

## **SACRED HEART GIRLS' COLLEGE CATHOLIC SPECIAL CHARACTER REVIEW REPORT SUMMARY**

### **Areas of growth since the last review report**

The Principal is a leader of upmost integrity who is well respected in this community. Her desire to ensure authenticity in all aspects of Catholic Character has been and continues to be a strength of her leadership.

There is common language used within the College; How did Jesus do it? How did the Mission Sisters do it? How do we do it?

Building cultural capacity as a staff through the development of komiti Māori, has meant a gradual and respectful understanding of how to encounter Christ through Māori wairua. As a result, this College is growing as a place where tikanga Māori is the natural way of being.

The development of a timetabled Sacramental Programme by the College Chaplain has resulted in a steady increase of girls receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.

The College has a regular programme of liturgies and Masses which are organised and run collaboratively by kaiako and ākonga. Weekly Eucharist celebrated in the College Chapel is led by the Religious Education class rostered on that week and has become the morning Mass for parishioners from Our Lady Help of Christians.

Through their own faith witness teachers in S464 positions show that Catholic character is nurtured and grown not just in Religious Education classes or by Religious Education teachers, but by men and women who live out their faith in all aspects of their lives. These kaiako are actively involved in a variety of ministries within the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth and provide support to the DRS. They take leadership at Friday Whakakaha for all staff and ensure that their curriculum area reflects the values and teachings of the Catholic Church.

The realigned curriculum has been successfully implemented in Years 7-10.

The RE department is leading the way with digital assessments in the school and this platform is used for all NCEA assessments.

The College is proactive in promoting the involvement of ākonga and their whānau in the life of The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth.

The introduction of CCM (Contemplation, Communion and Mission) particularly in the Feast Day celebrations bring to the centre of each house a lived-out charism.

Embedded in the empathy that drives these girls to act, is their understanding of the 'why' and this was clearly articulated, *"we follow in the footsteps of Jesus and do what he did"*.

## **Key Recommendations**

Through their own review processes the College has identified the need for a cohesive Year 7-13 sexuality education programme which is underpinned by the teaching of the Catholic Church. Planning for this programme is underway. This will involve collaboration between the Head of PE/Health and the DRS. Consultation about the programme with whānau and the College's proprietor is a Ministry of Education requirement. It is recommended that the College supports those kaiako who have not attended *Having Life to the Full* (grounded in John 10:10) to do so, when the course is next offered in Taranaki.

Consider a review of S464 job descriptions to reflect the specific call to ministry as described by the Catholic Church. *The Handbook for Boards of Trustees of New Zealand Catholic Integrated Schools 2016* (an updated online version is available on the NZCEO website under the tab 'Resources') can assist with this.

As governance documentation, especially policies and procedures are being reviewed, ensure they intentionally safeguard Catholic Character and guide decision making from a Catholic perspective.

We are confident that Sacred Heart Girls' College leadership team (BOT, Principal and DRS) have the willingness and ability to address both the recommendations and the next steps highlighted in this report.



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