



ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL CATHOLIC CHARACTER POLICY

RATIONALE

1. The school community through the general school programme and in its religious instructions and observances will be encouraged to live, teach and sustain the values of Jesus Christ in accordance with the Scriptures, practices, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church as determined by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese.
2. The school community will accept the authority of the Proprietor to determine what is necessary to preserve and enhance the Special Character, including the setting of standards and programmes of Religious Education, which will be followed as directed.
3. The school recognises that the counsels of, and common threads between, St Mary of the Cross McKillop and St Francis Xavier are to be treasured as part of the school's unique Charism and Catholic Special Character and are to be integrated into curriculum planning and delivery.
4. The school community will encourage a special link with the St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish of Whangarei and will continue to recognize the links already forged.

PURPOSE

To ensure that St Francis Xavier Catholic School delivers education where:

- Gospel values are central
- Faith is nourished
- Christian celebration in the Catholic tradition is highly valued
- The school community nurtures and cares for individuals
- The school helps to fulfil the teaching mission of the Church.

GUIDELINES

- The school's Charism and Catholic Special Character will form the basis of the school programme and will permeate all areas of the curriculum.
- Children will be encouraged through the Religious Education programme to develop their faith and knowledge of Christ's teaching through daily prayer, Mass, Liturgies, the Sacraments and other religious observances.

- Staff will consider the guidelines for time allocated to Religious Education as recommended by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops from time to time.
- Staff will ensure that the class environment and activities reflect the values of the school's Catholic Special Character.
- The need to protect and promote the school's Catholic Special Character and Charism will be a part of discussion in staff meetings.
- All staff will be encouraged to take part in staff reflection times.
- Teaching staff will be required to take advantage of opportunities of professional development in the area of Catholic Special Character.
- The values of the Catholic Church will be given particular consideration in the presentation of the school's Health and Physical Education Curriculum.
- Staff will be asked to re-read the Special Character Policy at the beginning of each school year along with the Catholic Character Information Sheet. Any new staff members will also be asked to read this policy at the beginning of their tenure.
- The school community will take opportunities to be involved in Parish activities and worship when the Principal or Board of Trustees consider it appropriate in consultation with the Parish Priest.
- Whenever suitable, the school community will invite members of the Parish to become involved in school activities.

*Approved by: A Luxford
Chairperson*

Date Reviewed: Term 4, 2015

To be Reviewed: Term 4, 2016