



St Francis Catholic School

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



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Board of Trustees Mid Year Newsletter

Dear Parents and Whānau,

As we reach the midpoint of another busy and rewarding year, the Board would like to thank our families, staff, parish, and wider community for your continued support. Together, we are creating a vibrant Catholic learning community where our tamariki are known, valued, and encouraged to thrive. Here is a snapshot of some of the key areas of focus and progress across the school this year.

Growing Our Catholic Character

Our Special Character remains at the heart of all we do. This year we have celebrated Welcome Masses and Assemblies, Waitangi Day, Ash Wednesday, St Patrick's and St Joseph's liturgies, Holy Week celebrations, and ongoing parish connections.

We are particularly excited to be hosting the Auckland Proclaiming the Word competition on 18 August, showcasing the confidence and faith of students from Catholic schools across the region.

Our Catholic Character is also reflected in our St Francis Meal Train Group. Whether welcoming a new baby, supporting a family through



illness, or helping during times of change, this initiative demonstrates the care and compassion that make our community so special. Thank you to everyone who contributes.

We also thank Father John and our parish community for their continued partnership in nurturing the faith journey of our students.

Learning and Achievement

The Board continues to monitor student achievement closely and is pleased with the strong learning focus evident across the school.

Our Annual Plan key priorities for 2026 include strengthening writing achievement, refining assessment and reporting practices, implementing the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum, and continuing to embed te reo Māori, tikanga Māori, and mātauranga Māori across the school.

Staff continue to engage in professional learning, moderation, and curriculum development to ensure high-quality teaching and learning for all students. Mid-year achievement data will be reviewed this term and shared with families through reports and parent interviews.

The Board have reviewed the following school policies this year – Sun Protection, Alcohol, drugs and other harmful substances, Digital Technology and online safety, Education outside the classroom (EOTC), EOTC Governance roles and responsibilities and EOTC risk assessment and management.

All school policies are reviewed through a set rotation and everyone is welcome to view these policies:

School Docs website address:

<https://stfrancis.schooldocs.co.nz/Logon.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Username: stfrancis

Password: brave



Attendance Matters

Regular attendance remains a key focus nationally and within our school. We are pleased to report that approximately 86% of students are attending regularly, exceeding both the Auckland average of 75% and national average of 68%.

The Ministry of Education's STAR (Stepped Attendance Response) framework helps us identify attendance concerns early and work alongside families to support positive attendance habits and student success.

Thank you for continuing to prioritise regular attendance.

Celebrating Culture and Belonging

One of the highlights of the year has been strengthening partnerships with whānau through marae visits, our recent Whānau Hui and Pasifika Talanoa, and upcoming events like our Term 3 cultural performance and picnic, which is a fantastic celebration for our entire school community. A very special thank you to Mrs Tuifua, for the incredible leadership and input into these initiatives and in supporting Miss Neary, Mrs Hanly, and the Cultural Committee. The valuable feedback gathered through these events is helping shape future planning and ensuring our school continues to reflect the identities, languages, and cultures of our community.

Looking ahead, our students will perform with the Kapa Haka at Te Kahu Tōpuni, an Auckland-wide kapa haka festival held at Auckland Town Hall, as well as the Irish Club and Selwyn Village at the end of the year. We will also soon launch our termly Whānau & Fono breakfasts, creating regular opportunities for our school community to come together, share ideas, and strengthen connections.

Thank you also to our parent representatives who coordinate the WhatsApp class groups. These groups play an important role in fostering connection and sharing school information. Just a friendly reminder that these groups are voluntary, both to run and be part of. As always, any classroom or school concerns should be directed to your classroom teacher, Miss Neary, or Mrs Bateman.



Property and Learning Environments

The Board remains committed to providing safe, welcoming, and engaging learning spaces for our students.

Recent projects include improvements to the boys' toilets, ongoing roofing maintenance, continued investment in school facilities, and the development of our new sensory space, which is already supporting students with diverse learning and wellbeing needs.

We are also pleased to report that the canopy loan has now been fully repaid, and the Board has successfully secured over \$10,000 in grant funding this year for new football posts, footballs and logoed netball dresses, sports shirts and jackets.



As we move into the second half of the year, our focus remains on delivering excellent learning outcomes while continuing to strengthen our Catholic identity, community partnerships, and student wellbeing. Together, we continue to make St Francis Catholic School a place where every child can flourish.

Ngā manaakitanga,

St Francis Catholic School Board of Trustees