

*St Joseph's School Orakei is a place of learning where everyone grows towards his or her full*

<b>St Joseph's School Orakei Board of Trustees</b>	<b>CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER POLICY</b>
	December 2014 <b>To be reviewed:</b> Even years

**REFERENCES:**

- *The Handbook for Boards of Trustees of New Zealand Catholic Integrated Schools, published by the Catholic Education Office; 2010 Edition (light green cover)*
- *Integration Agreement*

**RATIONALE:**

Special Character is defined in the Integration Agreement as follows:

"The School is a Roman Catholic School in which the whole School community, through the general School programme and in its religious instruction and observances exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are as expressed in the Scriptures, and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church as determined from time to time by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese."

**PURPOSE:**

1. To ensure that through our curriculum delivery, pastoral care, and spiritual climate and in adhering to the statutory requirements, all in the School community maintain our Special Character as defined in the Private Schools Integration Agreement.
2. To ensure the Gospel values of Jesus Christ permeate all aspects of School life.
3. To encourage all in the School community (including Board of Trustees, Friends of St Joseph's, staff, parents, caregivers, whanau and children) to reflect the Special Character in their conduct and behaviour.
4. To use our position as educators in a Catholic School to evangelise and grow the faith of our entire Parish/School community by modelling "strength of mind and gentleness of heart" in all that we say and do.

**POLICY:**

1. Each School year a dimension of the School's Catholic Character will be reviewed following the process required by the Proprietor.
2. The Bishop's Representatives on the Board of Trustees will ensure all members of the Board of Trustees are aware of their role in helping to maintain the Special Character, and will actively advocate for the maintenance of Special Character.
3. Board members, particularly proprietor representatives, will have knowledge of their role and staffing requirements, as defined by the School's Integration Agreement.
4. The School, through the Director of Religious Studies, will regularly communicate with the parish, through liaison with the Parish Priest and Parish co-ordinator.

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5. Preparation for the reception of First Eucharist and the Sacraments of Confirmation and Reconciliation is a Parish responsibility, and will be supported by the School. The School recognises its role in ensuring that religious observances are part of the life of the School, so that children experience sacramental celebrations and rituals that are appropriate to their stage of development.
6. The School will teach the Religious Education programme in a way that promotes children's learning and provides opportunities for prayer, sacramental celebrations and rituals.
7. The School environment will reflect the Catholic Character of the School (enhance environment toward prayer and reflection i.e. sacred space, giving the community varied and enriched experiences).
8. To encourage growth in the Catholic Faith in the School and Community, there will be varied and enriching experiences for the School Community with indoor/outdoor liturgical services with the Parish Priest.
9. To encourage the growth of the St Joseph's Orakei Parish through the evangelisation of our students and their families.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

In order to fulfil the policy, the board and management have developed, and will regularly review, the following Procedural and Administrative Guidelines associated with "Special Character":

*Religious Education*

*Pastoral Care*

**APPROVED** (Date) 2 December 2014

Board of Trustees Chairperson .....



.....Principal.....



**TO BE REVIEWED** in accordance with the Board's programme of self-review