



ST IGNATIUS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

72 Speight Rd, St Heliers Auckland

ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER

POLICY

The values of Christ and the gospel must be evident in the way St Ignatius Catholic School operates. This means providing an environment where the teachers, children, staff, parents, caregivers and Board of Trustee members experience, learn and live out the values of Jesus Christ in accordance with the worship, teaching and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. Jesus Christ is the centre in whom the school finds its meaning and purpose.

RATIONALE

St Ignatius Catholic School is a Catholic school in which the whole school community, through the general school programme and in its religious instruction and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are expressed in the Scriptures and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the Catholic Church as determined from time to time by the Catholic Bishop of the diocese.

St Ignatius Catholic School's Mission Statement and vision specifically define the ethos of our school, i.e. the Catholic Special Character that is at the heart of our School's culture.

Mission Statement:

St Ignatius Catholic School, in partnership with parents and within a caring and supportive Catholic environment, is committed to quality education and achievement where the focus is on the development of the whole child, guiding each child on their faith journey and helping them to grow up as caring and contributing members of the community.

Vision:

Learners will live and celebrate our faith, follow our values, and become actively engaged, connected lifelong learners.

PURPOSES:

- To recognize that through its Catholic Special Character, the school provides a faith environment for learners to experience Catholic life and to be evangelized and catechized.

- To ensure the Catholic Special Character of St Ignatius Catholic School is upheld, safeguarded and maintained.
- To ensure that Religious Education, evangelization and catechism, takes place in partnership with the whole faith community i.e. school, parishes, family and beyond.
- To provide, through its Religious Education curriculum, opportunities for children to learn what it is to be Catholic – that is, what Catholics believe, and how they live, pray and celebrate.

GUIDELINES

1. The school will conduct an annual Catholic Special Character internal review covering all dimensions of Community, Pastoral Care and Religious Education over a three year cycle.
2. Each year the school will make a compliance declaration attesting to the Proprietor that it is meeting the specific statutory compliances associated with the Catholic Special Character.
3. Prayer is an integral part of the Catholic Special Character in the home, at school and in the Parish. Importance of prayer is acknowledged and maintained by providing suitable times and occasions for daily prayer with strategic links to the prayer module component of the Religious Education Curriculum.
4. The school community will endeavour to foster a respect for
 - Each individual person as a unique creation of God (Atua) by honouring their Tapu and Mana; by having a caring concerning respect for all people and their cultures.
 - And for the earth (Tangata Whenua)
5. Children will be initiated into the history, stories, traditions, practices and beliefs of the Catholic Church. These and other key occasions in the liturgical year ie the relevant feasts, founding order of the school, the Josephites, will be celebrated and/or recognized.
6. The Eucharist and other liturgies will be celebrated regularly during the year.
7. The important role of parents and caregivers as first and foremost religious educators of their children will be acknowledged and affirmed. The school will work to support parents and caregivers in this role.
8. The special place of priest, and other parish personnel in the faith formation of the learners, will be acknowledged and fostered through contact and involvement in school activities.
9. The school will work co-operatively with the parish priests, parents, parish councils and communities of St Ignatius and Mother or Perpetual Help parishes, for example in sacramental programmes and community celebrations e.g. share lent, outreach and others.
10. The caring response (manaakitangi) of the school community towards each other and visitors will be encouraged.
11. The school will continue to raise awareness of justice issues and in its practices reflect a commitment to a fair and just society.
12. A collaborative model of involvement of the whole school community will be ensured by acknowledging the gifts and talents that each may contribute.
13. The school will be staffed with Catholic teachers according to the Integration Agreement, and the Board of Trustees will ensure that all staff are sympathetic and supportive of the Catholic Special Character.

Provision will be made for professional learning and development in areas relating to all aspects of religious education and the Catholic faith for all staff and Board members.

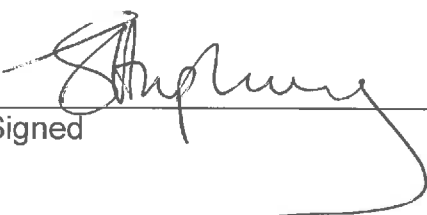
14. In order to safeguard the Catholic Special Character, the number of enrolled children of non-preference families should not exceed 5% of the agreed maximum roll.
15. All trustees must have the knowledge and commitment of the school's Catholic Special Character so as to govern appropriately and properly determine the school's vision and strategic direction with Catholicity infused into all aspects.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS:

Private School Conditional Integrations Act 1975
Education Act 1989
Religious Education Programme as authorized by the NZ Bishops Conference 1999
Integration Agreement
The Catholic Education of School Aged Children – NZCBC 2014
Auckland Diocesan Vision Statement Living as Disciples of Christ

REVIEW:

This Policy and Guidelines will be reviewed according to the Board's Review Programme.



Signed

Board Chairperson

With the authority of the Board of Trustees on

Date 25/1/15