

Case study



# Streaky Bay Area School strengthens school family connection with Daymap

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Located on the west coast of South Australia's stunning Eyre Peninsula, Streaky Bay Area School serves a close-knit coastal community known for its fishing, farming and beautiful beaches. The district council of Streaky Bay has a population of approximately 2,250 people, and the school reflects that strong sense of community connection. With 276 students, Streaky Bay Area School is a true area school, educating students from Reception to Year 12.

For Deputy Principal Karen O'Reilly, Streaky Bay is more than a workplace – it has been her home for 26 years. Originally from Adelaide, she arrived at the school for her first country teaching placement and never left.

Over more than two decades, Karen has worn many hats: classroom teacher, timetabler and now Deputy Principal. During that time, she has witnessed firsthand how school systems have evolved across every area of education.

**“ For nearly 15 years, I managed our complex school timetable the old-school way – with pen and paper – before implementing Daymap,” Karen said.**

As the school continued to grow and change, so too did the need for stronger communication, clearer visibility of student progress and a more streamlined approach to administration. The leadership team recognised a growing gap – particularly when it came to maintaining meaningful connections with families as students moved into the upper years.

We didn't really have an avenue across the whole school to connect with parents,” Karen remembered. “Particularly in the middle and senior secondary years, when communication tends to drop off.

After exploring options - and noting that many neighbouring schools across the Eyre Peninsula were already using Daymap, the leadership team decided to implement the platform at the beginning of 2025.

Rather than rushing in, Streaky Bay Area School chose a deliberate and highly strategic approach.

We've probably done it very differently to other schools,” Karen said. “We've taken a slow burn approach – bedding down each area before moving to the next.



### Key Outcomes



**Stronger parent engagement**, with approximately 97% of families connected on Daymap



**Streamlined attendance processes**, reducing manual phone calls through automated SMS notifications



**Improved visibility of student wellbeing**, with centralised behaviour tracking across year levels



**Strategic digital transformation**, implemented in manageable stages to maximise staff buy-in and sustainability

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### A staged and strategic rollout

The implementation began with electronic attendance marking. From there, the school progressively introduced:

- Online parent-teacher interview bookings
- Digital absence notifications via bulk SMS
- Electronic newsletters
- Assessment task uploads and marking
- Behaviour tracking visibility
- Reporting integration

Karen credits both Daymap's support team and the regional IT support network for helping the school transition smoothly.

**"I'm not an IT guru. The fact that we've got this far speaks to the relative ease of setting up and using Daymap," Karen explained. "And, since nearly all the**

**schools on the Eyre Peninsula use Daymap, we can learn from each other rather than going it alone.**

### Strengthening engagement and visibility

Within a year, parent engagement has increased significantly. While the school did not previously have comparable data, uptake of the platform has been extremely high. We have most of our families on Daymap – it would be close to 97 per cent," Karen remarked. "Parents are telling us they know a lot more about what's happening for their child at school.

Attendance management has become more efficient. Previously, front office staff manually phoned families of absent students. Now, automated bulk SMS notifications save valuable administrative time while still allowing personal follow-up where required.

Behaviour tracking is another game changer. Teachers can log incidents quickly, while leadership gains a holistic view of patterns across subjects and year levels.

It helps us monitor our students more closely. If a child has multiple behaviour records in a day, we can see that straight away and follow it up," Karen said.

The school is now moving into deeper use of assessment and reporting features, focusing on using assessment evidence to demonstrate learning growth – not simply record marks.

**"We want to show learning progress – not just that a student completed a task in that moment," Karen explained. "It's about being more holistic.**

### Looking ahead

With reporting and assessment integration underway, Streaky Bay Area School continues to refine its use of Daymap carefully and purposefully.

We don't want to overwhelm staff," Karen said. "We want to make sure what we're doing is working for our students, our parents and our teachers.

By choosing a steady, strategic rollout, this small coastal school has demonstrated that digital transformation doesn't require a large IT department – just clarity of purpose, community collaboration and strong leadership.

For Karen O'Reilly and the Streaky Bay Area School community, Daymap has become more than a system – it's now the central connection point between school and home, strengthening communication across one of South Australia's remote and tightly connected regions.



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