



# 2024 Annual Report



ST JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN  
SCHOOL  
120 YEARS





# About St John's Eudunda

## Performance Report 2024

In line with the reporting obligations under the (previous) Schools Assistance Act 2008, the Australian Education Act 2013 requires independent schools to publicly report a range of school performance information. Much of this information is reported in the School's Annual Report, however what follows is an explicit response to the Commonwealth Government's requirements under the headings required by the Commonwealth Government. The information below relates to the 2024 school year.

### Our Story

With our origins dating back to 1904, St John's Lutheran School is truly proud of its history spanning over a century. Like a close-knit family, we nurture and support our local community, providing a solid foundation for their future. We believe in the power of high-quality education that goes beyond academic excellence, encouraging our students to learn and grow in faith, fostering spiritual development alongside their academic journey.

We understand the importance of smaller, more intimate school environments that foster a strong sense of community, where the focus is on nurturing students to flourish not only academically, but also emotionally and socially. We prioritise the well-being of the whole family, recognising that a supportive and inclusive educational experience benefits all. Striving to challenge our students, we provide them with opportunities to explore new ideas, step out of their comfort zones, and experience personal success. We celebrate diversity in all aspects of life and learning, nurturing the uniqueness of each student through close teacher-student relationships and individualised learning strategies, enriching the learning experience and preparing our students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

With excellent facilities and modern classrooms, we create an environment that stimulates growth and creativity. Our diverse team of teachers brings a wealth of life experiences and perspectives, ensuring that each child is challenged and gets to experience personal success. Boasting wide open spaces, room for play, wonder, and uninhibited learning, our students have the opportunity to discover the joy of learning as they explore their unique interests and expand their knowledge.



# Our vision, mission and values

## Our vision:

An inclusive and dynamic Christian community, learning with purpose and inspired to serve.

## Our mission:

Empowering each child to thrive and embrace the world with wonder, love and courage.

## Understanding Our Values

*With wonder we learn,  
with love we serve and with courage  
we grow.*

### Wonder

We **learn** with **wonder** by asking big questions, sparking creativity, and working together to explore, connect, and marvel at the world. Through strong relationships and a spirit of collaboration, we thrive as curious and inspired learners, ready to make a difference.

### Love

We **serve** with **love** by caring for others with kindness, compassion, and respect, fostering a community where everyone belongs. We honour each person's uniqueness, open our hearts to new perspectives, and advocate wholeheartedly for our world.

### Courage

We **grow** with **courage** by embracing challenges, taking risks, and persevering with resilience and hope. We are bold problem solvers and empowered learners, driven by creativity, critical thinking, and a commitment to making a positive impact in our changing world.





# Our Teaching Staff

Teaching staff at St John's Lutheran School are highly qualified. All teachers meet the requirements of the Teachers Registration Board of South Australia, including relevant Working With Children Checks, Responding to Abuse and Neglect and First Aid. All staff have a Professional Learning Plan and are involved in professional development throughout the year.

## Teaching Standards and Qualifications

A full list of teachers and their academic qualifications are as follows:

Karen Leese: Master of Education, Grad Dip. Theology, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Teaching Upper Primary

Sue Denholm: Bachelor Arts, Bachelor of Ed JP/Primary, Grad Dip. Theology

Renae Ruediger: Bachelor of Ed JP/Primary

Laura Anders: Bachelor of Education Primary

Emma Noack: Master of Teaching Primary, Bachelor of Human Movement

Beth Hein: Bachelor of Primary and Middle Education

Shelley Schild: Bachelor of Education, Grad Cert in Education - Special Ed.

Edith Zeller: Dip Art Design Tech, Teachers Certificate

Katrina Loveday: Bachelor of Primary Education (Hons) Diploma of Theology

## Workforce Composition

Total Headcount: 15  
(included fulltime, part-time and casual staff)

Teaching Staff: 5  
(full-time equivalent)

Non-teaching staff: 10  
(full-time equivalent)

Gender composition (headcount)  
Females 13: Males 2



*I like how the staff collaborate in their planning to improve students' skills, knowledge and conceptual understanding.*

Homeroom Teacher





# Our Students are the heart of the school

We believe learning comes to life when we inquire into and solve real problems that make a difference and enrich our world. By fostering a contemporary learning mindset, we strive to create a haven that honours and nurtures the whole child.

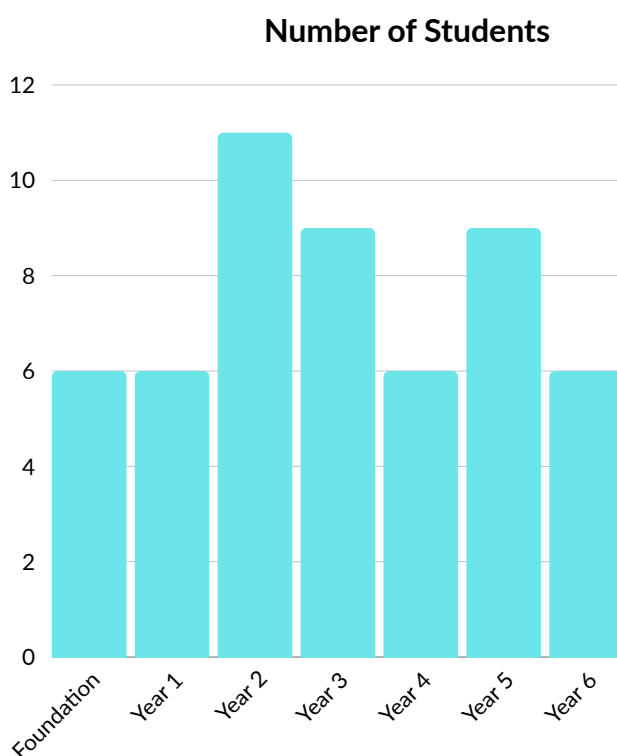
Our inquiry based curriculum provides the foundation for preparing our students to think creatively, communicate effectively, and be enthusiastic lifelong learners

## Enrolment

In 2023, St John's enjoyed an enrolment of 53. We welcomed 6 new Foundation students and had a graduating class of 6. 50% of the Graduating class went onto Faith Lutheran College, Tanunda.

## Attendance

The average student attendance rate for 2024 was 92.3% compared with 92.4% in 2023.



At St John's Absentees are electronically recorded daily and, where a class teacher becomes concerned about an individual student's attendance, the matter is discussed with parents.



# NAPLAN results

In Term 1, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 participated in the national NAPLAN assessments. This testing looks at key areas of learning: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy. The assessments are presented to students as part of their regular classroom learning to help minimise stress and support all learners, no matter their individual needs. NAPLAN results are grouped into four levels of achievement:

- Exceeding – going beyond expectations for their year level
- Strong – meeting expected learning goals confidently
- Developing – working towards expected learning goals
- Needs additional support – may need extra help to build understanding

Individual NAPLAN reports were sent home to parents at the end of Term 3

## Year 3

In 2024, 8 out of 9 students of completed NAPLAN testing.

At St John's, we use a variety of assessment and documentation strategies, both internal and external to understand monitor and evaluate student growth. This also includes end of semester written reports which together with the NAPLAN results provide a comprehensive picture of each student's progress.

Component	mean score
Reading	369.4
Writing	412.1
Spelling	379.4
Grammar & Punctuation	360
Numeracy	417.6

## Year 5

In 2024, 9 out 9 students of completed NAPLAN testing.

Students who achieved developing or needs additional support are currently receiving support through our Inclusive Education Team and their Individual Education Plans.

Component	mean score
Reading	402
Writing	417.1
Spelling	389.8
Grammar & Punctuation	416.5
Numeracy	445.8







# Our School Community

We believe in the power of an inclusive, dynamic education that nurtures the whole child. At St John's, we inspire students to learn with purpose, grow in faith and embrace the world with wonder, love, and courage. Like a close-knit family, we nurture and support our local community, providing a solid foundation for their future.

We believe that education is a partnership. Our staff are deeply committed to working alongside families, building strong relationships through open and respectful communication. Christian love, grace, and forgiveness shape the way we live and learn together, creating a warm and caring atmosphere where everyone belongs.

Parents are valued as vital partners in our school community. Their voices are heard and respected, and their involvement strengthens the life of our school. Our dedicated School Board and active Parents and Friends Network reflect this partnership in action. From our Welcome BBQ and Information Nights to Mother's Day Morning Tea, worship and assemblies, Learning Celebrations and sports days, our school calendar is filled with opportunities for connection and celebration, moments that build community.

This spirit of partnership extends into every aspect of school life, including our leadership and decision-making. We listen carefully to parent feedback and thoughtfully consider family needs, knowing that collaboration is key to a thriving school culture.

At St John's, students are empowered to take an active role in shaping their learning and their community. Through class morning meetings, the Student Representative Council, and regular involvement in planning and feedback, students experience real voice and agency. We are a school that nurtures the whole child—mind, body, and spirit.

Wellbeing lies at the heart of all we do. Guided by our Christian values, we encourage every child to grow in confidence, compassion, and curiosity. We support them to embrace a growth mindset, build positive relationships, show gratitude, and advocate for themselves and others. Whether in the classroom, the playground, or the broader community, our students are learning what it means to live with purpose and be inspired to serve.



*The warmth, care, and genuine sense of community are truly exceptional.*

School Parent



ST JOHN'S  
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## Image of Child

At St John's Lutheran School, we are inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy which emphasises the 'Image of the Child'. This perspective shapes how we view, interact with and support our students throughout their learning journey.

God has created each child as an individual with a unique set of gifts and strengths.

At St John's, we believe children are naturally curious, creative, and competent. They have an incredible ability to co-construct their journey of discovery as they make sense of and actively shape the world around them. We honour and uplift children's voices, recognising the invaluable input they bring to their learning experiences. We understand that children thrive in an environment that acknowledges their holistic nature – spiritual, physical, academic, social, and emotional. When their needs are met, children truly flourish. Educators and the environment play a crucial role in a child's development. Children are deeply influenced by their surroundings and the relationships they build at home and school. We value our community and believe that contemporary and inclusive practices enrich both children and their learning experiences, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose.

We support the 'Image of the Child' through:

- Valuing agency by inviting children to be active participants in their own learning.
- Using the power of play to stimulate academic, physical, spiritual, social, and emotional growth.
- Providing smart play uniforms that allow students to feel comfortable and free to move and express themselves, supporting confident and active engagement.
- Co-designing learning spaces with children in mind, where their ideas and needs shape environments that are calm, focused, and responsive to how they learn best.
- Fostering a love of learning and empowering learners to make a difference in their world.





# St John's Celebrates

On Sunday 24 November 2024, St John's Lutheran School in Eudunda concluded a year of celebration with a good old-fashioned Family Fun Day. It was a joyful and heartfelt occasion, as over 350 past and present students, staff and families gathered to honour the school's rich heritage.

The story of St John's reaches back even further than 1904. Its roots trace to 1872, when a Lutheran church and school were established at Emmaus, just outside Eudunda. By 1904, the congregation had moved into town, purchasing land and building the first classroom, laying the foundation for the vibrant learning community we know and love today.

Marking this historic milestone was a chance for our community to reconnect, reminisce and reflect on the values that have shaped St John's across generations. With God's unwavering love and grace guiding us for over 120 years, it was a joy to see past students of all ages sharing stories and exploring the extensive collection of memorabilia, some dating back to the late 1800s.



A particularly heartwarming moment in the lead-up to the event was the discovery of a hidden time capsule from 1995, unearthed thanks to the curiosity and persistence of our Year 2 class. The moment of discovery felt truly magical, especially when one of our Year 2 students, whose father had attended St John's at the time, pinpointed its location behind two carefully marked bricks. The grand unveiling on the day revealed letters and treasures from the past, including contributions from the parents of some current students.

The celebration on 24 November was a true reflection of the spirit of St John's, a place where connection, belonging and shared purpose continue to flourish. From the moment guests arrived, the school grounds buzzed with music, games, entertainment and delicious food. Families spanning multiple generations came together, each sharing cherished memories of their time at St John's.

As we reflect on 120 years of learning, faith and community, we also look ahead, committed to honouring our past while evolving to meet the needs of the next generation.



# Parent Satisfaction at St John's

In 2024, our school community finalised the St John's 2024–2026 Strategic Plan. This new direction was shaped through a thoughtful and collaborative process involving staff, families and the wider community. A key part of this work included the LESNW Health Check Survey, with results independently compiled and used to guide the final version of the plan. The insights gathered helped us respond to our unique challenges, recognise our strengths and set priorities for the years ahead. These include a strong focus on learning excellence, innovation, deepening our Lutheran identity, and strengthening community connections. As we implement this plan, we do so with shared purpose—grounded in our vision to empower every child to flourish and embrace the world with wonder, love and courage.

*Below are a few key highlights from 2024*



## Excellence in Learning

During 2024, we took bold and intentional steps to further strengthen our whole-school approach to teaching and learning. Central to this was the development of a clear and shared set of Teaching and Learning Principles that reflect our school's vision of Learning with Wonder, Serving with Love and Growing with Courage. Alongside this, we articulated our Image of Child Statement, capturing the deeply held beliefs that shape our pedagogy and guide how we honour, support and engage every learner.

Our pedagogy is grounded in rich inquiry and project-based learning, guided by Human-Centred Design. We empower students to explore real-world challenges and create meaningful solutions that make a positive difference to others.

To learn more, download Learning at St John's from the Curriculum section of our website.



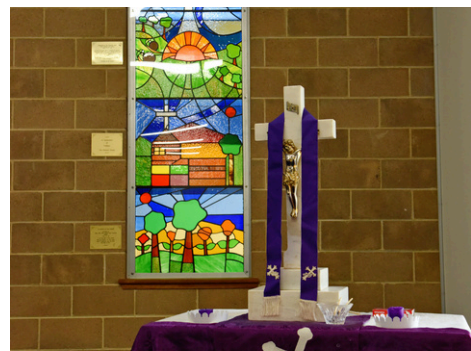
## Ongoing improvement and innovation

In 2024, we officially introduced Performing Arts as part of our growing specialist offerings, giving students a creative outlet to express themselves, build confidence, and explore storytelling through music, movement and drama. We also expanded S.T.E.A.M. and entrepreneurial opportunities that connect learning with our local community.

Our former Foundation classroom became an inspiring new Maker Space. With tools, recycled wood, loose parts, knitting looms, and a variety of textiles, this hands-on space invites children to tinker, design, and create.

Lunch clubs offered students the chance to explore green screen technology and movie-making—igniting creativity and confidence in digital storytelling.

We also began phasing in iPads to support portable, engaging digital learning across the curriculum.



## Strengthening Lutheran Identity

As part of our commitment to building a strong and compassionate culture, we deepened our engagement with Compassionate Systems Thinking, guided by Mignon Weckert from LESNW. Staff explored tools and practices that support reflection, deep listening, and shared responsibility.

Through the 2024, Wellbeing Grant, we introduced soft furnishings and classroom equipment such as spin bikes to create calming breakout areas and support emotional regulation. We also launched the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, giving students meaningful, hands-on experiences in growing and preparing food. In addition, several staff completed training in the Kimochis Curriculum, further strengthening our whole-school approach to emotional literacy and wellbeing.

In 2024 we also warmly welcomed our new local Pastor, Jacob and Tegan Fabich to the St John's community.





*Our first impressions - the school absolutely meets all of the expectations.*

School Parent



## Community Building

In 2024, we strengthened our commitment to building a connected and inclusive school community by creating meaningful opportunities for families to connect, contribute, and celebrate. This was achieved through a range of school-wide events and intentional moments for families to be actively involved in their child's learning journey. A key milestone was the reimagining of our Parents and Friends (P&F). With a new organisational structure developed in 2025, we look forward to the continued growth and impact of this caring and connected group.

The year was filled with joyful celebrations that brought our community together. Highlights included the Mother's Day Morning Tea, the newly introduced Father's Day Breakfast, Book Week, Grandparents and VIP Day, our Year 3-6 musical David the Giant Slayer, and the Junior Christmas Play Joy to the World. We ended the year on a high with our unforgettable 120th Birthday Celebrations on November 24—a special day of honouring our past and looking boldly to the future.

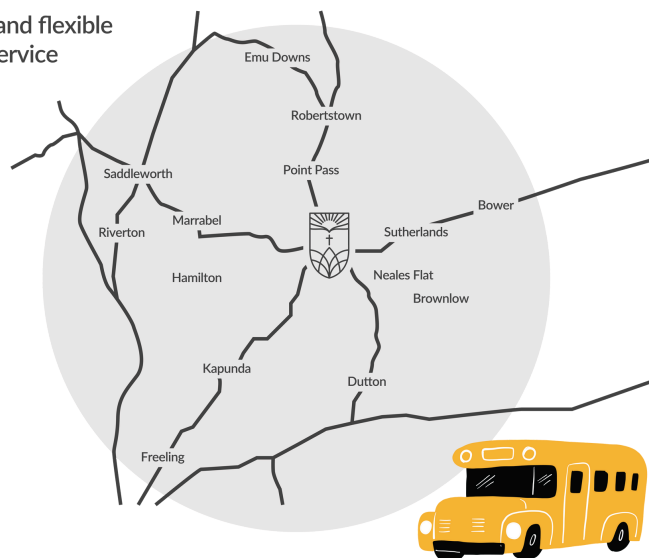
## Leading effective organisation and management

Inspired by our rich history, we launched a refreshed St John's brand that honours our story while looking to the future. This included a new logo, updated signage throughout the school, refreshed social media visuals, a complete stationery suite, and the introduction of our new Smart Play uniform. The process was completed in early 2025 with the arrival of our updated school prospectus and a brand-new website.

Thanks to a variety of grants, we were able to carry out several exciting facility upgrades. These included refurbishing our school library, upgrading sound and lighting, playground, swing set and sandpit redevelopment, refreshing classroom furniture, enhancing IT systems, and developing our community KinderGym programme.

We also made getting to school easier for more families. After relaunching our Kapunda bus run in 2024, we expanded to include door-to-door pick-up where possible in 2025.

Safe and flexible bus service



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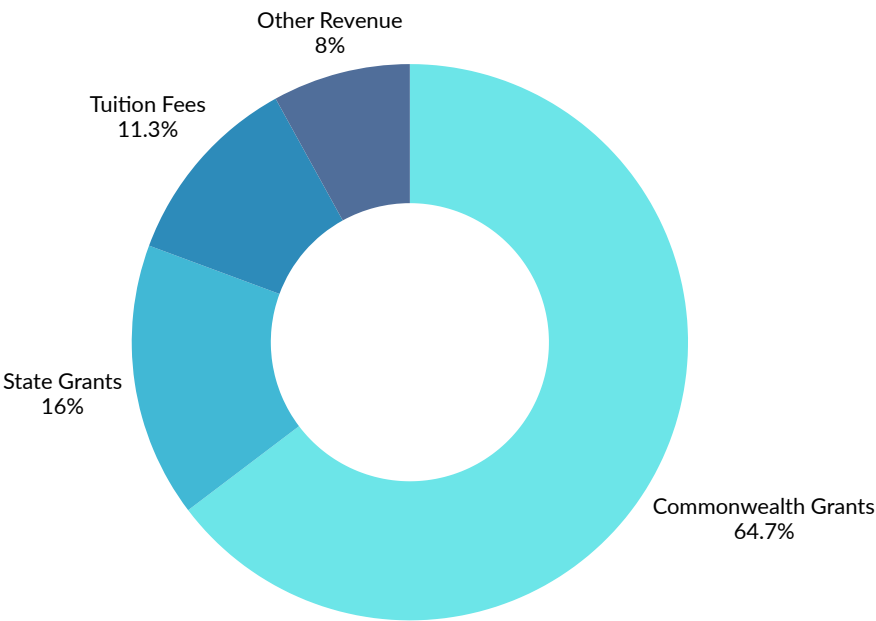




# School Income

At St John’s Lutheran School Eudunda, an Auditor’s Report is generated each year.

St John’s receives income through a number of sources represented below for 2024:



## School income by funding source

Commonwealth Grants	\$1 049 457
State Grants	\$ 259 003
Tuition Fees	\$183 928
Other Revenue	\$130 093

Total: \$1 622 481





# ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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## 120 YEARS

At St John's Lutheran School, we honour our rich history and close community values while continuously striving to adapt and improve to meet the needs of a modern society, preparing our students for a bright future.

*With wonder we learn.*

*With love we serve.*

*With courage we grow.*

Small School,  
Big Heart

