

School Performance Report 2023



**St Peter's
Woodlands**

The difference is extraordinary.



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School Performance Report 2023

Reporting on the Performance Measures



2023 not only marked my third year at the helm of this extraordinary school, it was also the first year completely uninterrupted by COVID restrictions.

How wonderful it has been to see many loved community traditions back on track as well as the continuation of many new ones that we have introduced in the past few years, such as Christmas on the Green. It feels like the world is on the move again. This was very apparent on the Year 6 Canberra Tour with many venues back to full capacity and a renewed confidence for the school in sending such a large contingent of students and teachers interstate on an aeroplane.

This year was our second year of the Year 6 DARE Graduate Diploma, specifically designed for students in their final year of primary school. The program was slightly refined based on the feedback from our inaugural 2022 DARE participants, giving our students another rewarding experience. Early in Term 1 the renowned adventurer, explorer, author, environmentalist and now South Australian of the Year, Dr Tim Jarvis launched our event by recounting his treacherous journey to re-create Shackleton's disastrous trip to Antarctica and subsequent journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia. The students later got to work with Dr Jarvis again on the Forktree Project, a project with the ambitious goal of re-greening quite a vast area on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The DARE Diploma has been a year-long program for our Year 6 students, one in which both parents, teachers and students alike have seen significant personal growth in our amazing Year 6 students. This year we were also one of six finalists for our DARE Diploma in the Education Excellence Awards competing with schools across Australia. Although we did not take out the win, being

narrowed down to just six schools nationally was still incredible recognition.

In Term 3 we welcomed back Dr Ron Ritchart, renowned author and researcher behind Harvard University's Project Zero. This is our second year in partnership with Dr Ritchart and this visit was an opportunity to work with our teachers in 'teaching labs', delving further into what having an authentic culture of thinking looks like in the classroom. We also hosted over 70 teachers and leaders from other schools in South Australia who took part in his Cultures of Thinking course. Dr Ritchart also hosted a fabulous parent evening at St Peter's Woodlands so our community could gain an understanding of the work we have been doing and how it will benefit the students. Teachers are now integrating Visible Thinking Routines, routines designed by researchers at Harvard University to scaffold and support thinking, authentically in their lessons. These routines are a vehicle and tool to help students express ideas, discuss ideas and reflect upon ideas and the associated skills developed will hold our students in great stead for secondary school and life beyond.

Our partnership with Harvard University is part of our commitment to strengthening our Inquiry learning at SPW. We have also committed to the goal of ensuring core skills in numeracy and literacy are explicitly taught equipping the students with the tools they need to be independent and successful learners in our Units of Inquiry and beyond. We had some astounding data recently which showed over 30% growth in the number of students achieving above or well above benchmark in their State mandated phonics screener, which is now at 93.7% of our students. For the students not achieving benchmark, we have a suite of small group intervention programs and an incredible team of Education Support Officers supported by our Head of Inclusive Education Tina Day, to ensure the correct intervention and support is provided. Such has been the success of our focus on literacy and the Science of Reading over the past few years, our Literacy Instructional Coach Jo Hirst has had an unprecedented demand from teachers and leaders from other schools wanting to come and observe our classes in action. As a result, Jo has been hosting regular 'Science of Reading and Learning, Sharing our Practice' mornings and we have hosted over 70 teachers and leaders from 20 schools across SA at St Peter's Woodlands this year.

Our 2023 parent survey results reflected that the quality of teachers here at SPW is one of our strengths. I would like to thank our incredible team of teachers who demonstrate again and again their desire for each and every student to achieve their personal best. I am very proud of the team of teachers we have at SPW, who are truly extraordinary. Of course in the background of every extraordinary school, there is a team of very capable administration staff supporting the teachers and executive. Running a school of this calibre certainly is a team effort and I am extremely grateful to all staff.

It was another busy year in the grounds and building department. After a delayed start we are now well underway with the new Year 5 and 6 classrooms which will include access across to the Music Centre lift. Thank you to this year's Year 6 teachers and students who spent the year in alternative spaces and to David Brock, Chris Jobson and Martin Gray who were instrumental in ensuring the temporary Year 6 classroom spaces were well appointed and comfortable. This included Chris constructing external lockers for 6MH so they could maximise classroom space, Mrs Mesecke for allowing us to use some of her library to extend their learning space and Mrs Hancock for organising the beautiful mural on the back of the lockers.

I would like to thank our PFA for all their hard work and effort in providing another year of memorable events and activities for both students and staff. This includes the Easter Raffle, Kytons fundraiser, Shrove Tuesday, the Mother's Day Stall and Father's Day Breakfast, Cinema on the Green, the discos, the High Tea at the Stamford Grand, The men's Webber event, The Day of Extraordinary breakfast and of course the beloved Christmas Lunch in the Piltangka Plaza. Monday BBQs continued to be a hit, this year co-ordinated by Sharee Morely who took on the role of PFA President for a second year and devoted many hours to SPW and done so with patience, passion and skill.

I would like to thank the SPW Foundation and the School Council. When people step into these roles, they

do it on a voluntary basis. We have some incredibly talented individuals both on our School Council and on our Foundation, not everybody is a past or present parent, but they all have one thing in common, which is a passion for education, our young people and the desire to see St Peter's Woodlands be a leader in the field of primary education for generations to come. A special mention must be made of the Chair of Council, Reverend Michael Lane, who as an educator himself is always available with a listening ear, a robust conversation and to offer wise counsel.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Leadership Team. Studies show that many principals report feeling lonely and isolated in their role. This certainly has not been my experience. I am wonderfully supported by a very capable, passionate and dedicated team. I particularly appreciated being given the chance to take a long-postponed trip with my husband this year, knowing I could leave the school in the very capable hands of our Deputy Sarah Noell, supported by David Brock, Lisa Harris, Kerry Ramsay, Simon Theel and Kate Hockley.

Finally, my thanks must go to the wonderful SPW students and their families. After all, you are what makes this school so extraordinary. Thank you for a fantastic 2023. We wish our graduating Year 6 Students great success and happiness as they go on to their secondary schooling and look forward to welcoming you back on grounds at the 2024 reunion!

Helen Finlay
Principal



Introduction

As part of our funding agreement with the Commonwealth Government, we are required to ensure specific information is made available to the school community. What follows is an explicit response to the Government's requirements under the headings required by them and relates to the 2023 school year. The performance measures which we are required to publicly report on our school website are listed in the document below.

Our school community is grateful for the assistance from the Government's National Chaplaincy Program which supports St Peter's Woodlands with funding to maintain the services of our Chaplains, Reverend Andrew Mintern and Reverend Tracey Gracey.



School Contextual Information

The following is School Contextual information about the school, including the characteristics of students at the school.

School Location

Address: 39 Partridge Street, Glenelg, South Australia

Telephone: 08 8295 4317

Our Story

At St Peter's Woodlands the difference is extraordinary.

We are relentless in seeking to find the remarkable in every child. Education at St Peter's Woodlands is a rare and inspirational experience dedicated to children aged two to twelve.

Since 1999 we have been championing early years and primary education, providing an inclusive and nurturing learning experience. St Peter's Woodlands is a community where inquisitive minds are encouraged to grow, and children can thrive in a faith-based environment dedicated to their individual educational needs. St Peter's Woodlands is an Anglican school, underpinned by the teachings of a progressive Christian church.

Nestled in the heart of beachside Glenelg, 20 minutes southwest of Adelaide's CBD, St Peter's Woodlands is a blend of rich history and outstanding modern facilities. Our unique setting is a place where learning is an adventure and curiosity comes to life.

We support children on their learning journey through the delivery of an advanced curriculum created specifically for the early and primary years. Our commitment to deliver exceptional teaching, extensive extra-curricular opportunities and dedicated learning support prepares children for life-long learning.

At the heart of St Peter's Woodlands sits a warm community, dedicated to ensuring every child has a sense of belonging and endless opportunities to explore. The collaborative partnership between children, staff and

parents, together with the wider community, is a valuable experience contributing to the success and positive wellbeing of every child.

Through our devoted staff, our core values of **Wonder**, **Courage**, **Respect** and **Service** are embedded throughout life at St Peter's Woodlands. We believe these values equip our children with the foundations needed to thrive when facing an unpredictable tomorrow.

Strengthened by our rich history spanning over 157 years, St Peter's Woodlands is a dynamic, coeducational, independent Anglican school. We are excited about our future and look forward to welcoming you into the St Peter's Woodlands community.

Our Values

St Peter's Woodlands uses **Wonder**, **Courage**, **Respect** and **Service** to bring its educational philosophy to life. Every child has the opportunity to belong and be part of a learning pathway dedicated specifically to them.

Wonder

We are inquisitive, share happiness and express gratitude.

Courage

We try our best, are honest and resilient, and stand up for what is right.

Respect

We care and serve, whilst seeking to understand ourselves and others.

Service

We help others, contributing to the community, and being a good citizen.

Enrolments – Numbers and Gender

The following information is as per the 2023 Census and as reported on the MySchool website.

ENROLMENTS R-7	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	INDIGENOUS STUDENTS	LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH
Total Reception to Year 6	557	287	270	0%	13%
Full-time Equivalent Enrolments	557				





Teacher standards and qualifications (as mandated in South Australia)

All teachers are registered with the South Australian Teachers Registration Board, wherein part of the registration process is mandated training in Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care Training (RRHAN).

At St Peter's Woodlands, all staff participate in a three-year cyclical program of online training in RRHAN, in-house training in first aid, and fire training. All non-teaching staff are also included as part of the above three-year cycle.

All our teachers have access to professional learning funds. Weekly teaching meetings are designated as teaching and learning communities where teaching staff are involved with professional learning and training and curriculum development.

There are two meetings per term scheduled for the ESO curriculum for both administrative information and professional learning. On two evenings each term a meeting is scheduled for the ELC teachers and educators to meet and work through the curriculum and Quality Improvement Plan. Meetings are also held twice a term for OSHC staff.

Below is a table of teaching staff qualifications. A number of teachers have multiple qualifications.

QUALIFICATIONS	#
Masters	9
Post Grad Diploma	2
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education	12
Bachelor of Education (Honours)	2
Bachelor of Education	19
Bachelor of Teaching	5
Diploma of Teaching Early Childhood Education	7
Diploma of Teaching	4
Bachelor Specialised	16
Other Qualifications including Certificate and Diploma	32



Workforce composition, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander composition

School Staff in 2023 (as at Term 4)

			TOTAL #
Teachers, Early Learning Centre	Permanent	1	3
	Temporary Replacement	2	
Teachers, Primary	Permanent	38	48
	Temporary Replacement (Home Group Teachers)	10 (26)	
Chaplains			2
Non-Teaching Staff ELC	Permanent	10	23
	Temporary Replacement	13	
Non-Teaching Staff R-6	Permanent	32	44
	Temporary Replacement	12	
OSHC	Permanent		1

2023 was the first full year that we were able to be in the classrooms and saw us continue to provide flexibility within the curriculum to best support the children's learning and provide a quality learning and teaching program; and at the same time support staff and parents.

Wellbeing

During 2023 the wellbeing of children and staff continued to be a priority for St Peter's Woodlands.

St Peter's Woodlands approach to wellbeing is holistic, embedding implicit and explicit concepts and activities into everyday learning, across the classrooms, playgrounds and in co-curricular activities.

There were a number of wellbeing programs that were run across various year levels detailed below.

Staff in the ELC taught the Kimochi program to children. This program helps children to become more aware of their own feelings and how they communicate, not only with their words, but also with their facial expressions and body language. Kimochis help children learn to identify with the feelings of others, too.

In Reception to Year 6, staff taught the Bounce Back! Program to students. This program helps to promote positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience for both students and teachers and build safe and supportive class and school learning environments.

Year 2 participated in a program called "Grow Your Mind" teaching mental health strategies to enhance social and emotional wellbeing.

Seasons for Growth is a program that offers children a safe space to come together and share experiences of change and loss. This program assists children to build knowledge and skills necessary to strengthen social and emotional wellbeing.

As part of student wellbeing, we continued the PIVOT program for students in Years 3-6 during 2023. The Pivot Program allows students to complete a survey once a week to measure, track and support their wellbeing. They can then choose to reach out for help if they feel like they need to talk to someone.

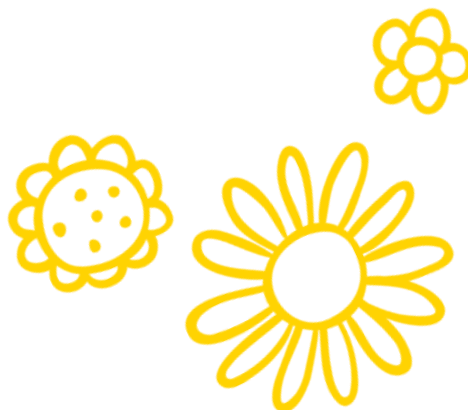
In 2023 SPW joined with the Positive Minds Australia Team to provide weekly visits onsite to focus on individual and small group emotions coaching, social skills, resiliency and confidence building. We also held an information evening for the parents focussing on wellbeing held during Term 2.

A new initiative by SPW in late 2023 was the introduction of a Wellbeing Dog. Dogs provide emotional support, give people an opportunity for connection and can help with stress and anxiety. Wilbur the Wellbeing Dog will commence being on site from the commencement of the 2024 school year.

Specialist Subjects

The following specialisations are offered at St Peter's Woodlands:

- Resource Centre (including the Library)
- Digital Technologies (Reception to Year 2)
- Japanese (Reception – Year 6)
- STEM (Years 2-6)
- The Arts (Music and Visual Art)
- Physical Education



Allied Health Professionals

St Peter's Woodlands contracts third parties to assist with educational services, including various Educational Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists and Counselling; as well as

- a School Psychologist who works part-time.
- two Chaplains who are employed part-time thanks to the National Schools Chaplaincy Program.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff

There are currently no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff members.





Student Attendance at the school

Attendance rates for each year of schooling

PERCENTAGE	REC	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Average Attendance	89.8	92.5	92.3	91.6	93.1	91.6	92.2

A description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Attendance continued to be maintained at a high level from Reception to Year 6 during 2023.

Student attendance from R-6 continued to be managed through a centralised information management system, with the Early Learning Centre utilising a separate student management system to enable the school to meet government reporting requirements.

Records of attendance are monitored by the Heads of School. St Peter’s Woodlands provides various channels for families to notify of their child’s absence; via a dedicated email address, school communication app (Audiri), or a dedicated absentee phone line.

Parents/caregivers of students who are absent without prior explanation are sent a SMS message requesting the parent/caregiver to contact the school. Absences of more than 5 consecutive school days’ duration require approval by the Principal.

Student results in NAPLAN annual assessments

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) testing was undertaken in Term 1. Previously this testing was undertaken during Term 2. This is a compulsory nationwide program conducted on the same day across Australia. Children in Years 3 and 5 were assessed in the areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions, and Numeracy. Student achievement is reported in relation to national minimum standards – either above, at or below the minimum standard. Individual NAPLAN reports were sent home to parents.

The following table reports the mean results for St Peter's Woodlands, compared to SA and Australian mean scores for each aspect of the NAPLAN tests at Years 3 and 5.

Year 3	Spelling	Grammar	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
SPW	432	444	426	426	432
Similar School	437	449	442	446	441
All Schools	404	411	405	416	407

Year 5	Spelling	Grammar	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
SPW	509	518	510	482	530
Similar School	517	532	530	511	524
All Schools	489	497	496	483	488

Additional support to children (Inclusive Education)

At St Peter's Woodlands we continue to have a strong focus and reputation for inclusive practices that support a diverse range of learners in and out of the classroom. Throughout 2023, students at St Peter's Woodlands continued to be very well served by the ongoing support at school through personalised learning and adjustments. The Inclusive Education team were a valuable resource in supporting teachers provide the appropriate adjustments and modifications to their students' programs and learning content. Our team of Education Support Officers are a valuable resource, providing additional small group and 1:1 support when needed.

The social and emotional needs of our students was well supported throughout 2023 by our School Psychologist, through regular 'check-ins', targeted support, resourcing for teachers and families, and in-class mentoring, as well as support at lunchtime in the Inclusive Education Hub drop-in centre.

The ongoing learning needs of our students continues to be very well supported through excellent Tier 1 teaching practices, a team of experienced in-class Education Support Officers, targeted, evidence-based intervention programs, close monitoring of student progress, ongoing screening assessments, early identification of diverse learning needs/differences, and the development of Individualised Learning Plans. Individualised Learning Plans (ILP) developed to assist families and teachers with tracking strategies to student learning, are regularly reviewed, updated by class teachers and shared with families to provide a collaborative approach to student learning and well-being.

Intervention programs available were expanded to allow for greater tailoring of supports for students with additional learning needs. 2023 continued to see a focus on supporting numeracy skills with the use of the Bond Blocks program.

St Peter's Woodlands continues to facilitate on-site access to allied health support through Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Behavioural Therapy, Psychology and Counselling. This allows for collaboration between school, home and allied health and ensures a child's 'team' is working together to provide a consistent approach as well as minimising the amount of time a child is out of the classroom.





Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parents/caregivers, students and staff at St Peter's Woodlands are encouraged to use open dialogue, engaging them in effective and transparent communication within the school community.

Parents

Feedback is provided to the school via various mediums and has shown an overall general satisfaction. Various forums were used, which included Getting to Know Your Child meetings prior to the commencement of the school year, Student-Parent-Teacher three-way conferences, snapshots of learning and the use of Seesaw and Audiri apps.

Parents were allowed onsite to attend all Chapel services and assemblies as there were no longer any restrictions.

In Term 3 of 2023, parents were asked to complete the biannual survey in relation to satisfaction of various areas of schooling.

During 2023, we held the following events where parents were able to provide feedback:

- Term 2 – Information session for parents on Mental Health run by Positive Minds Australia.
- Term 3 – Parent Workshop hosted by Ron Ritchhart around his Cultures of Thinking Routines.
- Term 4 – Parent Think Tank event which provided feedback in relation to the survey results.

In November 2023, The Early Learning Centre Program and OSHC Program undertook their annual survey, seeking feedback on the seven quality areas of the National Quality Standards. This feedback provided the school with valuable information from parents on areas of satisfaction, improvement, communication etc.

Students

The Student Services Leadership Council (SSLC), continued to engage with their fellow students in a number of ways. Class meetings continued throughout the year, and students were able to put forward suggestions to their Student Leaders. These leaders in turn met regularly with the Head of Primary and this forum provided a two-way continuation of student communication with the school, bringing about key changes which affect students.

Teachers

Dr Ron Ritchhart from Harvard University visited the school for four days, allowing teaching staff the opportunity to do two days of Cultures of Thinking training during Term 3 of 2023.

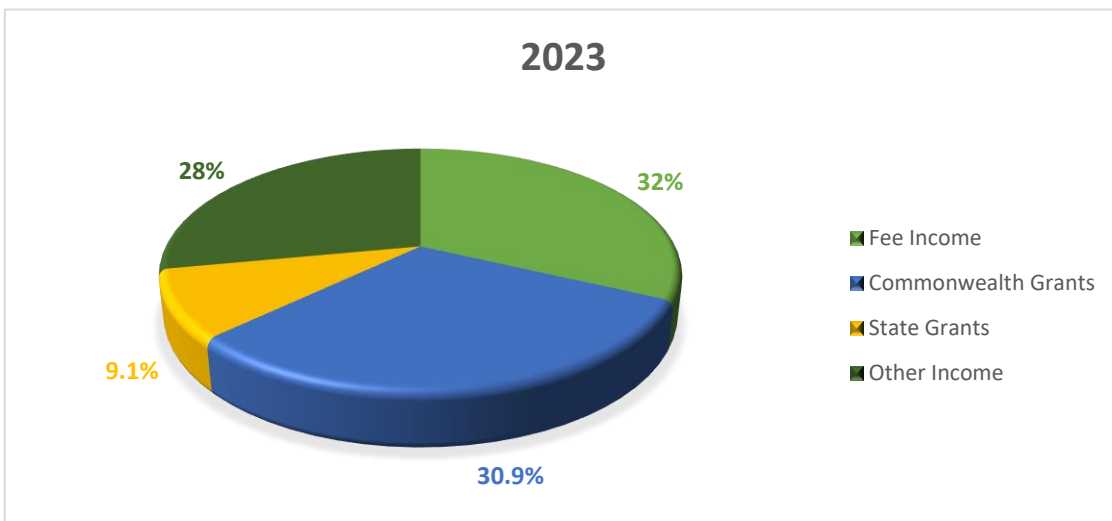
There was a professional development day at the beginning of Term 3 which was solely based on wellbeing for all staff.

During Term 3, an all-staff survey was undertaken and feedback from staff continues to be positive and staff continue to be committed professionals who make a difference in the lives of their students.



School income broken down by funding source

The information below formed part of the audited financial report of St Peter's Woodlands Grammar School Incorporated for the year ended 31 December 2023, by auditors William Buck. The financial report was prepared for fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (SA) and the School's Constitution.





St Peter's Woodlands

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A Co-educational Anglican Primary School
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