



St Mark's
School

Specialist Teacher Model at Te Kura o Hato Māka St Mark's School



St Mark's School has developed a curriculum delivery model that sees teachers specialise in the subjects they are passionate about.

Hiranga Excellence

to achieve excellence, using the potential of our God given talents and gifts.

Huatau Grace

Through grace, we act with compassion and humility

Piriponotanga Faithfulness

as we show faithfulness to God and others.

Māiatanga Courage

This gives us the courage to act to bring about change,

The New Zealand Curriculum



St Mark's School delivers quality educational programmes to students as described in the New Zealand Curriculum. It features nine learning areas and five key competencies.



What is the specialist teacher model?



Traditional single cell classrooms have one teacher delivering every subject area of the curriculum to one cohort of students.

At St Mark's we have designed an alternate model where teachers specialise in particular curriculum areas and teach that subject to multiple class groups.

This allows staff to "dive deep" in their subject areas and to become experts at teaching it.

Benefits include:

- Students experience rich curriculum content as their teacher has a deeper understanding of their subject area.
- Teachers become passionate about their subject areas which generates authentic enthusiasm for learning.
- Students experience higher levels of engagement as they respond to heightened enthusiasm from their teachers.
- Students connect with a higher number of teachers and benefit from new relationships.
- Students learn to self manage as they negotiate the challenges of moving between teachers and teaching spaces.
- Students are challenged and extended by a "deeper" curriculum.

How does the specialist teacher model look at different year levels?

In Mōkihi - Year 0-2

Some specialisation happens. One teacher teaches music, another teaches PE, and another teacher teaches digital tech and coding to all three classes. At the junior level, strong relationships with one teacher are most important.

In Waka Pūhara - Year 3-5

The model changes every term to meet ever changing student needs. A teacher delivers science, another teaches PE/Health and a third teacher teaches visual arts to all three class groups.

In Waka Hourua - Year 6-8

One teacher teaches visual arts, another drama, another science, another music, another PE/Health and another teaches social sciences and NZ Histories. Again, different subjects are taught in response to student needs

What does the timetable look like for students?



Year 7 timetable for Term 2

The Year 7 timetable outlined below is a sample of a schedule that our students would engage in.

Students can expect to have their regular class teacher for core curriculum subjects of numeracy and literacy. In saying that, we do have specialist maths teacher who creates an extra maths class at numeracy times.

The specialist model applies to the wider curriculum. It is likely that they will work with different teachers for the subjects scheduled for afternoon classes.

The school employs teachers from outside of our staff to deliver kapa haka, languages and technology classes.

It is a simplified version. There are many more lessons, activities and special programmes that will shape the learning journey for students.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:55-10:30	Church Numeracy	Spelling Numeracy	Spelling Numeracy	Spelling Numeracy	Church Leadership
10:50-12:30	Literacy: Reading Writing	Literacy: Reading Writing	Literacy: Reading Writing	Literacy: Reading Writing	Religious Education Languages
1:30-3:00	Kapa Haka / Te Reo	Science Health	Technology	Visual Arts Physical Education / Health	Social Sciences NZ Histories

Specialist Teacher Model Student Voice



I like that you gain knowledge from specialist teachers and that you have the experience of having a variety of teachers similar to when you go to high school.

I think it gives us a chance to fully embrace in topics and it gives teachers a good chance to do the topics they specialise in rather than be teacher different things (some which they may not have as a first choice).

Mr Gordon is amazing with drama. He is always excited about teaching us. It is so much fun and we also play a lot of fun games.

I like that we are having to be challenged with learning because the teachers specialize in different subjects and it gives us the best learning opportunities.

I like it because you get teachers that are experienced with that specific subject instead of one main teacher that isn't experienced with all subjects.

I like that it is different to all the other years we've had here. I think it helps students get the best help and education that they can get because they are getting teachers who specialise in that subject. I think it's also good for the teachers because they can teach something they enjoy or are really good at.

I like that we don't always have the same teacher and it doesn't get boring. It feels like the teachers really know what they are doing when they teach their special subject.



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