

Developing our Children's Minds  
Guiding our Children's Hearts



**“HELPING OUR CHILDREN BECOME THE BEST  
THAT THEY CAN BE”**

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## 1. Our School Vision and Mission

Developing our children's **MINDS**, guiding our children's **HEARTS**...

We are a school community which, in partnership with families and through our Catholic values, creates strong foundations where our students can become **the best that they can be** both now and in the future.

## 2. Message from the Principal

At St Benedict's we aim to help our students become;

- independent and well-rounded young people with strong values
- confident in their ability to lead and make a difference.



We provide challenging and engaging programmes to meet the needs of students at each stage of their development.

Our students are happy, enthusiastic and motivated to learn. They achieve highly in academic, sporting and cultural activities. They achieve this at school, in external exams, when they progress to secondary school and within the wider community. We believe in creating opportunities for our students so they can discover and develop their talents.

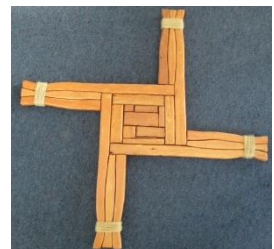
We understand partnerships are at the heart of children achieving success with their learning. We place much importance on the partnership between teachers and students, and home and school.

If you would like to visit us and have a look around our school please contact us. We would be delighted to meet you.

Dave Lamont  
Principal

## 3. About St. Benedict's School

St Benedict's School is in Khandallah, Wellington. Set up in 1952 by the Brigidine Sisters, it has an established tradition of students achieving to their highest potential. Our students go on to achieve further success at secondary school and beyond. We are a Parish School attached to the Onslow Parish.



We are a Year 1 - 8 Catholic School, providing a stimulating learning environment for our students. Our students receive a seamless education, from new entrant through to the end of their intermediate years.

#### 4. Catholic Character



St Benedict's provides an education based on Gospel Values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

We commit to pastoral care and support of all our families, students and staff. This includes teaching programmes in social skills providing a safe and motivating environment for all students.

We teach the Religious Education Programme for Catholic Primary Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand in all classes. This curriculum provides a comprehensive programme in religious education, spirituality and Catholic values.



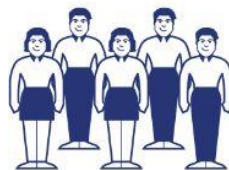
Children are also supported and encouraged to take an active role in school liturgical experiences such as Masses, Easter plays and classroom prayer celebrations. We have a close link with our parish and having St Benedict's Church close to our school allows us to make use of it on for Mass as well as formal occasions such as end of year prizegiving.

#### 5. Our Values

We appreciate our students' individuality. We value their diversity of experiences and wide range of abilities. We place a strong emphasis on the Gospel Values.

Our founding order the Brigidine Sisters developed our values of **creativity, perseverance, integrity and empathy**. We link the values to scripture and bring them to life through words and actions. Our values underpin everything we do. They show in how we treat one another, and how we prepare our students for life and learning beyond St Benedict's School.

#### 6. School Logo



**The four symbols of our logo reflect what is important to us.**

The cross represents Catholic Traditions and the values of St. Benedict's School.

The book represents the school's commitment to learning and its strong emphasis on high academic achievement.

The group of people represents our community, working together to build strong relationships with one another.

The ball represents children involved and enjoying themselves in sport and having an active life.

## 7. Teaching and Learning

Students at St Benedict's learn in an environment of praise and encouragement that reflects our Catholic Character. We provide stimulating programmes aimed to inspire and motivate our students.

Our junior classes have smaller sizes, giving students the best possible start to their primary school education.



We teach all areas of the New Zealand Curriculum with a strong focus on literacy, numeracy, social and spiritual development.

We offer Extension and enrichment programmes. We run an electives programme to expose students to extra learning experiences. Such programmes give students the opportunity to explore areas of particular interest or ability under specialist guidance. We enlist skilled members of the local community for these sessions.



The School has a proud history of developing programmes for children to meet their needs and abilities.

Our students consistently achieve at a high academic level. This includes academic achievement in school, in external examinations, in secondary education, and beyond.

Students leave St Benedict's academically and socially fully prepared to enter secondary school.

## 8. ICT and Technology

We provide the students with up to date equipment that is used as a part of the classroom programmes.

The school is fully networked and has computers and interactive whiteboards in every classroom as well as 2 pods of laptops that are available throughout the school.

St Benedict's School is committed to on-going development in information and communication technology and providing our students skill that will allow them to take a full part in the digital age we live in.

Our Year 7/8 students attend Technology sessions at Mt Cook School every week. They receive lessons in Soft and hard materials, food technology, ICT and design.

## 9. Our Staff

Our skilled and professional staff have high expectations for all students. Students receive opportunities to become the best they can be academically, spiritually and socially.

Our staff model Gospel Values, creating an environment where students feel confident taking on any challenge.

Our learning programmes provide rich and stimulating opportunities for students to discover and develop their skills. Our emphasis is on literacy, numeracy and religious education. We also cover all other areas of the New Zealand Curriculum.

## 10. Our Community

Our Community encourages the students and the school. Parents take an active part in their children's education.

At St Benedict's we recognise and promote the partnership between home and school as this is essential to the students being successful at school.

We value Community input into how the students are educated. We regularly consult on the School's educational direction for the benefit of our students.

We involve parents in school life through;

- Attending daily prayer
- Coaching sports teams
- The Board of Trustees
- Help Our Kids Fund-raising Committee (HOK)
- Providing parent help throughout the school
- Sharing their skills and talents with us
- Attending trips and camps and school outings

## 11. Sport and Education Outside the Classroom

We have a unique site in Khandallah with court spaces, bank areas and playground spaces.

We also provide students a variety of experiences and opportunities outside the school grounds:

- Making use of Nairnville Park and Recreation Centre (5 minutes' walk).
- Swimming at Khandallah, Karori and Kilbirnie Pools.
- Taking part and achieving highly in Northern Zone and Regional sports events.
- Having school teams competing in local competitions.
- Inter-Catholic school events and fixtures.
- Making use of all there is on offer around Wellington as a part of education programmes.
- Day and overnight camps for Year 6, 7 & 8 students.



One of the highlights of the school calendar is the week that is set aside in Term 1 for educational experiences outside the classroom.



## **12. Enrolment**

Tours of the school and interviews with the Principal are welcomed. Enrolment forms are available from the office or can be downloaded from the school website.

As St. Benedict's is an integrated school, families need to obtain a preference form from the Parish Priest as part of the enrolment process.

Preference is given to those families who have a religious connection with the Catholic character of the school.

The school does have available a restricted number of places for children who do not meet this criteria. This can be discussed with the Principal.

You can view full enrolment details on our school website.

## **13. After School Care**

St Benedict's School has a fully accredited After School Care programme. The programme is small and family centred and operates each school day from 2.50pm to 6.00pm during term time. This includes supervised homework, activities and arts & craft sessions. Permanent & casual places are subject to availability.

## **Why choose St Benedict's School?**

- Our Special Catholic Character
- Our excellent academic achievement
- Our caring family environment
- Our challenging and motivating learning experiences
- Individuality and creativity is supported and nurtured
- This is a wonderful place to be

For more information about our school you can;

- Come and meet us at St Benedict's School and have a look around
- Go to our website
- Talk to our parents and former parents
- Talk with our Parish Priest