



## **St Francis Catholic School**

### **Policy: Catholic Character**

***The Board of Trustees requires that all activities, decision making, procedures and policies of St Francis Catholic School will demonstrate in action and principle the Catholic Character of this school.***

***Mission Statement: "Providing a Catholic education that develops the whole person."***

***Vision Statement: "To provide challenges for all students enabling them to develop as well rounded individuals and socially responsible Catholics."***

#### **Purpose:**

This school is a Catholic School in which the whole Catholic Community, through the general school programme and in its religious instructions and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ as portrayed by St Francis of Assisi. These values are as expressed in the Scriptures and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the Catholic Church, as determined by the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand.

All staff and Board of Trustees members are aware of and responsible for upholding our Catholic Special Character as role models of the values of Jesus Christ, in all dealings with the school community, as per the 'Code of Conduct'.

#### **Legislation:**

- Private School Conditional Integration Act 1975
- Education Act 1989
- Religious education programme as authorized by the NZ Bishops Conference 1999
- Vulnerable Children's Act 2014
- Education Amendment 2015

#### **Scope:**

- Teachers are to follow the strands and modules in the Religious Education Curriculum as authorised by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference 1999, and the Religious Education Bridging Document.
- Staff and children will participate in school, team, and class liturgical celebrations. Parents and whanau are invited to work alongside the Parish and the Parish Priest to provide opportunities that support the religious education programme and the spiritual/faith development of the community.
- Enrolments to attend St Francis Catholic School will follow the guidelines of the Bishops of NZ.

- Staff will participate and lead daily prayer.
- All staff will be required to attend Religious Education professional development courses.
- Employment of staff will follow the guidelines for Catholic Schools.
- Teachers who are new to this school or are from other faiths, will be required as part of their employment agreement, to take part in professional development, to support the teaching of the religious education programme and to enable them to uphold the Special Catholic Character of the school.
- Each year the Principal and Director of Religious Studies, after collaboration with staff and the Proprietor's Representatives of the Board of Trustees, will formulate the annual Special Character foci – Encounter with Christ, Growth in Knowledge, Christian Witness, Safeguarding and Strengthening Catholic Character.
- Consideration will be given to support the mission of the Catholic Church as well as being compassionate towards the needs of social justice issues in NZ and world wide.
- The Principal and the Director of Religious Studies will work to ensure a collaborative relationship between the Parish and the School community.

**Associated Documents:**

- The current School Charter, Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plans
- Religious Education Curriculum Document and the Religious Education Bridging Document
- The Catholic Education of School-Age Children (NZCBC) 2014
- Self-review Documentation
- Catholic Character 3 year review
- Pastoral care plan
- St Francis Catholic School Integration Agreement

**Policy Statements:**

This school recognises parents and whanau as the first faith educators of pupils attending this school, and staff at St Francis will work to support parents and caregivers in this role.

This Board of Trustees supports the identification and encouragement of potential faith leaders, and recognises the need to have adequately trained staff in all aspects of religious education and the Catholic faith.

The Religious Education programme authorised by the NZ Bishops conference 1999 will be integrated across all curriculum areas.

This policy is implemented through the application of all associated documents stated above.

The responsibility of the Catholic Special Character falls on the whole Board of Trustees collectively. It is the role of the Proprietor's Representatives to ensure that the Board of Trustees adheres to all these Catholic Special Character obligations.

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Next Scheduled Review Date \_\_\_\_\_