



Sacred Heart School, Petone

Te Whakaatu Karaitiana/ Christian Witness

2018

The school is a community where gospel values are central, where faith is nourished, and where Christian celebration in the catholic tradition is highly valued

Catholic School Community

How does the school, as an authentic Catholic community, promote and support active Catholic witness and practice in the school and in the parish, of which it is an integral part?

- All staff support the Catholic character through role modelling of our school values and virtues. Staff care about the students in their class and go the extra mile to support learners and their families.
- The Principal, DRS, DP and teachers in s464 positions have a visible and active presence in their own parishes
- One of the school values is Sense of Community and everyone works hard to ensure our community is inclusive and welcoming.
- Respect is another school value and we work very hard to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
- The principles of Catholic Social teaching inform how we treat each other at Sacred Heart School.
- Sacred Heart is a welcoming place where visitors are made to feel part of the community. New children and their families are welcomed at a Whakatau.
- School values are embedded in the daily life of the school. They are part of everything we do and our behaviour management system is based on them. All children can articulate and show our Values. Each class has a treaty, which the children develop with their teacher. It is based on school values and all children and the teacher sign it.
- Sacred Heart School is an integral part of the Parish of the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu. We join the Parish for major Liturgical Feasts and classes join the parishioners for weekday Mass. One of the priests from the parish is the school chaplain and the Principal is currently on the parish council.
- Staff and parents are involved with leading the parish sacramental programme.
- We encourage the families to participate in parish events.
- Around the school, in classrooms and the main foyer there are symbols and icons, which show that, the school is a Catholic school. Each class has a Prayer table.
- We are very lucky that the Mission Sisters whose Charism we are part of have their Provincial Office and a convent next door to the school. Sr Annette Young (a former student and teacher) is still involved with our school. She teaches Tai Chi to the students once a week. We as a staff have looked at the Charism of the Mission Sisters and talked about ways we have it incorporated into our school values.
- Class liturgies are held, as well as Buddy Class liturgies. We pray as a school on a Monday morning in the church and this is led by a different class, the Principal or the school leaders each week. Class prayers are held every morning led by children, Karakia Kai is prayed before lunch and end of the day prayers are also prayed.
- BOT is very committed to staff professional development.

Partnership and Collaboration

Recognising that education is a collaborative responsibility, how does the school build strong commitments to all the groups it relates to, including its whanau, its parish/ Maori Eucharistic communities, its founding religious congregation, its Proprietor and its Bishop? How do akonga develop an understanding of, and respect for, the cultural diversity of New Zealand?

- We have been working together as the Principals of the four parish primary schools to enable our schools and children to work together collaboratively. We held a Parish Schools Day, which included a Liturgy and activities. This was held at four different venues on the same day.
- We have a Principal representative on the Parish Council. This is shared by our 4 parish schools on a rotation basis
- As part of our Transition to school and enrolment processes we talk to parents about what Special Character is and how we show it at our school. We also talk about what this means in terms of community involvement and parish involvement. Our school fortnightly newsletter provides messages about and reinforcement of our Special Character.
- Sacred Heart is a very multi-cultural school, which recognises all cultures and acknowledges their uniqueness. We celebrate Pacific language weeks particularly Tongan, Tokelauan and Samoan.
- Our whole Senior School participates in our Cultural Group.
- We have worked very hard to develop effective communication channels. We have a school website, an app, a management system through which teachers can email parents and a fortnightly newsletter.
- We have a Pasifika Parent's Group and a Whanau Support Group who support the school in delivering a diverse curriculum.
- Every 3 years the BOT hosts a Strategic Planning workshop and parents are consulted regarding other school areas eg Health Curriculum
- Our school is part of a Faith- based Kahui Ako with the three other Catholic primary schools in our parish and our two local Catholic Colleges.
- We run a very effective Transition to School programme, which involves several of our local early childhood centres. We are looking to further develop our transitions from Year 8.
- The principal meets regularly with the other local state school Principals.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

How does the school, as an authentic Catholic community, demonstrate a strong commitment to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ The Treaty of Waitangi, reflecting the commitment of the Aoteroa New Zealand Catholic Church to bicultural partnership?

- We have a supportive Whanau Support Group who worked with the staff to develop a Te Ao Maori Curriculum. This curriculum reflects our local history through legend and waiata. We are working very hard to normalize te reo.
- We have a very supportive Whanau Support Group who we work with to support our Maori students and their Whanau. Community events such as Matariki are celebrated with our school community.
- Te reo is used during Masses and Liturgies.
- Our Te Ao Maori Curriculum is constantly being reviewed and enhanced. All students have developed their pepeha and can recite it in class or at events such as Matariki.
- Maori spirituality is woven through the RE curriculum and teachers make every effort to include te reo in daily class programmes and karakia.
- We have developed a school Whakatau which is used to welcome new students and their families and visitors to the school. We have a school Korowai which was made for us by one of our Maori grandparents and this is used at the Whakatau. Our New Entrant class has their own blessed Korowai.
- All Maori whanau are welcome to be part of the Whanau support group and we

welcome their support and input.

Pastoral Care

How does the school ensure that education occurs in a safe nurturing environment supported by a strong pastoral care network in which each member of the community is known, respected, cared for and aware that they are loved unconditionally by God?

- Our school pastoral care is based on the principles of Catholic social teaching particularly human dignity, the common good and the preferential option for the poor. We are a family school and we have good networks who support us. Our parish and the SVDP group help us out with all sorts of support.
- Our school RISE values are embedded in our practice and our catchphrase is “We live our values every day in every way”. Respect is one of our values and we promote this with everyone in the community students, parents and staff.
- Because Sacred Heart is a small school we know the children and their families very well. We know the connections and many of our children are second generation in our school.
- We value every person’s culture and the children are encouraged to share their culture with their classmates and teachers.
- We have a Pastoral Care handbook which supports our practice in this area. We have used Catholic agencies eg Catholic Social Services and SVDP to support our families in need.
- We have on occasion provided uniform for children who require new pieces.
- Our Behaviour Management system is based on our RISE values and all children know the process. The emphasis is placed on making right choices based on our school values and saying sorry if your choices have damaged your relationships. This means that all children from 5 to 13 are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and choices.
- We utilize support offered by both church and secular organisations.
- We have a school chaplain who visits school and is on hand to support families when needed. This is part of our parish/ school connection.
- We are a very inclusive community and no-one who fits the Preference Criteria is ever turned away. Our children, families and staff are very welcoming to all children with differing needs.
- Our staff are affirmed and appreciated by our BOT and community. Staff hauora and well-being are very important and help is given whenever it is needed.

Service and Outreach

Recognising that each person is called as a Christian to take care of others and to work for justice and equality, in what ways does the school explicitly base service and outreach activities in the Gospel message, and grow the practice and understanding of caring for others?

- Jesus Christ is the model we base all our outreach on. We support Caritas during Lent and celebrate Social Justice Week in September. We donate food the parish food bank run by the SVDP group. We support the Mufti Mania campaign in July which supports children in crisis in the Pacific.
- We are constantly looking for service opportunities both in school and out in the community. Our senior students serve as team leaders, school leaders, road

patrollers and peer mediators. They look after our Juniors and make sure they are happy and safe at school.

- Several of our children are altar servers in the parish.
- Student successes are acknowledged at Assembly and in the newsletter.
- Participation in the Christmas Parade