



Sacred Heart School, Petone

Special Character Policy

Rationale

Sacred Heart School is a Roman Catholic Integrated School and the foundation of its existence is its Special Character. Therefore, all policies and practices within the school community should be consistent with the Special Character Policy.

Purposes

1. To ensure that the school community understands, promotes and upholds the Special Character of Sacred Heart School.
2. To encourage each member of the school community to take responsibility for maintaining, reflecting and upholding the Special Character of the school.

Guidelines

Families

- All parents/caregivers enrolling pupils at Sacred Heart School (except parents/caregivers of non-preference pupils) are required to have a preference certificate signed by the Parish Priest/ Lay Pastoral Leader of Sacred Heart Parish, their own Parish Priest/Lay Pastoral Leader or an ethnic chaplain.
- Families admitted under the non-preference criteria must ensure that their child/children abide by all aspects of the policy on Special Character
- A condition of enrolment form must be signed by all families (PSCI 1975).
- Parents/caregivers must be encouraged to actively support ideals of Special Character by regular worship with their faith community; by living gospel values, encouraging prayer at home and involving themselves in relevant school activities.
- All students must be encouraged to uphold the Special Character of Sacred Heart School.

Staff

- In appointing teachers the BOT must ensure that the staff has a philosophy consistent with the Special Character of Sacred Heart School. All applicants should receive a copy of expectations for staff in a Catholic school as part of the application package.
- All staff will be expected to support the Special Character by their attitudes and conduct.
- The Religious Education Curriculum Statement for Catholic Primary Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand is the guiding document for the RE programme taught at Sacred Heart School.

- All teachers are expected to keep up to date with current practices and ideas relating to Special Character. Therefore the BOT will make financial provision for professional development. All teachers are required to complete a minimum of 12 hours per year RE professional development.

BOT

- The budget for Religious Education should reflect the importance of the RE programme. Resources must be kept up to date and relevant.
- In all BOT decision making, the Special Character of Sacred Heart School should be considered.
- All members of the BOT must keep up to date in understanding the Special Character of the school. The BOT is committed to ongoing spiritual development as planned by the Special Character Committee.
- Sacred Heart School will have regular involvement in Sacred Heart Parish.

Policy Formulated by: Liz Heatley November 2011

Approved: March 2012

Review: March 2015