



# St Francis Catholic School

We are a vibrant & empowering  
Catholic school, creating **pathways**  
**of excellence** for our tamariki.



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## **2025 End of Year Update - Looking back, Moving forward**

As the end of the Academic Year approaches, I wanted to share a few updates with the community. Below is information regarding:

- A Treaty of Waitangi Statement from the St Francis School Board
- A summary of the 2025 Achievement Data for Year 2 - 6
- Coloured Sand - No issues at St Francis
- A few end of year reminders

## **A message from the School Board - Reaffirming our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

You may have seen recent media coverage that, on 18 November 2025, the Government passed the Education and Training Amendment Act 2025. This legislation removes the legal obligation for school boards to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. From now on, each school board may decide for itself whether to uphold the Treaty within their school.

The St Francis Catholic School Board has affirmed our ongoing commitment to ensuring that Te Tiriti o Waitangi continues to be valued and enacted at our school. We believe that honouring the Treaty is at the heart of creating an education system that embraces diversity, champions equity,

and reflects the unique spirit of Aotearoa New Zealand. We also believe that this does not come at the cost of educational achievement, as evident in our strong academic data.

We will continue with a high standard of teaching and learning that enriches all of our children’s educational opportunities.

The Principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are woven throughout our St Francis Catholic School values; Whakapono/Faith, Whakaute/Respect, Manawaroa/Resilience, Whakarato/Service, Hiranga/Excellence. Our teachers will continue to ensure the Te Ao Maori is integrated throughout our curriculum and school experience, and we will continue to work hard to increase our children’s reo and tikanga knowledge.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is deeply ingrained in the New Zealand Catholic Church, with Bishop Pompallier being present and influential at the signing of the Treaty. Pompallier was responsible for persuading Governor Hobson to verbally agree to guaranteeing that Catholics, people from all religious denominations and Māori be able to practice their faith under the Treaty – the unwritten 4<sup>th</sup> article.

It takes a village to raise a child, and our village is one where we embrace all, and we respect and honour both our people and our past.



Nga mihi nui, The St Francis Catholic School Board

**2025 Achievement Data Summary** – With recent changes to the New Zealand Curriculum documents and assessment procedures / tools, at St Francis Catholic School we continue to achieve well above the national average. This is due to a number of factors, but mostly because of our people – excellent teachers, committed and engaged parents and, of course, our wonderful students who come to school well supported and ready to learn.

	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
National targets of achievement by the end of the year, across NZ	80% by 2030	80% by 2030	80% by 2030
Current national achievement (according to a recent insufficiently evidenced press release)	35%	56%	42%

Annual target of achievement by the end of the year at St Francis	90%	90%	90%
% of students who achieved at or above the expected curriculum level at the end of 2024	97%	89%	91%
% of students who had already achieved at or above the end of year expectation in the Mid Year data 2025	82%	70%	76%
% of students who achieved at or above the expected curriculum level at the end of 2025	96%	89%	94%

Together, we've achieved something extraordinary—our school has soared well beyond national expectations! This success is a testament to the power of perseverance, collaboration, and a shared belief in what's possible. Let's keep aiming higher and shaping a future of limitless learning for our children!

**A reminder about Coloured Sand** - you may have seen recent media reports regarding coloured sand products and potential asbestos contamination. We want to reassure our school community that **our school has not been affected by this issue**. We have confirmed that none of the materials in question were used in our classrooms, art supplies, or playground areas. Regular health and safety checks continue to ensure our environment remains safe for students, staff, and visitors. The well-being of our students is always our highest priority. While we understand that news stories like this can cause concern, please be assured that our school remains a safe and healthy place for learning.

### **End of Year reminders -**

- End of Year Reports were sent home on Monday via the school app. If you have any questions or want to discuss the report further please contact your child's teacher.
- As we prepare for exciting end of year celebrations such as the Year 6 Graduation Dinner, the annual Nativity Play and Prizegiving, our staff will remain attentive to student behaviour to ensure a safe and positive end of the year for everyone. Often at this time of year the children need reminders about making good choices and showing kindness - keeping the festive spirit balanced with our usual expectations!
- Foodie Friday (ice blocks) next Friday - Kindo open now.

- A big thank you to the Year 6 Graduation committee, who have been working very hard behind the scenes to prepare for the Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner, coming up next Friday. It is set to be a grand occasion.
- On Friday the 12th of December we will be having a Christmas Walking School Bus. This will be slightly different from previous years – the children can dress up in the “christmas / advent / nativity gear, and we will be walking through Pt Chev during the school day (not before school like previous years). Later on in the afternoon the Middle School will be leading our Christmas celebrations with the annual Nativity Play.
- On Monday the 15th of December Year 1 – 5 children will be visiting their 2026 classrooms, getting to meet their new teacher and classmates. This is always an exciting time, but can also come with some anxiety (for children, and parents) about change. Please be assured that we have put a lot of time and thought into 2026 placements, and you can help your children approach this change positively by discussing it in a reassuring and supportive manner.
- On the evening of Tuesday the 16th of December the school community will have our annual gathering at St Benedict’s Church for our Prizegiving Mass, led by Father John. It is compulsory for Year 4 – 6 students to attend, and Year 1 –3 students are highly encouraged to attend. If your Year 1 – 5 child is receiving an award at Prizegiving you will be notified the week before. Year 6 trophy wins will not be notified as they will all be in attendance anyway.
- On Wednesday the 17th of December, it is the last day of school for 2025. As always, school finishes at 1.00pm.

Lisa Bateman [lisab@stfrancis.school.nz](mailto:lisab@stfrancis.school.nz) or [principal@stfrancis.school.nz](mailto:principal@stfrancis.school.nz)

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**Jackie Arroyo**  
**M 021 975 642**

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**Children safety** - Onsite care with qualified staff  
**Venue** - School hall is comforting venue for the children  
**WINZ OSCAR Subsidy Available**  
**Fun** - Interactive and stimulating activities, including afternoon tea and homework assistance  
**Sports** - Kids keep fit playing soccer, rugby, cricket, basketball, badminton, and other sport activities.  
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