



Marist Catholic School, Herne Bay

2025 Annual Report



The following report highlights the progress we have made as a school and school community over the 2025 year.

Annual plan reports remind us of all that we have achieved, not only in the classroom but also as a school community.

As we know, a school cannot function successfully without an invested community surrounding it, and in our case, here at Marist, an invested Catholic community.



Our theme this Year was 'We are the Storytellers' and this theme was all about children understanding that together as a community we embark on the sharing of our unique story that is embedded with our deep cultural heritage, with God to love and serve. Inspired by the rich narratives found in the gospels, our tamariki will explore the art of storytelling, learning how stories have been used to share important messages and values throughout history. We share our history to grow and learn as God's children

Together we are entrusted with the gift of understanding, connecting and sharing both the knowledge and wisdom rooted in our Catholic and Te Ao Maori traditions. As a community we share a rich culture within our NZ history and we are responsible to work together every day because "We are the storytellers".

Before I summarise each of our goals that we have worked through this year, I think it is important to just celebrate first and foremost, the wonderful, dedicated and highly professional staff, teaching and non-teaching, that we have working at 82 Kelmarna Avenue. Their dedication to our tamariki and our wider community are a credit to our school culture that we have developed over the years.

Annual Goal 1: Special Character

The main reason for our school here in Herne Bay, as it was in 1928, is that we are a Catholic school. The Special Character sits at the heart of our school and is at the forefront of any decisions that are made.

For our children, it means that they are taken through six years of religious education, and alongside this their faith grows and starts to make sense in their world.

Parents will always be the children's first faith teachers, and as a Catholic school we walk alongside them ensuring that their faith grows and develops into something that they will hold dear, for the rest of their lives.



This year, 69% of our students went onto Catholic secondary education, which means that they will continue on this journey as they enter into adulthood.

We are very blessed here at Marist to be part of a small and tight community within a large city. This community allows our children to feel safe and secure. Some of our families have been pupils here themselves, and this only builds on the sense of belonging.

A big part of our community feel comes from the fact that we are a Catholic school first and foremost, and this year we have been working with the Parish to continue to build on an already positive foundation. We support the Parish with the children's First Holy Communion & Confirmation celebrations and have also led Parish/School masses throughout the year. Marist, Herne Bay, is unashamedly Catholic in the way that we approach all aspects of a child's learning and development here at school. We start our day with Christ, and we end with Christ.

Our internal review focused on safeguarding and strengthening Special Character at Marist, focused on our safeguarding procedures and processes. Recommendations from this review were based mainly around building service processes with our ECE's to grow our current roll as well as creating more opportunities for our teachers to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith which in turn will strengthen the integration of the Catholic faith within our school.

We are blessed to have Father Rory as our faith leader who is always extremely supportive of the school's needs and our Parish Council. As we know, the future of our Catholic church sits in primary and secondary classrooms, and having a Parish that supports our school is a blessing.



Annual Goal 2: Teaching and Learning

The academic data for the 2025 school year demonstrates significant and equitable progress across all core curriculum areas (Mathematics, Reading, and Writing), underscoring the effectiveness of our teaching programmes and high expectations.



Mathematics (Numeracy)

Our students achieved very strong annual growth in Mathematics. Across all cohorts (Years 3–6), the average progress was high, with students achieving an average mean stanine score of 6.1 (national mean stanine is 5) (measured on the PAT assessment). This is a strong positive result, indicating that our numeracy focus areas and teaching methods are highly effective.

Reading and Writing (Literacy)

Our Literacy results were also very positive:

- **Reading Comprehension:** The overall progress in Reading was strong, with students achieving an average mean stanine score of 5.9 (national mean stanine is 5) (measured on the PAT assessment).
- **Writing:** The overall progress in Writing was steady, with students achieving The MCSHB norm is one sub-level ABOVE in year 2, 3, 4. It is one sub-levels BELOW in year 5 and two sub-levels BELOW in year 6 (measured on the eAsTTle assessment). This tells us that our students are achieving compared to national expectations, however, more work is required in this area.

Marist Catholic School continues to review, and change where necessary, practices and our physical environment when it comes to health and safety. Ensuring that your children are safe and loved here at school is paramount, and to help us continue this we have a very dedicated Health and Safety Team, made up of staff from each of the teams.

Student Achievement outcomes 2025

	2025 Achievement	Goals set for 2026
Reading	82% 'Proficient' or Excelling' expected curriculum phase.	85% 'Proficient' or Excelling' expected curriculum phase.
Writing	77% 'Proficient' or Excelling' expected curriculum phase.	85% 'Proficient' or Excelling' expected curriculum phase.
Maths	87% 'Proficient' or Excelling' expected curriculum phase.	90% 'Proficient' or Excelling' expected curriculum phase.

Māori and Pasifika Achievement outcomes.

	Māori	Pasifika
Reading	91% 'Proficient' or Excelling' curriculum phase.	73% 'Proficient' or Excelling' curriculum phase.
Writing	73% 'Proficient' or Excelling' curriculum phase.	73% 'Proficient' or Excelling' curriculum phase.
Maths	82% 'Proficient' or Excelling' curriculum phase.	73% 'Proficient' or Excelling' curriculum phase.

Annual Goal 3: Community

In 2025 we continued to build connections with whānau both within school and socially, firstly through our Whanaungatanga Hui early in the year. This was an opportunity for old and new families in the school to connect with each other as well as the staff.

We have been exceptionally fortunate to be able to say that we have strengthened our PTA further, and have carried out many school and community events - from discos to a Colour Run, provided opportunities for us to gather as a community. These things cannot happen unless people have a vested interest in our school. Within our PTA we also have our Pastoral Care Team who work behind the scenes making sure that we can provide a safe and caring community to our families. All of these events were aimed at bringing our community together in fun. All these events achieved their desired outcomes with us coming together and building a stronger community.

We were pleased to have many of our whānau come in and support many of our school based activities such as our multicultural day, Kelmarna Gardens Trip, Matariki Breakfast and Book Week to name a few. We were also able to build our connection with St Paul's College who had students come over and work with our tamariki during cultural weeks as well as our year 4 and 5 boys spending a day working with the St Paul's teachers.

This year we have worked on our evangelisation through supporting eight students through the baptismal programme, having both students and parents participating in the programme. This is a part of the work we are doing to build a stronger connection with the parish. We are regularly in



communication with the parish through Fr. Rory and ensuring that our students are experiencing regular masses and creating a stronger relationship with the church for our tamariki.

2025 Community Events:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whanaungatanga Community BBQ ● Masses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parish/School Masses, Ash Wednesday, ○ Beginning & End of Term ○ Marist Day ○ Grandparents Day ○ EOY Mass ○ Pasifika & Maori masses with the Kahui Ako ● Multicultural Day ● Celebrating Holy Week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Disco ● Celebrating Book Week ● Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cross Country ○ Athletics ○ Football taster ○ Swimming ● Student led fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pyjama & Soft Toy Day ○ Marist Milo Mornings ○ Non-uniform day ● Kelmarna Gardens School Trip ● Colour Run 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Celebrating language weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Māori, ○ Tongan, Samoan, ○ NZSL ● Parent Interviews ● Art Exhibition ● Oral Language Festival ● Year 5 Retreat ● Year 6 Camp ● EOY Concert ● Prizegiving
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Annual Goal 4: Wellbeing

In 2025 we reviewed our Student Well-being: Ensuring children are safe is our top priority. We focus on getting to know every student, and our survey results taken in Term 3 Year 1-6 (130 children) this year show that the children feel this when they come to school each day.

- Feel Safe at School 97%
- Know there are adults they can talk to 96%
- Feel Proud to be at this school 94%
- Feel part of the school 96%
- Feel their culture is valued and respected 91% (50% Agree + 41% Strongly Agree)
- Respect other students 94% (46% Agree + 48% Strongly Agree)

Success in the Classroom and Growth Mindset: The results show that students are actively engaged, perceive their work as appropriately challenging, and demonstrate a strong mindset of perseverance when facing difficulties.

- Knows what they need to work on 91% (58% Agree + 33% Strongly Agree)
- Work is challenges appropriately challenging 84% (53% Agree + 31% Strongly Agree)
- Know it's ok to make mistakes 98% (38% Agree + 60% Strongly Agree)
- Knows what to do if they have a problem 95% (62% Agree + 33% Strongly Agree)
- There are opportunities to get help with their learning 96% (59% Agree + 37% Strongly Agree)

Communication and Mutual Respect: Student responses underscore a healthy and respectful relationship with staff, creating a safe environment for open discussion.

- I feel my teachers respect me 96% (55% Agree + 41% Strongly Agree)
- I think I am treated fairly by my teachers 96% (58% Agree + 38% Strongly Agree)
- It's easy to talk about my school work with my teachers 80% (68% Agree + 12% Strongly Agree)

These results indicate that our students trust our staff, feel secure, and know they belong. Our Pastoral Care Team continues to be a vital source of confidential support, making sure all members of the Manist Catholic School whānau—students, staff, and parents—feel nurtured and valued.



What's happening in 2026

In 2026 Marist Catholic School, Herne Bay will continue with single cell classes.

2026 once again brings a change to our New Zealand curriculum in English and Maths. In our classrooms we will be continuing our work with the structured literacy programme and taking a deep dive into how we give extra support to our children who require deeper focus within reading and writing. All our staff are now trained in the Best Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) and so this will continue throughout the school. This is a structured phonics programme teaching children how to unpack unfamiliar words and then transferring this into their writing.

We will be continuing with our Maths programme called Maths-No Problem. This is a structured maths approach with a structured maths scope and sequence for teachers and students in Year 0-8, based on Singapore Maths.

We are looking forward to continuing the Mitey approach with our community focusing on wellbeing for all our students, staff and whanau.

In 2026 we want to continue the work we have done this year to further develop the idea of Marist, Herne Bay becoming a 'Community of Care'. This concept would sit above all groups within the school and would become the backbone to all that we do here at school.

As a new family enrolls at Marist we want them to understand what a Community of Care feels like in the way that they are welcomed, supported and walked beside, as their child grows up and becomes a positive young adult.

Our theme 2026 - S.T.A.R.S (Students Taking Action, Reaching Success)

In 2025, our overarching theme was, "We are the Storytellers". where we embarked on that journey sharing our unique stories and the power of storytelling across all areas of learning. Moving on from this our 2026 theme, "Students Taking Action, Reaching Success - S.T.A.R.S." takes us from looking back to looking forward.

At Marist Catholic School, we are all superheroes with our own skills and talents and by continuing to strive and work hard we are able to reach success. Inspired by the many superheroes found in the gospels, our tamariki will explore how they took action to reach success, learnt from their mistakes and never gave up, even when times were tough. Mary as our role model is an excellent example of taking action and reaching success through her work and support of Jesus the son of God.

Together we can all thrive and embrace our own inner superhero and all be "Students Taking Action, Reaching Success".

