

Southern Montessori School

2024 School Performance Report



As part of our funding agreement with the Australian Government, we are required to ensure that specific “School Performance Information” is made publicly available to the school community. This information has been provided to the school community throughout the year in other forms such as, newsletters, the School Handbook, the Annual Report and the AGM. What follows is a collated version of this information under the headings specified by the Australian Government. The information relates to the 2024 school year. If you have any questions regarding this information, please direct them to Skye Shoubridge.

1. Contextual Information

At Southern Montessori School, we aim to know your children well and to nurture a love of learning that will last a lifetime. Our strengths include our dedicated staff, a wonderful Board of Governors and a genuine sense of community amongst our member families. We are an independent, non-religious organisation offering programs from Baby Steps (8 months), Toddlers and Preschool through to Primary School and Middle School to Year 9. Our curriculum strengths include numeracy, literacy and environmental education. As the Centre grows, so does the range of extra-curricular activities offered to students in the areas of the arts, sport and recreation. In 2024 Southern Montessori provided a challenging educational program that has Montessori principles at its core and is based on sound educational theory and practice. This is delivered through small, multi-aged cycles and fosters the development of independence, self-discipline and a lifelong love of learning. It promotes a culture of mutual respect, tolerance and encouragement to advance the diverse talents of each student. The Centre is a member of Montessori Schools and Centres Australia, Montessori Australia, the Montessori World Educational Institute and AISSA.

Total enrolments at the end of 2024 from Reception to Year 9 was 233 including 39 reception students with 0.86% from an indigenous background. 15.9% required additional support beyond quality differentiation.

2. Teacher Standards and Qualifications

A list of teachers and their academic qualifications is available in the **Annual Report**.

In addition to these formal qualifications, all staff undergo training in Child Safe Environments (Mandatory Notification), First Aid, Fire Safety Training and hold the necessary qualifications for Teacher Registration in South Australia. All teachers are involved in targeted professional development including ongoing Montessori training.

3. Workforce Composition

Southern Montessori School has a total staff of 44, the balance of gender is 38 females and 6 males. None of the Southern Montessori staff in 2024 identified as indigenous. Staff include the Principal, Assistant Principal, Cycle Coordinators, Special Education Coordinator, Student Wellbeing Counsellor, teachers and support staff. Specialist teachers are employed to enrich student learning in the areas of Physical Education, Music and Italian.

4. Student Attendance

The percentage figure for the average student attendance rate shows the proportion of days that each student, on average, attended school over the whole year. The larger the percentage, the less the number of

days students were absent from school. In part, these figures reflect interstate travel by a number of our parents.

In 2024 the average student attendance rate was 93.0%.

Reception attendance was 92.0%

Year 1 attendance was 89.3%

Year 2 attendance was 91.7%

Year 3 attendance was 91.2%

Year 4 attendance was 90.6%

Year 5 attendance was 88.9%

Year 6 attendance was 90.8%

Year 7 attendance was 73.9%

Year 8 attendance was 88.7%

Year 9 attendance was 85.3%

Student absences are recorded for each class each day. When the school has not been informed of a student's absence, the parents are contacted to confirm that they are aware that their child is not at school.

5. Student Outcomes

Each year, all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are required to sit Australia wide NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy to establish proficiency levels for students.

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Year 3	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Year 5	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Year 7	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Year 9	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong

6. Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

Feedback from parents occurs through a number of sources, both formal and informal. It includes responses to surveys, contributions to focus groups, comments through the School Board and various co-curricular parent support groups, and specific feedback to teachers and the Principal. Such feedback is always welcome. This feedback, in general, has been positive, supportive and appreciative. It manifests itself in 'word of mouth' accolades from our parents. Of course, concerns are occasionally expressed and this provides the school with the opportunity to enquire further and to address needs as they arise. This forms part of our cycle of Continuous Improvement.

NAPLAN results from the *MySchool* website plus our own website, continued to result in interest in our Centre for the 2024 year. The 'School Stream' app continued to be widely utilised with parents receiving most notices and the newsletter through their phones.

7. School Funding broken down by Funding Source

Income for the School was received via Commonwealth and State Governments Recurrent Grants, Fees Income and other fundraising activities. The following is a summary of income to the School for the 2024 year.

Commonwealth Recurrent Grants:	\$3,255,721.00
State Government Recurrent Grants (including Universal Access for Preschool):	\$ 825,960.00
State Government Capital Grants:	\$ 48,400.00
School Fees & Related Income:	\$1,058,598.00

Income as detailed above accounted for all general expenditure incurred with the running of Southern Montessori School.