

## Pūmanawa Gifted Education at Te Kura o Hato Māka St Mark's School

Te Kura o Hato Māka, St Mark's School, welcomes pūmanawa giftedness as a form of neurodiversity characterised by exceptional aptitude and asynchronous development. We affirm that pūmanawa giftedness occurs in all societal groups, including all cultures, ethnicities, genders, socio-economic strata, and disabilities. We partner with whānau to encourage God given gifts and talents through our St Mark's School values.

### Huatau, Grace

With compassion, we respond supportively to the social, emotional, and learning needs of our ākonga pūmanawa. With humility, we acknowledge that "giftedness is involuntary - a natural gift. It gives no cause for claims of elitism" (NZAGC). It is not whakahīhī (boastful), to acknowledge unique learning needs.

### Hiranga, Excellence

We appreciate that God given talents and gifts come in many forms. We hold ourselves to a high standard of evidence-based practice in pūmanawa gifted education, which we monitor through ongoing review, including ākonga and whānau feedback.

### Māiatanga, Courage

We encourage our ākonga pūmanawa to be themselves and to become effective self-advocates in their learning. Where we encounter prejudice, we act to bring about change.

### Piriponotanga, Faithfulness

We celebrate service as we show faithfulness to God and others. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." - Peter 4:10

What if my child isn't challenged in their learning?

Your first point of contact is your kaiako hapori, classroom teacher. We can work together to adapt the classroom programme to better meet your child's needs. This might look like extension or acceleration in areas of strength, self-paced independent

learning activities, or a range of other accommodations to provide a suitable level of challenge. If greater personalisation is required, we will collaborate on an IEP (Individual Education Plan).

What happened to MODS?

MODS, Modified One Day School, was a pūmanawa gifted education programme at St Mark's School from 2020-2025. MODS has evolved into Project GO, a year-long, half-day programme for gifted and neurodivergent students in years 5-7. For 2026, we have used past data, including ākonga, whānau, and kaiako nominations, to select students for Project GO. Places are filled for 2026 and we are not currently accepting applications.