



SPECIAL CHARACTER FACT SHEET

Principles of Commitment for Staff of Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic Schools

As members of staff in a Catholic school we are committed to students, parents and caregivers, the community and education itself. In order to serve effectively we are also committed to our own growth and wellbeing.

We commit ourselves to professional standards of conduct in all we do.

Principle 1: Commitment to our students

We put the wellbeing of our students first, respecting their rights and dignity as unique individuals, nurturing their individual sense of self-worth, and serving their spiritual, academic and human needs.

We enable students to develop personal responsibility, including commitment to their own wellbeing, that of their community and the world.

We help students to see the relevance of the Good News of Salvation, challenging them to live by gospel values in their daily lives, and developing their potential for Christian leadership in society.

We focus on delivering the best possible educational programmes to suit each student, challenging them to achieve the highest possible standards that reflect their abilities.

We work to deliver the best possible Religious Education programmes for our students, and to relate these programmes to their daily lives.

We work to provide a safe physical and emotional learning environment for our students.

We endeavour to use restorative justice to resolve discipline issues.

Principle 2: Commitment to parents and caregivers

We support parents and caregivers in their responsibility for their children's education; therefore we treat them with respect at all times, collaborating with them and respecting their right to know, understand and share in decisions that affect the education and welfare of their children.

We report their children's progress regularly, and as needed, with professional clarity.

We offer supportive ways to assist parents' involvement in their children's education and spiritual development.

In our Religious Education and other programmes we work to enhance family life and the home-school relationship.

We respect privacy and the confidentiality of information.

Principle 3: Commitment to our community

We are committed to serving all members of our school, cooperating in building our Catholic educational community and refraining from doing anything that would bring the school into disrepute.

We protect the reputation of students, parents, staff and Board members.

We support the authority, decisions and leadership of our Catholic Bishops, our Proprietors and those who work to sustain and develop Catholic education.

We support the integral relationship of the Catholic school and the Catholic parish.

We promote the peace of Christ in the world by modelling co-operative behaviour and peaceful solutions to conflict.

We support and work with other Catholic schools, for the good of the Catholic school system.

We commit ourselves to honouring the Treaty of Waitangi.

We actively value the ethnic diversity of New Zealand society.

Principle 4: Commitment to education

We understand and commit ourselves to the principles, ethos and delivery of authentic Catholic education.

We are committed to deepening our professional understanding, qualifications and knowledge of Catholic Character and Religious Education.

We work in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

We respect and support the work of all those associated with the national education system.

We contribute to wider educational debate and development in our society.

We model and support professional behaviour within our school by conscientiously fulfilling our defined roles.

We participate in ongoing professional development for the continual enhancement of teaching and learning.

Principle 5: Commitment to ourselves

We recognise that we can fulfil our responsibilities to others only if we fulfil our responsibilities to ourselves:

We nurture our spiritual growth and deepen our understanding of the teachings of Christ and his Church.

We strive to live by values of truth, honesty, justice, goodness, love, compassion, reconciliation and respect for others.

We sustain our personal wellbeing, striving for balance in our work, recreation, rest and emotional lives.

NZCEO, November 2024