for Growth" are also delivered regularly throughout the school year.

In 2025 we were part of the launch of a collective Wellbeing Framework adopted by all Lutheran Schools in the Adelaide Hills. This framework articulates our commitment to student wellbeing and outlines strategies and procedures that we follow.

In addition to student wellbeing, a dedicated wellbeing team supports staff wellbeing. Throughout the year staff participate in many activities to reduce stress and enhance staff morale and wellbeing. Apart from delicious morning teas, one of the favourite activities in 2025 was carried out over a term where staff dressed in similar clothes (ie. All wear stripes, all wear black, all wear a hat) on a particular day to see if the students noticed. It took until the end of term, but we finally had students asking what was going on??



2025 IN REVIEW

Kindergym

Affiliated with Gymnastics SA and led by our PE Teacher and Accredited Kindergym coach, Steven Braun, Kindergym runs every Thursday morning during term time.

Kindergym incorporates movement, music and fun to support muscle and brain development in young children.

The program consistently attracts over 30 pre-school aged children from the Adelaide Hills Community.

Enquiries about Kindergym can be made by contacting the school office on 8388 7228.



James and Esther accepting the Student Voice Award



Achievements

Student Voice Awards

St Michaels was honoured to be invited to attend the Child and Youth Commissioners Student Voice Postgrad Awards. These Awards acknowledged the school as a Champion School for this student voice initiative. St Michael's had been involved in providing feedback to Commissioner, Helen Connolly since its beginning in 2019. School Captains, Esther Wilson and James Pulford were honoured to accept the award.

National Landcare Awards

Following our success in the SA Junior Landcare Awards in 2024, St Michael's represented SA in the National Awards, held in the Gold Coast. Hosted by Gardening Australia host, Costa Georgiadis, the evening showcased the amazing work going on around Australia in the Landcare space. We did not win the award, but it was incredible to be considered amongst so many worthy projects.

The Educator Principal of the Year 'Excellence Award'

Nominated by staff, principal, Terri Taylor received an excellence award in the National Educator Awards, Independent Primary Principal of the Year awards. It was an honour to be considered amongst so many exemplary leaders across Australia

Conference Presentation

Principal, Terri Taylor, Diverse Learning Coordinator, Georgia Pope and Teacher Sara Holman presented at the Australian Conference on Lutheran Education held in Brisbane in October 2025. The presentation was focussed around our wellbeing program, with particular focus on inclusion on students with ASD.

2025 IN REVIEW

Achievements

School Leavers

In 2025, 21 Year 6 students graduated from St Michael's. These students celebrated their graduation with a Senior's dinner at The Haus in Handorf and with a special graduation service.

Students from St Michael's chose the following high schools: Cornerstone College, Heathfield High School, St Francis de Sales Temple Christian College, Urrbrae, Mercedes, Pultney and Scotch Colleges. In 2025 The highest percentage of St Michael's students went to Cornerstone College after Primary School, followed by Temple Christian College and St Francis de Sales.

School Board

In 2025 the School Board continued to work diligently to ensure effective governance of the school. The school community is thankful for the dedicated work of the School Board.

A large part of the work of the Board revolved around the construction of the Early Learning Centre and associated approvals for provision of early learning. The construction was relatively smooth with the building being completed at the end of December.

In addition, the Board continued to work toward completion of the Masterplan, with planning underway for stage 1 of the renovation to our Junior Learning Communities being completed. A BGA grant was approved, and construction is to commence in 2026.

A special thank you to 2025 chairperson, Mr Scott Fairley for his dedication to the school over the past 12 months. Thank you to each Board member for their work and support of the school through diligent governance.



2025 TEACHING STAFF AND QUALIFICATIONS

St Michael's is fortunate to have an experienced and dedicated staff who work tirelessly to create learning experiences which meet the needs of all of our students. We commend our teaching and support staff on the work that they do to provide positive outcomes in all areas of learning.



Terri Taylor
Dip T (ECE), Grad. Dip.
Theo. Ed, MEd Theo



Darlene Hall
B. A., M. A. Tch.



Georgia Pope
M. Spec. Ed.B. Ed, Dip.
T. (Jnr Primary)



Kerry Brinkmann
Dip. T (Primary)
Grand. Dip. Th. Ed.



Alexandra Portus-Mason
M. Teach. (EC) BA



Claire Daughtry
B.Ed ECE



Sara Holman
B.Ed. Mid, B.A.



Daniel Eckermann
B.Ed. Prim. B.Sc



Rene Kruger
B. Teach., Grad. Dip. Th.
Ed.



Brad Pfeiffer
B. Teach., Grad. Dip. Th.
Ed



Mandy Moseley
B. Teach., Grad. Dip.
Th. Ed



Mel Emmett
B.Ed



Theresa Sugars
B. Contemp Arts
B.T. Prim. Sec



Steven Braun
B.Ed. Jnr Prim/Prim



Zoe Puiatti
B.Ed Prim, B.Arts



Jaime Collins
B.Sc(Med), M.Teach

2025 LUTHERAN SUPPORT OFFICERS

Student Support



Mrs Debra Nobes



Mrs Jane Mahomet



Mrs Janine Liebelt



Mrs Kelly Willason



Mrs Ann Grivell



Mrs Robyn Williams



Ms Taylor Hogan



Mrs Lauren Fry

Administrative Support



Tracy Downing
Business Manager



Hayley Pickard



Victoria Pollard



Nicole Wieggers



Anouska Thomson

Library



Raelene Johnson



Joy Wildman



Mary Whittaker

ICT Support



Darren Stanbury

Maintenance



Dennis Collins

2025 STAFF

Workforce Composition

Male Teachers – 3

Female Teachers – 14

Positions of Added Responsibility – 6

Administration, Student Support, ICT and Maintenance staff – 17

Indigenous Staff – 0

Staff Professional Development

St Michael's is proud of its culture of learning. All staff are actively involved in learning and engage in internal and external professional learning in order to improve their teaching.

In 2025 St Michael's invested a total of \$32,763 in staff professional learning.

Online Professional Development continues to be one option for staff to access a wide variety of learning. However, we participated in a variety of opportunities in face-to-face modes as well.

Professional Learning included:

- Indigenous culture and awareness PD
- Spiritual Development/ Connect
- Professional observation and feedback
- Literacy/reading/ phonological awareness
- DIBLS and OG Training
- Positive Partnerships
- Cyber Safety and Digital Security staff training
- Anti-Racism Strategy
- Risky Play in the School Setting
- Student Assessment



2025 PARENT, STAFF AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

In 2025, the school participated in the National Wellbeing Survey as we do annually. This survey provides us with data over time on the impact of our wellbeing practices.

Students have been provided with community letter boxes which provide anonymous opportunities for our students to provide feedback or raise concerns, should they wish to do so.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

| Year Level | Number of Students | Attendance Rate |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Foundation | 42 | 93.7 |
| 1 | 25 | 91.7 |
| 2 | 25 | 87.8 |
| 3 | 36 | 93.6 |
| 4 | 17 | 90.4 |
| 5 | 26 | 94.8 |
| 6 | 22 | 90.1 |
| Total | 193 | |

Process for Managing Absence

Student attendance is:

- Checked daily
- Calculated termly and recorded on school reports
- Later arrivals at school sign in at the front office
- Students absent without explanation will be followed up with an SMS message and phone call
- Explained absences are accompanied by a written explanation or notation in record.
- Anomalies are followed up by the principal

2025 NAPLAN RESULTS

NAPLAN testing returned strong results across the two cohorts of students.

| NAPLAN Domain | Year 3 | | | Year 5 | | |
|-------------------------|--------|------|--------------|--------|------|--------------|
| | SA | Aust | St Michael's | SA | Aust | St Michael's |
| Grammar and Punctuation | 397 | 408 | 423 | 485 | 497 | 522 |
| Numeracy | 397 | 405 | 405 | 480 | 492 | 512 |
| Reading | 394 | 402 | 402 | 484 | 492 | 525 |
| Spelling | 402 | 405 | 420 | 485 | 487 | 504 |
| Writing | 408 | 414 | 429 | 471 | 478 | 503 |

St Michael's had a 100% participation rate in Year 3 and 81% Participation Rate in Year 5 with 4 students withdrawn by parents and 1 student absent during the testing window.

In all domains St Michael's recorded a **strong** proficiency level.

Proficiency Levels are as follows:

The NAPLAN proficiency standards include 4 proficiency levels for each assessment area at each year level:

- **Exceeding:** the student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** the student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** the student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** the student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

19 students across Year 3 and 5 recorded 'exceeding' proficiency levels in one or more of their individual results.

4 Students across Year 3 and 5 recorded that they 'need additional support' in at least one domain.

SCHOOL INCOME BY FUNDING SOURCE FOR 2025

| Source | Value | Percentage of Total Income |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Tuition Fees | \$886,165 | 21% |
| Commonwealth Government Funding | \$2,382,448 | 57% |
| State Government Funding | \$634,922 | 15% |
| State Government Capital Funding | \$42,000 | 1% |
| Other Income | \$213,077 | 5% |
| Total Gross Income | \$4,158,612 | |





St Michael's

Lutheran Primary School

Realise the wonder within

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Email: admin@stmichaels.sa.edu.au

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