



## CATHOLIC CHARACTER GUIDELINES

### Policy 7 Guideline 1

The Special Character of St. Benedict's School is its Catholic Character. It is a Roman Catholic school for boys and girls established by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand for the Roman Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Wellington which promotes and supports the School and of which the School is part, to provide and continue to provide education with a Catholic Character.

St. Benedict's School is a Roman Catholic school in which the whole community through the general school programme and its religious instructions and observances, exercise the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are expressed in the scriptures and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church as determined from time to time by the Archbishop of Wellington.

#### Guidelines

1. Religious observances will be celebrated in the School community with class/syndicate/school liturgies and staff and class prayers.
2. Children will be given opportunities to celebrate the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation at appropriate times of the year.
3. The budget for Religious Education will provide for regular in-service training and relevant resources related to the Catholic Character of the School.
4. Prayer will be part of each school day in each class.
5. Meetings of the School will start and close with a prayer as appropriate
6. Opportunities for staff prayer will take place.
7. Priests, Religious and parishioners will be seen as an integral part of the School community and will be invited to take part in the faith life of the School.
8. Class programmes will include material appropriate to the Church seasons: Lent, Easter, Pentecost, etc. and these will be integrated with other essential learning areas.
9. Classes will each have a prayer focus and will be encouraged to display symbols of the Catholic faith.
10. Children will be encouraged to provide support for the less fortunate, both within New Zealand Aotearoa and overseas.
11. School assemblies will begin with a prayer, which is prepared by a different class each time.
12. Visitors to the School will be welcomed and acknowledged, with prayer if appropriate.
13. Prayer and practical support will be offered to those in the School community who are in times of hardship.
14. Significant events in the Catholic calendar will be celebrated within the School.
15. An Annual Report will be provided for the community, The Board of Trustees and the Archbishop of the Archdiocese on the Catholic Character of the School.
16. Aspects of the School's Catholic Character will be reviewed annually as part of the self-review process.
17. The Proprietor's Representatives will be responsible for monitoring and promoting the Catholic Character of the School.

Approved by Board .....

Signed by Chairperson.....