



ST THERESA'S SCHOOL

CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER POLICY

RATIONALE

The Catholic Special Character of the school is safeguarded and strengthened.

PURPOSE

The board will be kaitiaki of the Catholic special character, protecting, preserving, and sheltering this taonga for future generations. The board, management and staff actively support and foster the specific shared Gospel values that the school stands for, both in teaching and the behaviour they model. The wider school community safeguards and strengthens an environment that enables students to develop the attributes, knowledge, and skills to become active and committed members of the faith community and contribute positively to the world community. Students will have the opportunity, within the contest of their own culture, to encounter Christ, grow in knowledge of Him and His Church, and to live a life of Christian witness.

DELEGATIONS

Responsibility and accountability for Catholic special character rests with the whole board, with no individual board member or committee having decision-making authority unless it has been delegated and documented. All sub delegations are approved by the board, as are revocations.

EXPECTATIONS AND LIMITATION

Board actions		Standards
1. The board ensures that the vision and strategic direction for the school clearly and explicitly reflect the Catholic special character of the school.	1.1	The board incorporates and honours the requirements of Schedule 6: Education and Training Act 2020 and the school's Integration Agreement
	1.2	The Board consults, communicates, and works with the Proprietor to ensure Catholic special character is safeguarded and strengthened
	1.3	Strategic planning is based on internal and external evaluation findings and includes the aim of continued strengthening of Catholic special character in the school
	1.4	Board policies and school procedures explicitly reflect Catholic special character to ensure that decision making is from a Catholic perspective
	1.5	Board documentation reflects that the school, as part of the Church, has a responsibility for helping to form Christ in the lives of others, and is committed to this work
2. The board demonstrates a genuine commitment to Te Tiriti of Waitangi and bi-cultural partnership.	2.1	The board incorporates an understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, te ao, tikanga and mātauranga Māori into their policies and school procedures

	2.2	Board documentation sets clear expectations for appropriate cultural responsiveness across the school
	2.3	Board policies and school procedures support Māori students to achieve educational and faith development success as Māori
3. The board has a plan for annual Catholic special character internal evaluation, which includes the evaluation of one of the four dimensions of Catholic special character each year.	3.1	The board receives regular reports from management on Catholic special character and Religious Education
	3.2	Internal evaluations involve staff, students, whānau and parish personnel
4. The board approves a budget that ensures funds are allocated for the development and maintenance of the special character of the school.	4.1	The school's annual budget provides a funding line for Catholic Special Character/Religious Education
	4.2	The board ensures that opportunities and financial assistance are available for at least the principal and DRS to take part in an annual retreat and/or to have ongoing spiritual accompaniment
	4.3	The board ensures that opportunities and budget are available for professional development and formation in Catholic special character (including Religious Education where appropriate) for the board and all staff
5. The board acknowledges the proprietor's ownership of the land and buildings and other improvements as set out in the school's Integration Agreement.	5.1	The proprietor gives the board exclusive right to the possession and use of the school premises, including buildings and chattels but maintains the right to access the property
	5.2	The proprietor is responsible for providing new or additional buildings if there are changes to the state school minimum accommodation code, or approved roll increase
	5.3	The proprietor with responsibility for major maintenance works with the board to ensure there is an effective 10 year rolling property plan
	5.4	The proprietor meets insurance costs associated with the land and buildings and other improvements that are specified in the Integration Agreement
	5.5	The board has no authority to make structural changes to the buildings or grounds without consulting the proprietor
6. The board is actively engaged in the school and parish community.	6.1	The board engages in the school and local parish/es community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● involving whānau as fully as possible in the life of the school, especially those who are vulnerable and with differing needs ● collaborating and supporting its local parish/es in the evangelising work of the Church

SCHOOL PROCEDURES/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Integration Agreement

Board strategic plan

Annual budget

Proprietor Report

Annual Compliance Attestation

[The Education and Training Act 2020](#)

[Hautū: Māori Cultural Responsiveness Self Review Tool for School Boards](#)

[The Declaration of the Proprietors of Catholic Schools in New Zealand on the Essential](#)

[Characteristics of Authentic Catholic School Education](#)

[Handbook for Boards of Trustees of New Zealand Catholic State Integrated Schools](#)

[The Catholic Education of School Age Children \(New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2014\)](#)

[He Arotake Whanaketanga mō te Mātauranga Ahurea Katorika-Te Ture Tāuke mō ngā Kura Katorika: Catholic Special Character Evaluation for Development Catholic State Integrated Schools Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

The school's latest Catholic Special Character Review/Evaluation for Development report

MONITORING

The DRS will prepare reports as per the board plan, and the Principal includes Special Character within the Principal Report.

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

[Education and Training Act 2020 Schedule 6](#)

[Education \(School Boards\) Regulations 2020](#)

[Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975](#)

Formulated:

Approved:

Reviewed / Ratified: Triennially, August 2025